

Sonoma County Standard Fireground Operation Protocols

Purpose: To establish a standard of the minimum considerations or protocols to be performed on fireground operations. It is not the intent to prevent the Incident Commander to manage the incident strategically or tactically as required by the conditions of any given incident.

Size-up:

- The First arriving unit/officer shall perform as thorough a size-up of conditions as possible.
- A 360+ degree size-up shall be completed as early into the incident as possible*.
 - It is preferred that this be done by the IC but may be assigned by the IC to a subsequent officer.
 - The Incident Command shall insure completion of this task.
- Size-up is an ongoing process and shall be performed by all officers on the incident, throughout the incident.

Initial Action and Attack Mode:

The first arriving officer/fire unit shall engage in one of the following initial actions and shall set the foundation for the incident strategy or attack mode:

- Initial **Action** Mode: Investigating or checking further
Quick or Fast Attack
Command
- Incident Strategy or **Attack** Mode: Offensive
Defensive
Combination

Initial Report on Conditions:

A radio report on conditions shall be transmitted to the CRO by the first arriving unit/officer. The ROC shall include the minimum information:

- Unit designator
- Address of incident (only if different from dispatched)
- Obvious fire conditions
- Obvious building features with key features noted
- Water supply status
- Action Mode being taken with specific objective statement if appropriate
- Agency specific announcements
- Additional resource requirements

Supplemental Report on Conditions:

- The incident commander shall announce any supplemental information as well as establish and announce the location of the front of the fire building and the location of the command post.
- Incident Strategy shall be announced (with appropriate specifics) by the IC at the initial phase of the incident and at anytime there is a change in the Attack Mode or Strategy. All change in Strategy announcements shall require acknowledgement.
- As size-up is an on-going process, updated reports on conditions may be required between the IC and tactical resources; Tactical resources to the IC; the IC and the CRO. In all cases units shall follow the CAN (Conditions, Actions, Needs) format when communicating subsequent report on conditions.

Minimum Standard Fireground Objectives:

All Offensive and Combination attack fireground operations shall include the following minimum tasks initiated by the first alarm resources: (not listed in required order)

- Initial Attack
- Back-up to the initial Attack
- Primary and Secondary Search
- Water Supply
- Fireground support function – (i.e.: Ventilation, Secure Utilities, and Forcible Entry)
- 2 IN/2OUT*
- RIC*
- IC*

Other Protocols:

- Monitoring and Evaluating Attack Mode: Incident Commanders shall keep track of time and evaluate **fire behavior indicator, structural integrity indicators and resources** to determine the appropriate strategic or attack mode.
- Tactical Frequencies: A tactical frequency shall be assigned by the CRO. No fireground resources shall be switch to the tactical frequency until an IC is officially established.
 - Multiple tactical frequencies may be requested for use for 'water operations', RIC or as required by the incident commander.
- Safety Officer: A Safety Officer should be assigned as required by the IC
- Tactical Worksheet: The incident commander shall use a tactical worksheet as necessary

*required notification to the CRO

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