NORTHERN WAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**	
TITLE: Fire Ground Operations	**SECTION/TOPIC:** OPERATIONS
NUMBER: 300-1	**ISSUE DATE:** 7/1/17
REVISION DATES: 9/1/18 2/27/23	**APPROVED BY:** Blake Wright **FIRE CHIEF** Darrin Holt **CHIEF OF OPERATIONS**

I. PURPOSE

A. The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline is to provide a framework of fire ground tasks, company expectations, and provide for the safety of everyone, both civilian and public safety.

B. Operating in an IDLH environment possesses inherent risks that can include death if these risks are not managed correctly, quickly analyzed, and mitigated properly.

C. The behavior of fire inside a structure is continually evolving due to variables related to construction materials and methods of the structures we encounter.

D. This Standard Operating Guideline will provide tools for the safe management at these incidents, however does not override the ability or authority of the Incident Commander to make decisions or tactical considerations outside this guideline to ensure a safe and effective resolution.

II. SCOPE

A. This Standard Operating Guideline is adaptive to allow the use of its contents both inside the Northern Wake response area and when resources respond outside of our jurisdiction.

B. This Standard Operating Guideline applies to all members of the Northern Wake Fire Department.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. AHJ - Acronym for Authority Having Jurisdiction.

B. Backup Line - An attack hose line of equal or larger size to the initial attack line. Deployed and charged to provide protection for the initial attack team, additional fire attack capability or exposure coverage as determined by the IC.

C. CAN Report - Acronym for Conditions, Actions and Needs. A format for situational reports designed to keep emergency incident radio communications standard, thorough, and clear.

D. Defensive Fire Attack Mode - The commitment of a fire department's resources to protect exposures when the fire has progressed to a point where an offensive fire attack is not safe or effective. This option may be selected by Command when the Rescue Mode is not imminent and there are NO life-safety issues. This mode is also an option when resources are not available (second or third due engine companies). This mode may be declared when risks outweigh benefits. This mode also identifies an exterior attack for an extended duration – "Risk a little to Save a little."

E. Firefighter Assist Safety Group (FAST Group) - The FAST group is defined as the second arriving unit assigned to provide initial rapid intervention if interior operations are underway or an Offensive Mode is selected. The FAST Group will provide a minimum of two personnel capable of initiating a rescue of interior crews if necessary. They will be relieved by the RIT Group (See RIT Group).

F. Flow Path - The course of movement of hot gases between the fire and exhaust openings and the movement of air towards the fire. Flow path can significantly influence fire spread and the hazards presented to occupants and firefighters.

G. High Rise Building - A structure that is five (5) or more stories in height, on any side.

H. ICP - Acronym for the Incident Command Post which is a stationary location at which the primary command functions are executed.

I. Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) - An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous environment. All atmospheres where the actual inhalation hazard is unknown or where smoke visibly exists are considered IDLH.

J. IC/Command - Acronym for the Incident Commander. The IC is the officer on the scene who is in charge of an incident. They are responsible for strategic decisions and assigning other supervisory or functional positions necessary to control an incident. The IC must handle any function or responsibility appropriate to a given incident that has not been delegated to another officer. The use of Unified Command is an expectation for all incidents when there are multiple organizations or jurisdictions involved.

K. Initial Attack Team (2-in crew) - A minimum of two personnel who are certified/qualified to participate in interior structural firefighting. These personnel must maintain constant visual and/or voice contact with each other while entering and operating in an IDLH environment.

L. Investigation Mode - Command option where the first-in unit investigates and other apparatus stage. This mode is used when there is NO visible or apparent emergency upon arrival. Example: Responding for a fire alarm with nothing showing upon arrival.

M. Known Life Hazard - A circumstance where responding personnel can hear or see a person in distress, or have received reliable information from “Dispatch” or a bystander indicating that a person is in an IDLH atmosphere.

N. MAYDAY - A special distress call that indicates an individual or team is in extreme danger and that danger is considered life-threatening where the individual or team needs immediate assistance.

O. Mode of Operation - The type of tactics intended to be used. This mode is typically announced by the initial arriving unit or IC. E.g. Offensive, Defensive, Transitional, Rescue.

