

# STRUCTURE FIRE – COMMAND

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Follow 2 in / 2 out policy for all risk management decisions
- Ensure size-up and incident updates are copied by dispatch, sometimes this will require parroting on a different channel. Have other companies or BC's assist you with this whenever possible.

## ENROUTE PROTOCOLS:

1. Advise ECSO / and first due BC if you have a delayed response.
2. BC will monitor all companies. After all units are enroute and the dispatcher delivers call information, the BC should move command communications from the dispatch channel to an appropriate command channel. *Move communications for every structure fire response without delay.* Multiple incidents and some geographic areas require alternate and different TAC Channels.
3. Companies who become available from other calls or details:
  - If you are in the first due area where the fire is – add yourself to the alarm.
  - If your crew will arrive sooner than a currently responding company, respond and cancel the company responding from a further distance.
    - Confirm the location of responding companies via AVL, they may be responding from a more advantageous position than quarters.

## CREW CONSIDERATIONS WHILE ENROUTE / ARRIVING

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Due | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respond directly into the scene and spot with greatest strategic / tactical advantage.</li><li>• Evaluate the need and location for truck work. Once determined, announce the spotting location for the truck and leave room it.</li><li>• Secondary- Consider spotting location for the BC vehicle.</li></ul> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Due | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stage at your last tactical advantage (hydrant, entrance to building complex, etc.). Approach from opposite direction when reasonable.</li><li>• Look for water supply options enroute.</li><li>• Pump the FDC as the 2<sup>nd</sup> due Engine (preferred), no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> due Engine</li></ul> |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Due | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stage – prepare for search, vent, or other fireground assignments.</li><li>• Will generally lay the rural driveway line when applicable and ordered by the IC.</li></ul>   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Due | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider broadcasting structure details and water supply options while enroute, to assist earlier arriving companies. Review RIT assignments while enroute.</li></ul>  |

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## TERMINOLOGY:

### Nothing Showing:

- When the first company arrives and advises nothing is showing it is understood that they will be investigating. All additional responding units continue and slow to Code 1. The IC has the option to stage them at a distance.

### Light Smoke Showing:

- Describes a condition with smoke showing but may not require the commitment of all responding companies (example cooking fire, drier fire, etc.). The next action will be to investigate the extent of the fire and confirm the need for additional resources (No mode or IAP declared). All additional responding units continue and slow to Code 1.

### Working Fire:

- Describes a situation that will likely require the commitment of all responding companies. This designator advises dispatch that the companies will be engaged in tactical activities and possibly held on scene for an extended period.

### On-Deck:

- “On-Deck” is defined as a forward staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone. Once a crew is assigned to an On-Deck position, they are first and foremost available to assist with a MAYDAY until they are given an assignment into the hazard zone.

#### **On-Deck Expectations:**

- Personnel will walk into the forward “on-deck” area with full PPE
- An "On-Deck" tool complement will be assembled: RIT bag, RIT tarp/carryall and a lantern.
- Take proactive actions in MAYDAY prevention as time and distance allows. **Make the fireground safer for all operators.**
  - See Pre-RIT Targets of Opportunity for examples of tasks

## ARRIVAL PROTOCOLS:

1. Provide **Brief Arrival Report** (BAR) and assume command.
  - When the BC (or other chief) arrives with another company then the BC should perform initial radio communications. **Typically, BC performs the BAR and CO performs the Follow-Up Report.**
2. Perform 360° survey yourself whenever possible.
3. Provide **Follow-Up Radio Report** on the command channel. If ECSO does not parrot, you must rebroadcast on the dispatch channel also. (Responding BC or other companies should assist with this parrot whenever possible.)
4. Transfer command when / if appropriate.

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Combination of BAR and Follow-Up reports should contain the following:

- Describe the building and fire / smoke conditions in detail.
- State Victim Profile
- Declare an **operations strategy** ASAP.
- Identify the chosen tactics.
- Declare the “**A**” **Alpha side** of the structure.

