

LAKEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG NUMBER: 301.02

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

DATE IMPLEMENTED: MAY 8, 2017
DATE REVISED:

TITLE: FIREGROUND OPERATIONS

PURPOSE:

This provision was promulgated to regulate the deployment of personnel, placement of apparatus, utilization of equipment and other tactical and safety operations at the fire scene.

SCOPE:

All responding personnel.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM:

1. An Incident Command System (ICS) shall be implemented at all emergency scenes to safely manage personnel and equipment on the fireground in accordance with all Department SOG's.
2. The Incident Commander (IC) shall maintain radio communications with Company Officers and Dispatch, and should transmit a progress report to Dispatch approximately every 15 minutes. Personnel Accountability Reports (PAR) will be conducted by the IC in accordance with the Personnel Accountability System SOG.
3. The Command Board should, be utilized as the situation warrants.

COMPANY OFFICERS:

1. All Company Officers shall carry their radio with lapel microphones at all times.
2. Company Officers shall maintain contact with their personnel at all times and shall coordinate their activities with each other according to accepted firefighting practices.

FIREGROUND ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Assignments shall be based on the fire ground strategy implemented by the IC.
2. A firefighter receiving an assignment from a superior officer after having received an assignment from another officer shall advise the superior officer of the previous assignment.

POSITIONING OF APPARATUS:

1. The Ladder Company should be positioned in front of the fire building for aerial ladder use, ground ladder work, lighting and equipment access unless a more advantageous position exists.
2. The first arriving Engine Company should be positioned to allow for the proper positioning of

the Ladder Company, typically before or past the fire building.

3. The second-due Engine Company shall be positioned at the discretion of the Company Officer or the IC. If a supply line was not previously established, the second-due Engine Company shall stretch a supply line from the primary hydrant to the fire scene.
4. Positioning or re-positioning of apparatus is the responsibility of the Company Officers or the IC. No apparatus, after having been positioned, is to be moved without permission of an officer.

EQUIPMENT UTILIZATION:

1. Every effort shall be made to use equipment from the Company initially committed to the fire.
2. All equipment should be accounted for before returning to quarters.

HOSELINES AND WATER SUPPLIES:

1. After completion of the hydrant hook-up, the firefighter who hooked up shall check with pump operator prior to opening the hydrant on and then proceed to the fire scene.
2. The first-due Company, if met with a smoke condition or visible fire, may stretch a hydrant line into its pump at the discretion of the company officer.
3. If a supply line is needed after arrival at the scene where smoke or fire was not immediately showing, the first-due company shall notify the second-due company to stretch a hydrant line into the first-due engine's pump.
4. Whenever an order is given to stretch a line from an engine to the scene, it shall be charged after checking with pump operator. Attack lines shall not be charged until ordered by the interior attack team.
5. Officers may use discretion in permitting a pump operator to temporarily leave the pump to assist in various activities, provided that he maintains visible and audible contact with the engine, and provided that not more than one (1) line is in operation from the pump.

VENTILATION:

1. Ventilation shall be coordinated with fire attack and rescue activities. Ladder personnel shall be assigned to this task whenever possible.
2. Vertical ventilation shall require a minimum of two (2) firefighters.
3. The K-1200 saw shall not be used on pitched roofs. If ventilation is necessary on such roofs, it shall be accomplished by means of the Cutters-Edge saw or an axe. A Roof Ladder shall be used if the pitch is excessive or whenever conditions dictate.
4. Ground ladders or the aerial ladder used for access to a roof shall not be moved while personnel are on the roof. In the case of the aerial ladder, the operator shall remain at the control panel. Whenever firefighters are assigned to a roof, a secondary means of egress shall be established.

5. Personnel shall leave the roof immediately after ventilation is completed.
6. All personnel assigned to roof operations shall be equipped with SCBA.

SALVAGE AND OVERHAUL:

1. Salvage activities shall be carried out to the extent that manpower permits, and shall be initiated while the fire is in progress, when practical.
2. Overhauling shall be thorough to ensure extinguishment and to prevent rekindling. Care should be taken, however, to preserve evidence for fire scene investigators.

