



Purpose

This Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) supports safe, effective, and efficient operations at a structure fire.

Scope

This first alarm SOG should serve as the Incident Action Plan (IAP) for all structure fires. If conditions warrant, operations may deviate from these methods to fit a particular incident or condition.

Priorities

Fire ground operations will be based on the following priorities: 1) to save human life, 2) to conserve property, and 3) to minimize impacts to the environment. The following tactical lists will be the basis for these considerations.

1. To Save Lives: (Order should be based upon tactical priorities)

- a. Attack fire (locate, confine, contain)
- b. Ventilate
- c. Search
- d. Rescue

2. To Conserve Property:

- a. Locate fire
- b. Stop fire spread (contain and confine)
- c. Attack and extinguish fire
- d. Ventilate

3. To Minimize Impact to Environment:

- a. Confine
- b. Extinguish

The determination of the assignment and order of individual tactical operations are affected by: 1) available personnel, 2) available apparatus response time, and 3) emergency response characteristics (construction, occupancy, water supply, terrain).

Due to the resources of the Pacific Fire Protection and mutual aid agencies, initial functions are not assigned according to apparatus type (Truck or Engine). These functions are assigned in this standard operating guideline in relation to function prioritization and apparatus arrival order. Engine functions include the supply and use of water or another extinguishing agent. Truck functions include placement of aerial and ground ladders, overhaul, ventilation, forcible entry, search and rescue, salvage, and control of utilities. This prioritization of fire ground functions directly supports the objective of achieving the identified fire ground priorities: to save lives, protect property, and to minimize harmful impacts to the environment.

Definitions

CAN Report- A requested report that includes information as to a company's current conditions, actions, and needs related to their assignment.

Emergency Traffic- A very loud warble tone that is generated over the tactical channel by the dispatcher. Emergency Traffic is request from the Incident Commander (IC) to the dispatch center and should be used for strategy shifts (offensive to defensive) or to notify members that a Mayday has been called and is being handled.

Mobile Command- Command mode in which the initial IC is actively engaged in task level assignments.

Hazard Zone- Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) area of an incident.

Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC)- Two on scene fire suppression members who are assigned for initial response to Mayday events.

Investigative Mode- An operation mode in which it has not been determined yet if something is on fire that will require the deployment of a fire attack line.

Level I Staging- Staging in the direction of travel one block before the incident, or before passing your last tactical option.

On Deck- A forward staging location located just outside the hazard zone, safely distanced from the entrance of a tactical position.

Priority Traffic- A radio message to the IC that contains critical information that most likely will require a significant adjustment to the IAP or the incident's overall strategy.

Strategic Command Position- The IC manages the strategic level by strict command & control; deploying resources to specific tasks locations and objectives; maintaining the whereabouts of all resources in the hazard zone; maintaining an accurate tactical worksheet and ensuring that frequent CAN and situational awareness reports are delivered from the key tactical areas of the operation. In this command mode the IC must also be able to monitor multiple radio channels.

Structure Height- Number of stories above grade.

Structure Occupancy- Residential, Commercial, Strip Mall, Apartment Building, Apartment Complex.

Structure Size- Determined by a 200' pre-connected handline being able to reach the following percentage of the fire area; Small = 100%, Medium = 75%, Large = 50%, Huge or Mega = 25% or less.

Working Fire- Generally considered to be any condition in which something is on fire that will likely require the deployment of a fire attack line.

Procedures

During the initial radio report, the IC shall put in motion an action plan for later arriving units that includes tasks, location, and objectives. The coordination of these assignments MUST be formal to increase responder safety by reducing freelancing. This practice also helps to increase firefighter accountability early in an incident by clearly identifying what each arriving unit is doing formally over the radio. Assignments upon arrival are determined in the following two ways:

The first arriving IC identifies that they are in the investigative mode.

- ALL other incoming units Level I stage inside their apparatus until they are given an assignment.
- The first arriving Chief Officer goes directly to the scene and contacts the IC.
- It's the discretion of the first arriving Chief Officer whether to assume command at this point as per the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). If command is assumed, the transfer shall be done in a standard fashion.
- For example, if Engine 2 is second arriving in this mode: "Engine 2 is Level I". Go on scene via a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT), then it is preferred that they press the on-scene button and then make the Level I announcement over the radio.

