

Safety Officer Basic Duties—Evaluate Hazards	Fire Engineering	Standard References NFPA 1521; 6.2.3
	Safety Officer	
Instructors should always include department references and procedures in this and any training session.		

Incident Scene Hazards

Background: The Incident Safety Officer (ISO) must be able to assess scene hazards for conditions and actions that are immediately or potentially dangerous to firefighters. A process of determining these factors must be used at every incident that the ISO responds to. Using a basic risk management approach, the ISO could determine these factors in a logical manner. This process, known by the acronym IEPCM which stands for Identify, Evaluate, Prioritize, Control & Monitor, allows the ISO to evaluate and prioritize incident scene hazards.

Imminent Hazards

Hazards that pose immediate danger to a firefighter if not corrected, stopped or altered.

Hazards

- Identify
- Evaluate
- Prioritize
- Control
- Monitor

Potential Hazards

Hazards that if not monitored or removed could cause injury or death. These hazards could become imminent over a period of time.

Evaluation and Prioritization of Hazards

Evaluate hazards, actions, and conditions that could risk injury or death if not corrected by the ISO. Your evaluation of the hazards requires you to apply risk management to the hazard that has been identified. Some hazards are part of the operation and must be monitored for changes or have control methods applied to them. Other hazards require you to take action based on your own interpretation of the severity and potential for injury or death.

Ways to evaluate hazard include breaking them into categories. 2 accepted categories used in this process are to classify the hazard as imminent or potential.

- **Imminent Hazards** must be stopped, altered, corrected immediately upon discover by the safety officer. These actions then should be relayed to the Incident Commander and become part of the formal analysis of the incident.
- **Potential Hazards** must be identified and evaluated for severity and information about that hazard should be passed along to everyone in that zone as well as the operations section and incident command.

Priority is always given to imminent hazards as this is an essential part of your job function.

Evaluate the following hazards and determine if they are imminent or potential hazards and describe your safety officer actions.

Large GPM's being poured into a structure	Crews working inside an established collapse zone	An unsecured battery on a vehicle	Smoke billowing across a highway or roadway	Crews working without eye protection
A firefighter who appears to be working alone	Breaking glass above firefighters working below	Excessive speed by apparatus operators	Water supply delays	Dead loading on the roof of a commercial structure