BUILDINGS WITH TRUSS SUPPORT SYSTEMS:

1. Any firefighter, upon becoming aware of a Truss Support System within a building, shall immediately notify his officer or the IC.
2. Officers shall be guided by the following when operating in buildings that have these types of support systems:
 - A. A visual inspection of the truss assembly shall be made for any fire occurring in a partition wall.
 - B. Horizontal ventilation shall be preferred to vertical ventilation.
 - C. Every effort shall be made to prevent a fire from entering the truss assembly.
 - D. Be aware that truss assemblies can collapse very rapidly in a fully developed fire.
 - E. Roof operations shall not commence if a truss roof is determined to be involved in fire.
 - F. Once a fully developed fire has entered a truss assembly and there is no life hazard, firefighters shall be withdrawn from the building and roof operations discontinued.
 - G. If a building collapse is expected, the collapse distance shall be anticipated to be 1½ times greater than the height of the walls.

PERSONNEL SAFETY:

1. Officers and Safety Officers shall be responsible for the safety of the Firefighters under their command and shall take every measure to ensure the following:
 - A. Wearing of full protective clothing.
 - B. Wearing of SCBA and that personnel using such equipment operate in teams of at least two (2), and are in close proximity with each other to provide assistance in the event of an emergency.
 - C. Keep within voice or radio contact with their Firefighters.

D. Relieving personnel who have been subjected to conditions of extreme heat, humidity, cold, or unusual physical exertion.

E. No firefighter is assigned to an interior hoseline without the assistance of at least one other firefighter.

F. Alerting personnel to immediate or imminent danger.

G. Personnel are not subjected to unnecessary risks.

H. Firefighters are not to indulge in "freelance" activities, but rather carry out their assigned duties in accordance with the overall strategy implemented by the IC.

I. Accountability of personnel at all times.

J. Two-in/Two-out Rule.

2. Personnel Accountability Reports shall be conducted in accordance with the Personnel Accountability System SOG.
3. Public utilities shall be shut off whenever they pose an immediate or imminent danger to firefighters.
4. Search and Rescue operations shall be conducted using the "Buddy System." No firefighter shall be assigned to these tasks alone.
5. Any firefighter injured or experiencing distressing physical symptoms shall receive medical attention. If they refuse such attention, it shall be the officer's responsibility to ensure that the firefighter receives such attention. This procedure is based on the understanding that an individual may not realize the extent of his injuries or symptoms and therefore, it is up to the officer to ensure that he receives the required medical attention.

EMERGENCY INCIDENT REHABILITATION:

1. The IC shall ensure that the physical and mental conditions of firefighters operating at the scene of an emergency do not deteriorate to a point that will affect their safety or jeopardize the overall safety and integrity of the operation.
2. The IC shall monitor the conditions of each incident in terms of workload, available personnel, prevailing weather conditions and shall, early in the incident, make adequate provisions for a suitably located Rehab Sector, which shall be under the supervision of a Rehab Officer and which shall provide for the following:
 - A. Rest and recuperation for all firefighters.
 - B. Accountability of all firefighters entering and leaving the Rehab Sector.
 - C. Replenishment of body fluids and provision for food, if necessary.
 - D. Mandatory rehab for firefighters who have utilized two (2) thirty-minute air tanks.

E. Monitoring of firefighters by EMS personnel to determine return to duty status, need for medical treatment and/or transportation to a medical facility.

F. Supervised return to duty by the Rehab Officer.

SAFETY OFFICER:

1. When present at the emergency scene, the Department Safety Officer, in addition to his regular duties, shall have the authority to alter, suspend or terminate those activities, which they consider to be unsafe and to involve imminent hazards. They shall immediately notify the IC of their actions and reasons for doing so. If the Department Safety Officer is unavailable, someone should be appointed to this position in accordance with the Safety Officer section of the Incident Command System SOG.
2. When non-imminent hazards are identified, the Safety Officer shall bring them to the attention of the Sector Officer or IC, along with appropriate recommendations to correct them.

