

OKOLONA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

FIRE GROUND OPERATIONS

Page Number:

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Effective Date:

07/01/2024

Supersedes Editions:

All

SOP Category:

Operational

STRUCTURE FIRE:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of these Operational Guidelines is to assure that all members operating at the scene of a structure fire achieve the tactical priorities as a team with a common direction and coordination of actions while ensuring fire fighter safety and a smooth and efficient operation.

SCOPE:

The company officer of each arriving company as well as the arriving command officer are responsible for ensuring that these operational guidelines are carried out. All members are required to be familiar with these Operational Guidelines and what role they will play at a structure fire. Authority to deviate rests solely with the first arriving company officer who bears full responsibility for the results of any deviation.

Other operational guidelines may describe the preferred actions based on specific hazards, occupancies, or construction.

This procedure discusses general fire ground activities. There are additional Standard Operating Procedures that address specific actions at fire and other emergency scenes.

Definitions:

CAN Report means **C**onditions, **A**ctions, **N**eeds. By using this order model, the person giving the report easily identifies how well they are doing, the conditions they are facing, and any support or resource needs that they have

Command Officer means any chief officer or member acting in the capacity of shift commander.

Company Officer means Member in charge of a company or team, whether he or she is an appointed officer.

Engine Company – Reference OFPD Radio Communications SOP

Tanker Company - Reference OFPD Radio Communications SOP

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Truck Company - Reference OFPD Radio Communications SOP

Incident Commander/IC means that member responsible for incident.

LCES stand for Lookout(s), Communication(s), Escape routes and Safety zone(s)

Position means to place and park an apparatus in a manner that allows the company to execute its assigned task now or when there is a declaration of a working fire. Positioning is not staging.

Splitting Companies means one company splits into two working groups to accomplish task. These two teams will use the identifiers as Quint 76 W and Quint 76 X for example.

Staging means stopping an apparatus one or more blocks before the incident location and the company waits with the apparatus for instructions from the IC or staging officer. Companies with pre-assigned designated duties do not stage.

High/Mid Rise Buildings means a building over three stories with or without a standpipe system. Does not include buildings less than three actual stories regardless of their height.

OFPD – Okolona Fire Protection District

REFERENCES:

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.*

Guiding Principle:

It is the desire of OFPD –that its members responding on its apparatus to a reported structure fire position and execute this procedure every time. Staging the first and second OFPD engine and the OFPD truck company away from the scene and awaiting direction is not desired. Having a coordinated starting point allows the IC to modify the plan when conditions warrant rather than creating an entire plan for each incident.

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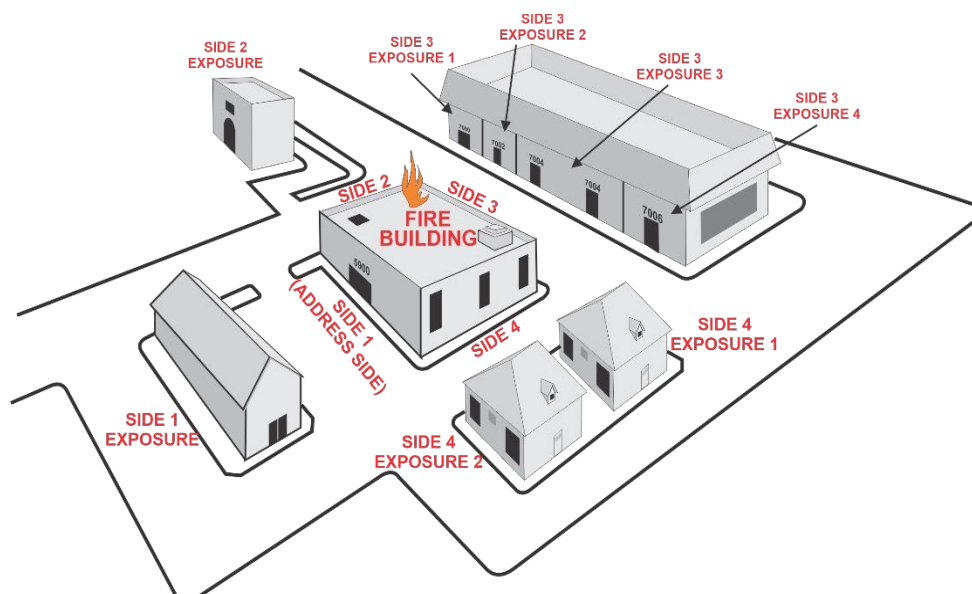
Rapid Intervention Team:

The IC should implement the two-in/two-out and rapid intervention team as soon as possible during a rescue situation and prior to entry for confirmed non rescue fires. Review OFPD SOP for more information.

