



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

PURPOSE

Goals and objectives for each incident shall be developed by the first arriving unit to an emergency scene. The information obtained from the initial size-up is vital to the success of the incident. This information will guide the development of the IAP (initial action plan).

POLICY

All RFD personnel shall be trained in Incident Command and shall have the authority and responsibility to give a detailed scene size-up upon arrival. Personnel conducting a scene size-up shall consider any immediate tasks needed and make any immediate assignments for later arriving units. All RFD personnel shall be familiar with Incident Command, Modes of Command and all fireground priorities (Tactical Worksheet).

Incident Command / Command Post shall be established as soon as possible by a chief or acting chief officer to manage the incident.

Overall objectives when responding to an emergency incident:

1. Life Safety
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Conservation

Each decision and resulting action should be made to achieve these objectives. Strategies and goals are developed / implemented based on the conditions or needs of each incident. Regardless of the unit type arriving first on scene, initial decisions that will positively impact the outcome of the incident must be made.

Command Options

Assuming Command by the first-arriving unit has several options. A Command Post is priority for and may be established by a unit without tactical capabilities (staff vehicle, no equipment, etc.). Most incidents include first-arrival by a Company Officer as a part of an Engine Company. Sometimes the first arriving unit does not include an Engine Company or an Officer (e.g., Medic 1, staff car, etc.). The first arriving unit has the responsibility to size-up the incident and initiate Command. This may include requesting additional resources, evacuating an area or giving assignments to the next arriving units.

The following options define the Company Officer's direct involvement in tactical activities and the modes that may be utilized (SOP 201.01 - Incident Command and Control):

Investigation Option: Upon arrival, an incident may not have visible indicators of a significant event. These situations generally require investigation by the first-arriving company.

Fast-Attack Option: Situations that require immediate action to stabilize the incident mandate the company officer's assistance to carry out critical operations (Rescue, Fire-attack, etc.). This officer is the Incident Commander (IC) until a transfer can be made to the next arriving officer on scene.

Command-Post Option: Certain incidents, by virtue of their size, complexity, or potential for rapid expansion, require immediate, strong and direct Command. The first arriving officer will establish command and remain as IC until the incident is mitigated or is relieved by another officer.

Approved

Fire Chief



Working Structure Fire

Fire Incident Management is not reserved solely for Chief Officers. Any member arriving first on scene should approach the incident with **RECEO-VS** in mind and take actions that will address all priorities. No unit is dedicated to a predetermined task.

Size-up is critical to prioritize fire-ground tasks. (**CAN-Conditions, Actions, Needs**)

RECEO-VS is the template that is used to manage all fire incidents. This is not just the IC's responsibility. All other tactics fall under these.

- **R - Rescue:** Is there potential for victims to be inside the structure? Sometimes the need for rescue is obvious, ie. victims hanging out of windows. Other times an investigation or interview with the property owner is necessary to confirm. The possibility of rescue must be ruled out. If rescue is needed, resources will be committed until all potential victims are removed from harm. Once this is accomplished, crews can then proceed to the next priority.
- **E - Exposure:** Is there potential for the fire to easily spread to an exposed structure? Immediately exposed structures are to be protected from fire impingement. Sometimes exposures are obvious and may be involved. Crews are to use tactics that will protect these structures. Sometimes additional structures are only involved after the main fire building is out of control. Reassessment is vital during the incident. When the threat of exposure is eliminated, move to the next priority.
- **C - Confinement:** After the possibilities for rescue and immediate exposures are ruled out, then the involved structure can be mitigated. Resources can now be focused on the building of origin. All necessary skills and equipment should be used to confine and ultimately extinguish the fire.
- **E - Extinguishment:** After the fire is confined to a manageable level, the fire can be extinguished. Proper attack techniques will result in complete extinguishment of the main body of fire.
- **O - Overhaul:** Once the fire is confined to a room or building of origin, it is necessary to overhaul the area to eliminate hidden heat sources. Overhaul must be completed to eliminate all hidden fires and avoid rekindle.
- **V - Ventilation:** Ventilation is a priority that may need to be accomplished early in the incident to improve survivability of victims or fire crews. The timing of ventilation is essential to the success of fire operations. Ventilation will be considered by interior crews and exterior personnel based on ongoing evaluation.
- **S - Salvage:** Salvage may be considered at any time during an incident. Protection of property from additional fire exposure and damage from firefighting operations must be considered at every opportunity.

The success of each fire incident is dependent upon the decisions / actions taken by the initial unit on scene. With different unit types and different staffing levels for each type, it is necessary for all personnel to be proficient in fireground management utilizing Incident Command. Potentially any unit can arrive on scene first and begin Incident Action Planning. The first 5 minutes sets the tone for the rest of the incident.

Fire Chief