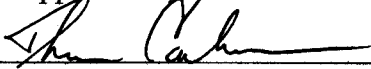




WARE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

Effective Date: January 2008	SOG Category & Identification Number: Operations: OPS-006	Revision:
SOG Title: Incident Command		
Approved by: 	Re-evaluation Date: January 2009	Number of Pages: 4

Purpose:

Command procedures are designed to offer a practical framework for emergency operations, and to effectively integrate the efforts of all members, officers and companies. This will facilitate an organized and tactical operation, and a more effective effort.

Definitions:

Incident Commander-The officer/shift commander who is best suited due to knowledge, skills, and abilities to assure the most positive outcome and mitigation of the emergency and assumes command of the incident.

Formal Command - The first arriving officer/shift commander may assume a command position from a fixed location on the outside of the incident.

Combative Command - Combative command is a working, hands-on incident commander and is a temporary brief option for the first arriving officer/shift commander who is initially in command of the emergency. Under no circumstances is combative command to be used beyond the initial few minutes of an incident unless the size and scope of the incident allows for command and control of the incident in this manner.

Scope:

It shall be the policy of the Ware Fire Department that all members shall operate under these guidelines, at all incidents.

Enforcement:

The officer or member in command is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Assume an effective, visible command position
2. Rapidly evaluate the situation. (size up)

3. Establish strategy and tactics.
4. Request and assign additional units as required.
5. Provide ongoing reports to Station 66.
6. Review and evaluate efforts, and revise the incident plan(s) as needed.
7. Serve as ultimate safety officer.
8. Transfer command when incident is de-escalating.
9. Terminate command.
10. Authorize information to the media.
11. Accountability

Priorities:

1. Life Safety
 - We may risk our lives a **lot** to protect **savable lives**.
 - We may risk our lives a **little** to protect **savable property**.
 - We will not risk our lives **at all** to save what is already **lost**.
2. Incident Stability
3. Property Conservation (Loss Stopped)

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The first fire officer or member arriving at an incident, shall be in command until relieved by a higher ranking officer, and shall transmit a brief initial report (BIR) including:
 1. Unit identification
 2. Confirmation of address
 3. Description of structure
 4. A brief description of the incident situation. (Occupancy, Haz-mat, MVA, etc.)
 5. Obvious conditions (working fire, multiple patients, etc.)
 6. Brief description of action taken or to be taken.
 7. Begin implementing the Incident Command System.
 8. Radio communications if assuming combative command.
- A higher-ranking officer arriving on scene may assume command at their discretion. If command is not transferred to the higher-ranking officer the higher-ranking officer will still be responsible for the outcome of the incident.

Strategy:

Considering the level of risk, the Incident Commander will choose the proper strategy to be used at the fire scene. The strategy can change with conditions or because certain benchmarks are obtained. (All Clear) Strategy mode will be based on the following:

- The building (type of construction, conditions, age, ect).
- Structural integrity of the building (contents vs structural involvement).
- The fire load (what type of fuel is burning and what's left to burn).
- The fire and/or smoke conditions (extent, location, ect).
- The rescue profile (savable occupants/survivability profile).

Offensive Strategy:

- RIT team must be in place unless immediate life safety is involved.

- Initial attack efforts must be directed towards supporting a primary search. The first attack line must go between the victims and the fire to protect avenues of rescue and escape.
- Offensive fires should be fought from the interior, unburned side to burned side. Avoid fire attack from the burning side of the building. An attack from the burning side generally will drive the fire, smoke, and heat back into the building and drive the interior fire control forces out of the building.
- Avoid exterior application of water during offensive operation. This is usually the very worst application point.

Defensive Strategy:

- The decision to operate in a defensive strategy indicates that the offensive attack strategy, or the potential for one, has been abandoned for the reasons of personnel safety, and the involved structure has been conceded as lost.
- If the Incident Commander changes strategy from offensive to defensive to ensure all personnel are informed an announcement shall be made on the radio as **Emergency Traffic** stating the change in strategy and all personnel shall withdraw from the structure and maintain a safe distance from the structure until accounted for by an officer. A PAR (Personnel Accountability Report) shall be obtained after any switch from offensive to defensive strategy.
- When an emergency evacuation is directed by the Incident Commander **THREE (3) LONG AIR HORN BLASTS OF ALL ON-SCENE APPARATUS WILL BE SOUNDED**. The Incident Commander shall have transmitted an **Emergency Announcement** through all radio channels. Once the emergency evacuation has been sounded, all members shall report to the personnel pool (generally designated behind the first-responding engine). Company Officers shall conduct PAR when members arrive at the personnel pool.
- Interior lines will be withdrawn and repositioned if possible when changing to a defensive strategy. Crews should retreat with their hose lines if safe to do so. If retreat is being delayed because of hose lines, and it is unsafe, hoses should be abandoned.
- All exposures, both immediate and anticipated, must be identified and protected. When the exposure is severe and water is limited, the most effective tactic is to put water on the exposure.

SINGLE ENGINE RESPONSE

- Whenever a single engine responds to an incident (still alarm), the officer/shift commander will be in command of the incident, and will assume full authority and responsibility for all actions conducted at the scene.
- When operating at the scene, the officer/shift commander shall establish command and identify command by street or location. If after arrival on scene, the incident commander requests additional fire apparatus and personnel, the procedures for the assumption of command as outlined in multiple apparatus response will be followed.

MULTIPLE UNIT RESPONSE --- ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

- Whenever multiple units are dispatched to an incident, the first arriving officer /shift commander will automatically assume command. The assumption of command will occur as follows:

- The officer will announce his/her arrival on scene and report information based upon size-up, observed conditions and fire ground actions that will be taken.
- If the first arriving officer is assuming *formal command*, the officer will announce this over the radio by designating him or herself as command. All formal command will be designated using the street that the incident is on. (Ex. Elm St. Command).
- Upon arriving at working incidents involving multiple units, command will direct that all radios operate on the Ware Fire Department Tactical channel. Single engine (stills) operations between command and Station 66 shall remain on Channel 1.
- All arriving officers and apparatus arriving after formal command has been established shall report to the Incident Commander face to face or by radio and receive instructions.

COMBATIVE COMMAND

- Combative command is a working, hands-on incident commander and is an option for the first arriving officer/shift commander who is initially in command of the emergency.
- The officer/shift commander will take an active roll in carrying out required tactical operations.
- Such officer/shift commander shall be prepared to give a report of actions and conditions over a portable radio upon arrival of another officer and the establishment of formal command.

FORMAL COMMAND

The first arriving officer/shift commander may assume a command position from a fixed location on the outside of the incident.

- The officer/shift commander in formal command will not involve themselves in tactical operations at the incident.

TRANSFER OF COMMAND

- Transfer of command will take place face to face if possible.
- If unable to meet face to face with the officer/shift commander, a complete report over the radio will take place, followed by a face to face report as soon as practical.
- Once command is transferred from the first arriving officer/shift commander, command will be *formal*, and designated by the street the incident is on. (Ex. Elm Street Command).
- Once *formal* command has been established, all radio traffic to and from the incident commander will be made using (street name) Commander.
- When an incident that required *formal* command is over, the incident commander will terminate command and return to Channel 1.