CIVILIAN SAFETY:

1. The IC shall establish a fireground perimeter within which only authorized personnel shall be permitted.
2. The IC shall notify the Police when it is apparent that onlookers are in danger.
3. All occupants of a building who are in imminent danger shall be removed from the building.
4. The IC shall notify the police when a civilian wishes to enter the fire building after extinguishment. Only occupants or owners may enter the building after obtaining permission from the IC and, then only when accompanied by a fire or police officer.
5. The assistance of civilians in firefighting activities shall not be permitted.
6. The IC shall notify the Health Officer whenever it is suspected that food has become contaminated as a result of exposure to smoke or other harmful gases.
7. Whenever, in the judgment of the IC, a structure has become weakened to the extent that it poses a safety hazard, he shall ensure that no one enters it, and shall notify the Construction Official to have the structure inspected.

EVACUATION OF PERSONNEL:

1. Whenever it becomes necessary to evacuate personnel from an area in which an imminent hazard exists, they shall be alerted by means of the air horn, consisting of two (2) rounds of three (3) long blasts.
2. Radio evacuation tones shall also be activated by either the IC or Dispatch simultaneously with the air horn signal.
3. Upon hearing this signal, all personnel shall report to the Personnel Accountability Officer as specified in the Personnel Accountability System SOG.

EMERGENCY RADIO PROCEDURES:

1. Whenever medical attention is required for a firefighter, Headquarters shall be advised of same.
2. Upon becoming aware of a missing or trapped firefighter, the IC shall immediately notify Headquarters of a "Mayday" situation. Headquarters shall activate five (5) short tones over the air. The IC shall then transmit the following message: *Command to all fire personnel, we have a "Mayday" situation, we have a "Mayday" situation, and clear the channel of all unnecessary traffic,* and repeat the message. The IC shall call for a personnel accountability report as specified in the Personnel Accountability System SOG.
3. Upon hearing the signal and message, all fire personnel shall refrain from using the channel unless communications are required that are directly related to the missing or trapped firefighter.
4. Under no circumstances are names to be given over the air in these types of situations.
5. All personnel shall follow emergency radio procedures for mayday situations as outlined in the Mayday Procedures SOG.

SUSPICIOUS FIRES:

1. If it is determined that a fire is suspicious, or if it is apparent that it has been deliberately set, every effort shall be made to secure the scene, preserve evidence, and keep all unauthorized personnel out. Officers shall request the assistance of the Police to ensure that these precautions are taken.
2. The Ocean County Fire Marshal shall be notified for all suspicious fires.
3. All personnel are cautioned against making statements on the scene pertaining to the cause of the fire.

NEWS MEDIA:

1. All News Media arriving on the scene, shall be referred to the Command Post.
2. If the IC is not prepared to make a statement, he/she shall designate an area away from the Command Post where the media can wait until a statement can be made.
3. No firefighter shall make a statement to the media except the IC or his designee.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY:

1. All personnel shall follow personnel accountability procedures as outlined in the Personnel Accountability System SOG.

TWO-IN AND TWO-OUT RULE:

Personnel arriving first at the scene of a working structural fire shall await the arrival of a fourth firefighter before entering the structure as outlined in the Two-in and Two-out Rule SOG.

1. While awaiting the arrival of the fourth firefighter, personnel shall initiate the necessary exterior actions in preparation for an interior attack.
2. If, upon arrival with less than four (4) firefighters at the scene of a working fire, it is the professional judgment of the officer in charge or Senior Firefighter that a LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION EXISTS THAT REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF LIFE OR SERIOUS INJURY, entry into the structure may be made in accordance with accepted safety practices. Prior to such entry, the officer in charge or Senior Firefighter shall advise Dispatch and responding personnel of his decision.

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM- "R.I.T.":

1. The R.I.T. consisting of at least two (2) personnel will be implemented for all interior firefighting operations.
2. R.I.T. personnel shall not be comprised of personnel assigned other fireground duties and/or functions such as the Incident Commander, Pump Operator, etc.
3. The R.I.T. may be comprised of mutual aid personnel.
4. Personnel assigned to R.I.T duties shall be properly equipped with full turnout gear including donned SCBA (with personal facepiece off until necessary), search rope and any other necessary equipment such as hand lights, forcible entry tools, etc.
5. The R.I.T. shall remain in a ready state at a specific location designated by the IC.