

## FIRE GROUND OPERATIONS

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**Purpose:** *To provide safe and efficient fire ground operations.*

### **Procedure:**

1. This procedure discusses general fire ground activities. There are additional Standard Operating Procedures that address specific actions at fire and other emergency scenes.
2. The Buddy System shall be practiced for all activities occurring in a hazardous area.
3. Every responder shall ensure he/she has a portable radio, selected to the assigned talkgroup while at the scene of an emergency incident unless an insufficient number of radios are available. In this case, each team of firefighters shall have one (1) radio.

### **SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS ("SCBA"):**

1. The wearing of SCBA is mandatory on all fires (including dumpster fires) except open fires, trash fires and field fires. SCBA shall also be worn in actual or suspected hazardous atmospheres in accordance with other Stand Operating Procedures. Members may wear SCBA on open, trash and field fires if a member desires to do so.
2. When SCBA is required to be worn, no one shall remove their SCBA until approved by the Incident Commander. Testing equipment should be used in enclosed areas to verify there are no excessive hazardous gases.
3. Firefighters on apparatus shall be wearing SCBA upon arrival at the scene. The first two (2) apparatus crews shall have masks in place upon arrival. Firefighters need not go "on air" until just before entering the hazardous area.6. When the low air pressure warning sounds, the firefighter and his/her partner(s) must immediately exit the hazardous area to obtain full air cylinders. If they are removing a victim they may continue doing so, if they believe they have sufficient air to safely complete the rescue.
4. **Firefighters shall not take unnecessary or unreasonable risks to effect a rescue. The safety of firefighters is paramount.**
5. If it becomes necessary to leave a hazardous area, everyone shall leave together.

### **HOSE LINES:**

1. All interior fire attacks should be made with at least a 1 3/4" hose line. The Incident Commander may approve the use of a booster line based upon his/her good judgement. It is better to have too much hose line than too little.
2. When firefighters are in a hazardous area, the Rapid Intervention Teams ("RIT") procedures must be followed.
3. When an interior attack is being made, a supply line shall be laid unless the Incident Commander directs otherwise. When the tank level falls to ½, there is to be a supply line connected to the pumper, either from a supply line, or another unit's water supply.

*Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.*



Okolona Fire Department  
Standard Operating Procedure

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7. Any suspicious persons, vehicles or situations shall be promptly reported to the Incident Commander.
8. No one shall make statements concerning the incident to civilians or the media without approval of the Incident Commander and fire investigator. This is to avoid inaccurate information from being disseminated or compromising a criminal investigation.
9. There shall be no conversations concerning the incident which may be overheard by civilians.
10. If there is a fatality at a fire scene, the victim shall not be moved except to verify absence of life, to prevent greater damage to the victim's body, or with the approval of the coroner.
11. No unnecessary damage to property shall be made.
12. Civilians and media shall not be permitted to enter within the fire line unless authorized by the Incident Commander, Public Information Officer or fire investigator.
13. When civilians or media persons have been authorized to enter within the fire line, they shall be accompanied by fire department personnel. They may not remove anything from the scene unless permitted to do so by the Incident Commander or fire investigator.
14. At the scene of rescues, the paramedic in charge of patient care shall be consulted for recommendations on victim extrication strategy.
15. Unless necessary for public safety, no debris or vehicular fluids shall be moved from an automobile accident scene unless approved by the police officer conducting the accident investigation.
16. Smoking is permitted only at the rehabilitation area, or by fire apparatus.
17. Whenever a fire safety violation is observed at a fire scene, the fire prevention bureau should be notified.
18. Crews shall remain together whenever practical. The officer of the apparatus is responsible for knowing who is in his or her crew, where they are, and their assignment.
19. As noted above, there are several other Standard Operating Procedures that are also applicable to emergency scenes. All members are expected to know and practice these procedures.

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