Accountability:

The IC will assume duties of accountability unless implemented as defined OFPD SOP name Accountability.

1. This section will establish a systematic approach to identifying the sides of a structure.
2. Facing the fire building, the street address side will be designated as "Side 1".
3. The remaining sides will be labeled numerically in a clockwise manner (see graphic below).
4. Exposures will be labeled per location to the fire building. Multiple exposures on one side will be designated "Side 3- Exposure 1", etc. in a clockwise progression.
5. This system provides an accurate and simple method of assigning coverage and giving on-scene directions.
6. Reference OFPD Accountability SOP.



Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions. Y:\SOP's\SOP's 2024

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Procedure:

Response assignment: Standard response to a reported structure fire is assigned through the dispatch matrix by Metro Safe.

Guideline:

Apparatus positioning

Unit	House	Apartments Stand Alone	Apartment Bldgs Interconnected	Strip Malls	Commercial Industrial Institutional
1st Engine	Position past or just short of side (1)			Side 1 out of collapse zone	Near Entrance Closet to location of reported fire, out of collapse zone
2nd Engine	Position between fire building & water supply unless supplying the 1st engine, supply sprinkler/FDC				
	If not needed for water supply position on other side than 1st Engine. For example, If 1st Engine is located on corner of side 1/2 then E2 position on 1/4				
Truck / Quint	Generally, position at side 1	Position as best able to sweep greatest possible victims If rescue is not needed, position to side with greatest potential for fire loss			

If the first due truck company arrives before the first due engine, then the first due truck may need to position as the truck but perform the operations assigned to the first due engine company. This decision should be based on the conditions encountered and how much longer it will be before the first due engine arrives.

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High/Mid Rise Buildings with Standpipes Assignments:

		Actions	
Unit	Positioning	Fire Alarm Nothing Showing	Reported Fire/Smoke or Working Fire
1st Engine	Driver drops off crew and proceeds to FDC	Crew Investigates Driver locates water	Driver leads out to FDC or Hydrant
2nd Engine	Position away from structure but close enough to quickly walk up to entry point with equipment	Forms attack team with other companies	Standard tool assignment Enters as 1 combined team w/tools
Truck or Quint	If rescue is needed position as best able to sweep greatest number of possible victims. No Rescue needed: Position away from structure but close enough to quickly walk up to entry point with equipment.	If no rescue is needed, form an attack team with engine companies. *If quint is first company on scene the crew needs to investigate	Suggested Assignments: *Forcible entry tools *Highrise Pack *Spare Cylinders if able *TIC, Building Keys

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High/Mid Rise Buildings Without Standpipes Assignments: Same as with standpipes except

Unit	Positioning	Actions Fire Alarm Nothing Showing	Actions Reported Fire/Smoke Working Fire
1st Engine	Do Not proceed to FDC		Lead out hoses as directed by IC
2nd Engine Truck / Quint			Do not use hotel packs Utilize pre-connects as appropriate

When there is a working fire visible upon arrival the following alarm system actions should be taken as soon as possible

- Check panel for zone activations other than the fire area. There may be more than one fire.
- If no audible alarm is heard in the building pull a pull station to alert occupants.

The number one tactic at this type of fire is to recon the fire floor before initiating any actions. Good recon will determine which standpipe connection to use, where exactly the fire is, and what threats to life or property exist.

Nothing is worse than connecting to a standpipe that is too far from the fire.

Elevators use – Reference OFPD Elevator Fire Service Operations

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Standard Actions:

Enroute to a reported fire:

- Except the driver, don PPE hood, pant and coat before boarding apparatus.
- Remain seated and wear seatbelt until apparatus is positioned.
- Members who were not able to don their PPE prior to response should do so upon arrival, even if there is nothing showing.