The first arriving IC declares a working fire:

- All incoming units Level I stage, if no assignment is given by Command, the unit shall assign themselves into the hazard zone using the IAP listed in this document.
- Upon self-assignment, the units shall announce task, location, and objective for the assignment they are fulfilling based on arrival order.
- For example, if Engine 2 is second arriving in this mode: "Engine 2 on scene establishing a water supply to Engine 1".
- The IC may change or alter the assignments for responding units based on their assessment of the critical factors for the incident.

FIRST ARRIVING COMPANY

The Primary Objective is Fire Attack

- Prior to communicating an initial radio report, the first arriving unit shall clear the radio by calling dispatch
- For example:
 - Engine 1 - “Dispatch from Engine 1”
 - Dispatch - “Engine 1”
 - Engine 1 - “Engine 1 is on the scene...”
- Communicate an Initial Radio Report to the dispatch agency, including:
 - **Building/area Description-** Size, height, and occupancy type.
 - **Describe the Problem-** Smoke/fire conditions and location, possible victims.
 - **Declaration of Strategy-** Investigative, Working fire (Offensive, or defensive).
 - If the first arriving apparatus is near a hydrant, announce if you’re obtaining your own water supply.
 - **Assume/Name Command-** First arriving company assumes command, and names it by the location or occupancy. If the operation is defensive, the first due will initiate strategic command, designating the area of the command location.
- Communicate a Follow-Up 360 Report to the dispatch agency, including.
 - State if the 360 was completed, or if unable to complete give reason why.
 - Basement- State if it has a basement and if so what type.
 - Look-out
 - Peak-out
 - Walk-out
 - Walk-up
 - Safety Concerns.
- If this apparatus does not possess an aerial device, ample room should be left for aerial device placement were applicable.
- Stretch attack line of adequate size or master stream to control, contain/confine, or extinguish the estimated amount of fire.
- Initiate interior operations; attempting to locate the fire and checking for victims.

SECOND ARRIVING COMPANY

The Primary Objective is Water Supply/Support first arriving Company

- Establish appropriate supply line to first arriving company, if not completed.
- Assure connection to sprinkler/standpipe system if building is so equipped.
- Crew shall size-up and support the efforts of the initial attack line, while the Engineer assesses that water supply has been established.

THIRD ARRIVING COMPANY

The Primary Objective is Initial Truck Company Operations- Primary Search/Rescue

- Initiate primary search.
- Assist with search of fire location.
- Consider providing egress to sides and divisions of the structure:
 - Laddering upper floor
 - Removing security bars
 - Needed forcible entry and softening the building

FOURTH ARRIVING COMPANY

The Primary Objective is Back-up Line or Secondary Attack Line

- Support IRIC mandates of 2 in 2 out by going on-deck until further companies arrive.
- Determine if there's a need for a second handline for fire attack or as a backup line. Advance the line to back up the first arriving company when necessary or advance the line to the floor above the fire in multi-story buildings.
- At the determination of the IC, this apparatus should secure a secondary water supply.

**If the incident has been declared a "Working Fire" and a strategic command position has not been established, this should become the responsibility of the fourth arriving company. This is done by going on scene, advising the IC of the delay before a Chief Officer will arrive, and completing a command transfer in the standard manner. The balance of the crew can be married up with another company and consider dispatching additional units to back-fill.*

FIFTH ARRIVING COMPANY

The Primary Objective Assist with Incomplete Truck Company Operations

- All company members report to Command in full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for assignment as the RIC. Appropriate tools should be brought to tool staging area.
- Conduct all incomplete truck company functions:
- Evaluate Ladder placement and the need to additionally support upper-level egress.
- Report *On Deck* at the *Strategic Command* position.

SIXTH ARRIVING COMPANY

The Primary Objective is Rapid Intervention (RIC)

- All company members report to Command in full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for assignment as the RIC. Appropriate tools should be brought to tool staging area.
- Conduct an additional size up.
- Communicate with the IC and Incident Safety Officer (ISO).
- Consider further ladder placement.
- Evaluate and remove egress hazards.
- Refer to the *FGSI Rapid Intervention Crew SOG* for further information and minimal tool assignment.
- Consider establishing a RIC group