P. Offensive Fire Attack Mode – This mode is an assertive fire attack mode that is intended to stop the fire at its current location. It is also a Command option when a determination of the first arriving officer deems rescue is NOT imminent. This mode may begin as a quick exterior attack and transition to an interior attack.

Q. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Equipment consisting of helmet, hood, coat, pants, boots, and gloves that comply with NFPA 1971 Standard, Protective Ensemble, Structural Fire Fighting.

R. Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) – A PAR involves a roll call of personnel assigned to the incident. The IC or Accountability Officer (if assigned) will perform the roll call. PARs should be conducted every 20 minutes unless deemed different by the IC due to incident conditions.

S. Rapid Intervention Team Group (RIT) - The RIT Group will be assigned on a structure fire assignment or any incident where there exists an IDLH atmosphere. Initially rapid intervention will be provided by a FAST Group consisting of two (2) personnel from the 2nd arriving company. The 3rd arriving Engine will assume RIT duties upon arrival with the initial FAST Group and/or other units as assigned by the IC. Ideally, the RIT Group should consist of a minimum of seven (7) personnel. Personnel from other arriving units should be used to complete the full RIT Group.

T. Relay Water Supply - Using two or more pumpers to move water over a long distance, by operating them in series.

U. Rescue Mode - Command option where critical life safety situations are present. This mode will be declared when there is entrapment of occupants or firefighters. This mode should be considered on non-fire related emergencies (structural collapse, confined space, trench collapse). The Rescue Mode ends when the occupants or firefighters have been removed or the determination for rescue is NOT possible.

V. SCBA - Acronym for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. Must meet NIOSH certification and NFPA 1981 Standard, Open-Circuit Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire Service, including the integrated PASS device that complies with NFPA 1982 Standard, Personal Alert Safety Systems for Fire Fighters.

W. Side Alpha (Division A) - This will be the radio designation for the “A” side of a building. This will normally be the address side of the structure.

X. Side Bravo (Division B) - This will be the radio designation for the “B” side of a building, which will be the next side, as you move clockwise from side “A”.

Y. Side Charlie (Division C) - This will be the radio designation for the “C” side of a building, which will be the next side, as you move clockwise from side “B”.

Z. Side Delta - This will be the radio designation for the “D” side of a building, which will be the next side, as you move clockwise from side “C”.

AA. SO - Acronym for the Safety Officer. The command staff position assigned to monitor the scene for safety hazards or unsafe operations, enforce safety practices and establish a safety plan.

BB. Softening of the Structure - Disconnecting utilities, providing means of egress and forcible entry to prepare the structure for entry.

CC. Staging Area - That location where incident personnel and equipment are assigned on a three minute available status. The Staging Area is managed by a “Staging Area Manager.”

DD. Level I staging - used to control the first alarm or initially dispatched units. All apparatus park in close proximity to the dwelling.

EE. Level II staging - a location to which all second or greater alarm or mutual-aid companies report. The Staging location should be announced when the additional resources are requested/dispatched. This is the cue to establish the Staging Area Manager function. The Staging Area Manager reports to the Incident Commander or Operations (if Ops is established).

FF. Staging Area Manager - The fire department member assigned by the IC to manage apparatus, equipment and personnel assigned to staging the staging area.

GG. Target Hazard - Any location which poses an unusual threat to the life safety of the public and/or firefighters, which could experience a very high dollar loss or which presents special firefighting considerations. Examples of target hazards include; hospitals, nursing homes, shopping malls, industries, warehouses, tank farms, schools, railroad switching yards, dormitories and high rise buildings.

HH. TIC - Acronym for Thermal Imaging Camera.

II. Transfer Report - A verbal or written report given during a formal transfer of command, providing the essential information for the continued efficient management of the incident.

JJ. Transitional Fire Attack Mode - Command option tactic used to reduce temperatures inside a building prior to entry by firefighting personnel for extinguishment or rescue.