Company officer enroute to a reported fire:

- The officer will identify all personnel on the apparatus before leaving the station and is ultimately responsible for that crew and apparatus. He or she will be responsible for making sure that all personnel have posted their name tags on the unit's passport.
- Turn on portable radio to appropriate fireground channel.
- Monitor radio traffic.
- Check the map and preplan.
- Note locations of:
Two sources of water Supply, FDC, and Key Box

Driver enroute to a reported fire:

- Monitor radio traffic.
- Check map.
- Parked out of the building collapse zone or an exposure area even if there is nothing showing upon arrival.
- Park as best able to allow other apparatus to pass, position, obtain water.

All companies:

- Report with appropriate tools based on assignment.
- Except first engine, throw ladder to A side window unless needed for specific purpose.
- Control the flow path.
- Close doors
- Coordinate forcible entry and ventilation with hose stream company.
- Note effect of wind

First arriving company:

- Establish incident command.
- Follow SLICE-RS

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- The apparatus operator should maintain contact with their company (either visual or verbal via radio) and know the general activity of his crew until such time as the IC assumes a formal position.

All members operating in the hazard zone:

- Wear all PPE fully and properly.
- Breathe from SCBA when in areas with smoke or the potential for smoke or fire to quickly develop.
- Conduct personal size-up and maintain situational awareness.
- Carry assigned radio, flashlight, and tools.
- Operate in a team of at least 2 members, always maintaining voice, visual or touch communications and accountability of one another.
- Maintain company unity and awareness of own and company member breathing air levels.

All officers or acting officers operating in the hazard zone:

- Carry TIC
- Perform all standard actions required of all members operating in the hazard zone
- Conduct strategic and tactical size-up, both initial and ongoing
- Conduct 360-degree observation of structure or situation. If unable report to IC extent of 360 and obstacles to its completion.
- Conduct LCES
- Give regular CAN reports to IC

Report of civilians trapped:

- Verify the appropriate number of Fire apparatus are in enroute.
- Assign a or multiple crews to a rescue group.
- Ensure a safety officer is assigned.
- Request adequate ambulances.

Needs:

One per victim

One for rehab/FF EMS

Fire Scene Chain of Command – Reference OFPD Incident Command System SOP

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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. 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.
6. For Nature of Incidents in which SCBA’s should be worn, see OFPD Personal Protective Equipment SOP

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.

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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.

NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS IN A STRUCTURE:

1. While it is recognized that firefighters want to help in controlling an emergency, too many firefighters inside a hazardous area can be counter-productive and even dangerous. No one shall be inside a hazardous area unless performing an assigned task.

2. As a guideline, the number of firefighters performing the following tasks should be as follows:

- Handling hose lines: Booster, 1-3/4", and 2" - 2 Firefighters
- 2-1/2" - 3 Firefighters
- Search and Rescue: 2 Firefighters
- Ventilation: 2 Firefighters
- Salvage and Overhaul: 2 Firefighters or a number specified by the Incident Commander
- Other Tasks: 2 or 3 depending on the effort needed.

3. No firefighter shall fail to exit the structure when directed to do so.

4. Search and fire attack teams shall ensure they have a portable light and other necessary tools prior to beginning their task.

POSITIVE PRESSURE VENTILATION:

1. Positive pressure ventilation shall begin as soon as possible whenever an interior attack is being made unless ventilation would intensify a fire.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1. No rescue effort shall begin without a simultaneous fire attack except as directed by the Incident Commander.

2. The Incident Commander shall not hesitate to call for additional assistance if he/she has any question of need.

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3. If there are trapped firefighters, a second alarm shall be considered, and EMS requested if not already present.
4. If someone is given an order which conflicts with another order, the firefighter shall advise the second officer of the first officer's order. The second officer is then to decide which of the two orders the firefighter is to execute. If the decision is countermanding to the first order, the second officer shall advise the first officer. This is to preclude the first officer from assuming that his/her order has been executed.
5. All firefighters shall remain on or near the apparatus upon arrival at the scene unless a task has been assigned to them.
6. No one shall remove personal property not his/her own from a scene unless approved by the Incident Commander or fire investigator.
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 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.

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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, designated smoking 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.
20. Members who take photographs while at emergency scenes shall not publicly distribute photographs publicly, which includes internet social media, without prior approval of the Incident Commander or fire investigator.