

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: Paul Irving [irvingp@halifax.ca]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:45 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: 141 - Draft NIOSH Alert: Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Fire Fighters When Fighting Fires in Unoc

To whom it may concern:

As an on-shift officer dedicated to incident safety, I will say that I think this is a very good document, but I see one thing that is missing. Too often we do search and rescue operations in vacant and abandoned buildings because there MIGHT be someone inside. Comments like "Homeless people have been known to stay here" and "I know the local druggies use this place" almost always seem to prompt a search of abandoned structures.

I'd like to see something defining vacant when it comes to abandoned or derelict buildings. How about "Abandoned or derelict buildings shall be assumed to be vacant unless victims can be seen or heard within the structure or there is a witness stating there is someone inside."

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