KK. Unified Command – Unified Command is when representatives from agencies or share responsibility for the incident and manage the response from a single Incident Command Post. A Unified Command allows agencies with different legal, geographic, and functional authorities and responsibilities to work together effectively without affecting individual agency authority, responsibility, or accountability. Under a Unified Command, a single, coordinated Incident Action Plan will direct all activities. The Incident Commanders will supervise a single Command and General Staff organization and speak with one voice.

LL. VEIS or VES - (Vent, Enter, Isolate, and Search) - Is a tactic used when immediate rescue of a viable victim in a known location can be performed. Crews may be faced with the need to take immediate actions to effect an imminent rescue. When this occurs, it is important that the crew makes a calculated risk utilizing the resources they have at hand. VEIS procedures can be broken down into the following priorities:

1. Complete a 360-degree walk around and size-up the structure
2. Determine the entry point
3. Vent the window/entry point
4. Enter the structure
5. Control the door
6. Search the room
7. Extricate the victim

MM. Water Shuttle - The hauling of water from a supply source (fill site) to a portable tank (dump site) from which water may be drawn to fight a fire. Primarily used in rural water supply situations. A Fill site may be a fire hydrant or a static source (pond, lake, etc.)

IV. NIMS TERMINOLOGY

A. Incident Commander (IC): The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and the release of resources. The IC has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site. Referred to as “Command” on radio.

B. Command Staff: The Information Officer, Liaison Officer and Safety Officer comprise the positions in the command staff and report directly to the IC.

C. General Staff: A group of incident management personnel organized according to function and reporting to the Unified Command or Incident Commander. The General Staff normally consists of the Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance/Administration Section Chief.

D. Section: The incident command system (ICS) organizational level having responsibility for a major functional area of incident management, e.g., Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, and Intelligence (if established). The section is organizationally situated between the Branch and the Incident Command.

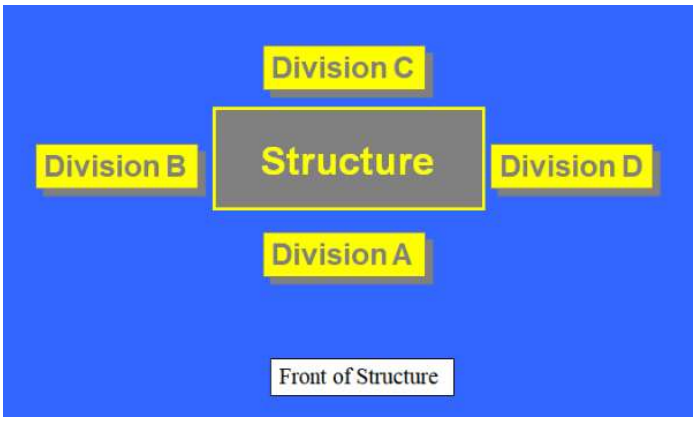
E. Branch: The organizational level having functional or geographic responsibility for major parts of the Operations or Logistics functions. The Branch level is organizationally between Section and Division/Group in the Operations Section, and between Section and Units in the Logistics Section. Branches may be identified by functional name (e.g., Medical, Hazmat, USAR, LE, etc.) or by the use of Roman numerals (if Branches are used as a geographical area).

F. Group: Groups are established to divide the incident into functional areas of operation. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not necessarily within a single geographic division (see Division). Groups are located between Branches (when activated) and Single Resources in the Operations Section.

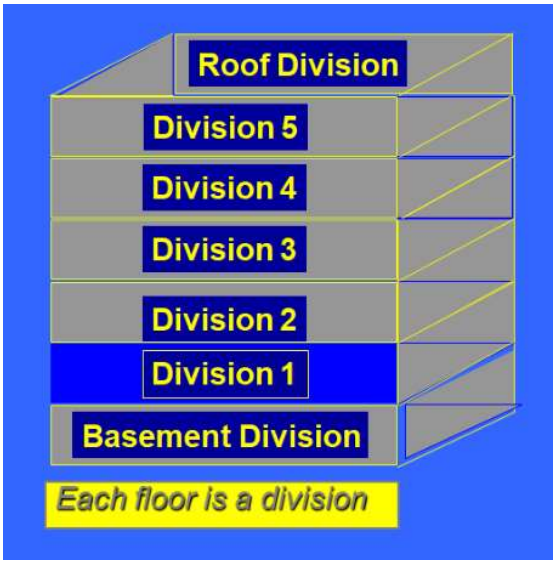
G. Division: Divisions are used to divide an incident into geographical areas of operation. A Division is located within the ICS organization between the Branch and the Single Resource/Task Force/Strike Team. Divisions are identified by alphabetic characters for horizontal applications and, often by floor numbers when used in buildings.

V. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

Divisions

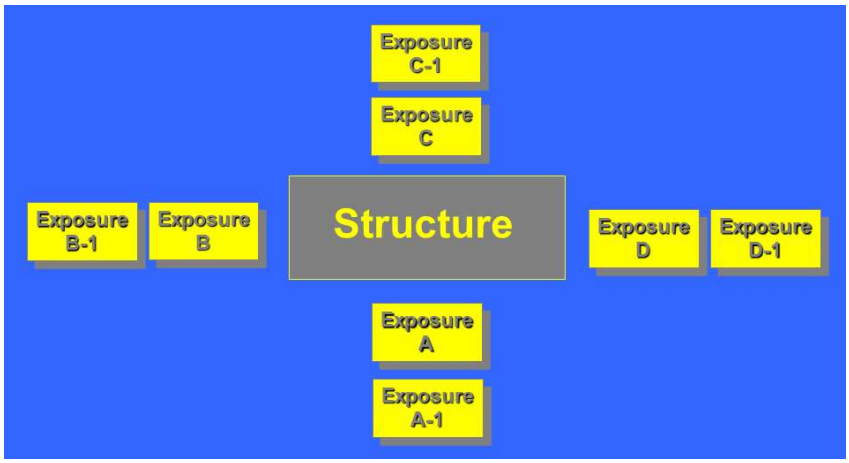


Front or (addressed side) = Division A (Alpha)
Left Side (from front) = Division B (Bravo)
Rear Side (from front) = Division C (Charlie)
Right Side (from front) = Division D (Delta)



First Floor (ground level) = Division 1
Other floors listed in succession= Division "x" (where "x" is the floor number)
Roof = Roof Division
Basement = Basement Division

Exposures



VI. INCIDENT PRIORITIES

A. All incidents have the same basic priorities:

1. Life Safety (1. Victims, 2. Self, 3. Crew, 4. RIT)
2. Incident Stabilization (extinguish fire, ventilating, control flow path, etc)
3. Property Conservation (salvage, remove valuables, water damage, exposures, etc)

VII. TACTICAL GOALS

A. Company Officer Initial Structural Fire Attack Priorities (S.L.I.C.E.R.S.)

1. (S) – Size up
2. (L) – Locate the Fire
3. (I) - Identify Flow Path
4. (C) – Cool from Safe Location
5. (E) – Extinguish
6. (R) – Rescue
7. (S) – Salvage

B. Initiating an attack on a structural fire requires a standard approach, applying standard actions to achieve standard outcomes (Brunacini). A recent (2014) evolution on the traditional fire ground strategies (RECEOVS) has been developed. The International Society of Fire Service Instructors has developed the acronym (S.L.I.C.E.R.S.) in response to handling emerging data on fire attack.

C. The traditional RECEOVS still applies as a tool for command strategies. S.L.I.C.E.R.S. was developed to provide first arriving company officers with a sequential approach to the structural firefighting that ensures a sound assessment of the situation is completed and an effective attack is mounted. S.L.I.C.E.R.S is broken down into two categories: Sequential Actions and Actions of Opportunity. Sequential Actions are designed to provide the first arriving officer with a logical thought process to follow. Actions of opportunity occur at ANY TIME in the operation.

The components of each category are listed below:

VIII. INCIDENT SIZE-UP

A. It is critical that the first arriving company officer communicate a calm, concise size up of every situation. This information sets the tone for the incident and gives responding units an understanding of what the officer sees, their mode of action, and any immediate needs.