FIRST ARRIVING CHIEF OFFICER

The Primary Objective is Initial Incident Commander

- After going on-scene, the Chief Officer should contact the IC and complete a command transfer in a standard manner. This is done by the Chief Officer contacting the IC and giving a run-down of what functions the units assigned to the fire scene are doing (excluding units that are Level 1). Once the IC and the Chief Officer have accurately exchanged this information in a concise manor, the Chief Officer should advise the IC that they will be taking command. The Chief Officer should then contact the dispatch center and notify that they are assuming command, what strategy they are operating in, and any resource needs.
- If a *Strategic Command* position has been established by an officer other than first due, the Chief Officer will meet with the current IC for a face-to-face meeting if possible. The Chief Officer will then determine if they need to assume command or remain to assist the IC.
- Once in the *Strategic Command* position, the IC shall make any benchmark notifications to the Dispatch Center via the radio. At a minimum, this shall include:
 - Primary and secondary searches are all clear
 - Occupants are clear from the structure
 - Fire is under control
- Review the IAP and make revisions as needed based on current conditions.
- Begin incident documentation and utilize a command vehicle as a Command Post (CP) when possible. Otherwise establish a *Strategic Command* position and announce its location to on-scene units and Dispatch.
- Assure that a RIC has been established and is ready to perform assigned task.
- The IC shall have the authority to deviate from this SOG as necessary to commit resources to life safety/search and rescue operations.

ALL OTHER ARRIVING CHIEF OFFICERS

- Report to the IC for assignment.
- The ISO designation is a high priority. The next available command officer designee should assume this position and immediately conduct a 360 size up.
- Dependent upon staff availability and the size/complexity of the incident, considerations for other command positions, Include:
 - Charlie Division
 - Incident Safety Officer
 - Command Aid
 - Water Supply
 - Accountability
 - RIC
 - Staging
 - Medical Group
 - Other Divisions/Branches as deemed applicable (Whenever two or more companies are operating in a division).

FIRST ARRIVING ALS AMBULANCE

The Primary Objective is Initial Medical Needs/Rehab

- Triage/Treatment/Transport victims
- If no victims are present, this unit may assist with fire suppression functions as directed by the IC and/or the AHJ.
- If this unit transports or begins conducting triage, an additional ALS ambulance should be considered by the IC to conduct rehabilitation/standby activities.
- If no victims are present, this unit will assist with recycling firefighters or establish rehabilitation.

FIRST ARRIVING MEDICAL OFFICER

The Primary Objective Assist with Incident Command

- Report to the IC for assignment.
 - Accountability
 - Command Aid
 - Medical Group
 - Staging
 - Other Divisions/Branches as deemed applicable (Whenever two or more companies are operating in a division).

SECOND ARRIVING ALS AMBULANCE

The Primary Objective is Medical Needs/Rehab/Transport

- Triage/Treatment/Transport of victims.
- Assist with rehabilitation or other functions as directed by the IC.
- This unit will be held on the scene until command is terminated or at the discretion of the IC.

Considerations

- Consideration should be given to placing aerial apparatus at front of building.
- This SOG supports two hand lines. If an additional hand line is necessary, the IC should consider requesting additional apparatus.
- Circumstances which could require an exception to the SOG include however, not limited to:
 - Immediate rescue(s) of trapped occupant(s)
 - Defensive operations
 - Adverse weather conditions
 - Water supply deficiency/challenges
 - Occupancy/construction type, including high rise operations
 - Additional hazards

Rescue Matrix

When initiating interior operations, with limited initial resources, and a decision between immediate rescue and immediate line deployment needs to be made, the following table will be considered in assisting with this decision-making process:

<i>Rescue</i>	<i>vs. Immediate Line Deployment</i>
<i>Exact location of victim is known</i>	<i>Unknown location of victims</i>
<i>There are a minimum number of victims (1 or 2)</i>	<i>Unknown number of victims</i>
<i>Extensive fire conditions</i>	<i>Large number of victims trapped</i>
<i>Not enough firefighters for both rescue and attack and the above conditions are present</i>	<i>Unknown location of fire or fire prevents rescue access or egress</i>
	<i>Not enough firefighters for both rescue and attack and the above conditions are present</i>

Recommended Training Interval

- SOG review quarterly
- Hands on Semi-Annual

Additional Resources

For additional information on fireground functions refer to FGSI SOG's; *Incident Safety Officer, Incident Command, 800MHz, Mayday, RIC, High Rise, Rehabilitation, and Cancer Risk Reduction.*

References

- National Fire Protection Association (2018) *NFPA 1500: Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program*
- National Fire Protection Association (2019) *NFPA 1561: Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System and Command Safety*
- National Fire Protection Association (2015) *NFPA 1710: Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*
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