



WARE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

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SOG Title: Incident Safety Officer (ISO)		
Approved by:	Re-evaluation Date: January 2009	Number of Pages: 2

Purpose:

- To assure compliance with the national standard, NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer*.
- To define the incident circumstances under which an ISO will be designated.
- To define and clarify the ISO role within the Incident Command System.

Definition: The Incident Safety Officer is an essential component of the Incident Management System under which the Ware Fire Department operates. The Incident Safety Officer (ISO) monitors and assesses safety hazards or unsafe situations and develops measures for ensuring personnel safety.

Who may be assigned as Incident Safety Officer:

Any Officer, Shift Commander or experienced (non-probationary) firefighter in the Ware Fire Department or any Officer in a mutual aid department may be designated by the Incident Commander as the Incident Safety Officer.

Scope: The primary responsibility of the ISO at every incident or training activity is to protect the safety of responders. This guideline will identify circumstances when the Ware Fire Department will designate a safety officer. This guideline applies to all emergency incidents and training incidents the Ware Fire Department responds to.

Enforcement:

- While the ICS typically follows along the chain of command, the ISO can bypass the system to correct unsafe actions or to remove responders from the threat of immediate danger.
- Should the ISO take action to remove responders from the threat of danger, the IC must be advised as to the action taken and the reason for the action.
- The ISO has the authority to *alter, suspend, or terminate unsafe acts or hazardous activities*.

- The ISO is responsible for identifying and communicating existing or potential hazards that do not present an imminent threat to responder safety to assure incorporation of these potential hazards by the IC into the ongoing incident action plan.
- Every officer and firefighter bears full responsibility for adherence to this guideline.
- Employees shall adhere to all safety rules, regulations, and procedures set forth by the Ware Fire Department.
- All Officers of the Ware Fire Department shall be responsible for properly training and educating each employee in the safe operation and performance of firefighting duties.
- All Firefighters in the Ware Fire department shall report all unsafe acts and conditions to an Officer.

Additional Duties and Responsibilities of the ISO:

- Assures all members wear full protective equipment as dictated by the type of incident.
- Assures all members wear SCBA under actual, imminent, potential IDLH circumstances.
- Assures all members work in teams.
- Assures a RIT (rapid intervention team) is available to react quickly with the proper equipment.
- Assures the accountability system employed by the Ware Fire Department is activated to track all personnel on scene.
- Assures departmental and other recognized safety practices are followed.
- Assures safe practices are employed at all incidents and training exercises.

Incident Circumstances for which an Incident Safety Officer position shall be designated:

- When Mutual aid is called for a structure fire.
- When greater than three lines are deployed at a structure fire.
- Multi-alarm incidents.
- Hazardous Material Incidents.
- Technical Rescues.
- Multi-casualty incidents or beyond the ability of a single human resource.
- Working commercial fire.