## COMMAND OPTIONS:

- **Fixed Command:**

**This is generally via a fixed ICP (either inside the vehicle or outside from the street).**

The emergency requires a strong, direct command from the outset due to the size of the fire, the complexity/potential of the incident or the possibility of the expansion of the incident. In these cases, the officer will assume a fixed command position and maintain that position until relieved. This may take the officer out of direct supervision of his/her company. Fixed command post location should be broadcast during the Follow-Up Radio Report or Command Transfer.

- **Working Command:**

Situations which require immediate action to try and stabilize the situation. The officer will be forward with the company working at the task level. This option generally requires the incident commander to remain in direct supervision and with his / her company and will end with one of the following:

- The incident is stabilized, and command is terminated.
- Command is passed to a subsequent arriving officer.
- The incident is not stabilized, and the officer must remove himself to a Fixed Command Posture.

## OPERATIONS STRATEGY OPTIONS:

- **OFFENSIVE** - Interior operations or exterior operations that occur near the hazard zone. We will take calculated risks and at times risk a lot. **You have three offensive tactical options - see below.**
- **DEFENSIVE** - Exclusively exterior operation. Water is directed into exterior openings. Generally, it occurs when interior conditions, fire volume, resource availability or other incident priorities prohibit an offensive strategy. Defensive fire attack shall occur from **beyond** the collapse / hazard / hot zone and be coordinated with efforts to **protect exposures** and **FIREFIGHTER SAFETY** as the highest priorities.

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- **COMBINATION** – An incident that has both space where an offensive strategy is being employed, and a defensive strategy is being employed simultaneously. (Strip malls, well involved apartment buildings, fires with hazards on one side of the incident.)

## OFFENSIVE TACTICAL OPTIONS:

- **Interior Attack:** Traditional offensive attack. Lines are advanced and water flowed inside the building while advancing to the seat of the fire. The establishment of **2 in / 2 out or declaration is exception is mandatory.**
- **Transitional Attack:** Streams are directed into the building from the exterior until sufficient interior improvement allows for the interior advance to occur. The transitional attack is carried out in very close proximity to the building with the understanding that we intend to go inside as quickly as possible.
  - 2.5" attack line is an outstanding choice for the transitional line because of knockdown capability and because it leaves cross lays to be deployed directly to the attack door without relocating lines.
  - Smooth bore or straight stream to the ceiling in the fire room(s) is the best option. Avoid fog streams. Avoid fanning the ceiling and letting the fire into the attic.
  - **The fire will return to its original size within 100 seconds after water stops flowing per NIST.** Either make a rapid interior transition or keep water flowing until entry is made.
- **Rescue (May be either from a fixed or working command posture):** Personnel are performing a rescue of a person **who is in imminent danger.** Members and especially the IC may be unable to communicate much. Members may either be inside or outside the structure. **Next arriving officer is LIKELY to assume command UPON ARRIVAL. You cannot be an IC unless you are on-scene.**

## TRANSFER OF COMMAND:

1. Generally, command officers will relieve another officer when:
  - The original IC will be more effective at a task/tactical level position. (Company officer, division/group sup, ISO etc.)
  - IC requests relief
  - The original IC is not performing in a satisfactory manner.
2. The process for transfer of command:
  - New officer assuming Command communicates with the Incident Commander face-to-face (preferably) or by radio **upon** arrival.
  - Transfer of command shall occur only after a briefing and after the new incident commander and agrees to accept command.
    - Briefing should follow the CAN format:

- Conditions: situation status

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- Actions: objectives, current crew deployment and communication plan
- Needs: Resources enroute / ordered, issues and concerns.

3. Update the new IC's accountability board and broadcast to the fireground and ECSCO:
  - That the transfer of command has occurred and who is in command.
  - Fixed Command location
  - Confirmation of strategy
  - Reduction or increase of resources (as needed)

### **REQUIRED ECSCO BENCHMARKS (completed by the IC on Tablet Command or via the appropriate radio channel)**

- IC established
- Operational mode declared
- Any transfer of command
- ISO established (if delegated)
- Primary search complete **and** its result
- Secondary search complete **and** its result
- Any change to operational mode
- Abandon / Withdrawal, etc.
- PAR / Rollcall results
- MAYDAY DECLARED
- Knockdown
- Overhaul period initiated (see Overhaul Protocol)