1. Ask yourself…
2. What do I have? (conditions)
3. What am I doing? (actions)
4. What do I need? (resources)

B. The initial scene size up should include the following information:

1. Unit number on scene
2. Address of incident (if identifiable)
3. Description of event and/or what is visible (fire or smoke conditions, size of structure,
4. Establish Command
5. Perform 360° walk-around – Update findings
6. Declare operational mode based upon 360° findings
7. Are there immediate needs to address?
8. How will water be supplied?

NOTE: A 360° size up shall be conducted by the initial arriving company officer on every scene where it is feasibly possible. During this size up the officer should make note of possible victims, building construction type, extent of the fire, potential flow path, and safety issues. Use of a thermal imaging camera during a 360° is required. Pertinent information shall be relayed to incoming units.

C. Size up – Structural Fire Conditions

1. The following types of Structural Fire Conditions will be used in the size up sequence:

a) Nothing Showing – All responders reduce to non-emergent response
b) Smoke Showing – Light smoke visible. All responders continue emergent response.
c) Working Fire – Visible active fire or dark, pushing smoke visible. All responders continue emergent response.

D. Size up Sequence

1. For standardization and consistency, all first arriving units will use the same size up sequence.

a) Unit # on scene
b) Give actual address.
c) Fire conditions (Nothing Showing, Smoke Showing, Working Fire)
d) Structure description (dimensions)
e) Fire location and status
f) Establish Command
g) 360° Walk-Around
g) Select Attack mode (Offensive, Transitional, Defensive, Rescue)
h) Make Assignments

EXAMPLE #1

Windshield Size-Up, Command Function, Recon, Initial Assignments Based Upon Recon

"Engine 11 is on the scene at 12345 Six Forks Road, Working Fire, in a 50' x 60' two-story frame residence. There is visible fire from Division 2 on the Division A side.
Engine 11 Officer establishing Six Forks Road Command, performing a 360° walk-around.

Provide additional information or directions as needed: e.g. water supply strategy, where additional units should report, additional 360° details or findings (exposures).

"Command to all units, it appears that the fire is confined to Division 2 and all occupants are out of the structure.
Engine 11's crew, PAR 2, will be operating in a Transitional Mode, stretching a Blitz line to Division A for Fire Attack in Division 2.
There are exposures on both Side Bravo and Side Delta.
Engine 41, upon arrival, lay in from the roadway and provide your water to Engine 11. I need your remaining crew to pull a 1 ¾" preconnect, join up with the Firefighter from Engine 11, prepare to make entry to Division 2, completing a primary search and extinguishing the fire.
Engine 21, upon arrival, finish the supply line and setup for drop tank operations at the intersection. Send me your remaining crew, who will pull an additional 1 ¾" preconnect line and will prepare to make entry and search Division 1. Once the search is complete, support the stairwell egress for Engine 41's crew.
Engine 31, set up a Water Point at Barton's Creek Boat Ramp.
Engine 5, upon your arrival, stage your apparatus away from the scene and your crew will be assigned RIT.
Ladder 15, upon your arrival, setup at the A/B corner, secure utilities and provide a secondary means of egress from Division 2.

Rescue 35, upon your arrival, conduct a secondary search of Division 1 and 2. While searching, establish horizontal ventilation in both Divisions.
Engine 51, once you arrive, have your crew make entry and begin salvage operations in both Divisions."

An ongoing size up shall be conducted throughout the incident.
Key points to consider in the ongoing size up include reports to/from the IC, Divisions and/or Groups, changes in tactics, changes in occupancy status, exposure issues or safety concerns.
The IC shall update all on-scene units on these reports.

IX. MODES OF OPERATION

A. Offensive Mode - Command option when a determination deems that an assertive fire attack is needed to stop the fire at its current location.

B. Defensive Mode - Command option when a determination deems that the fire has progressed to a point where an offensive fire attack is not safe or effective.

C. Transitional Mode - Command option when water is applied to the fire prior to entry, interrupting the fire development and lowering interior temperatures. This is known as "resetting the fire" and helps reduce temperatures inside the building prior to entry.

D. Rescue Mode - Command option when critical life safety situations are present. This mode will be declared when there is entrapment of occupants or firefighters. The Rescue Mode ends when the occupants or firefighters have been removed or the determination that rescue is NOT possible has been made.

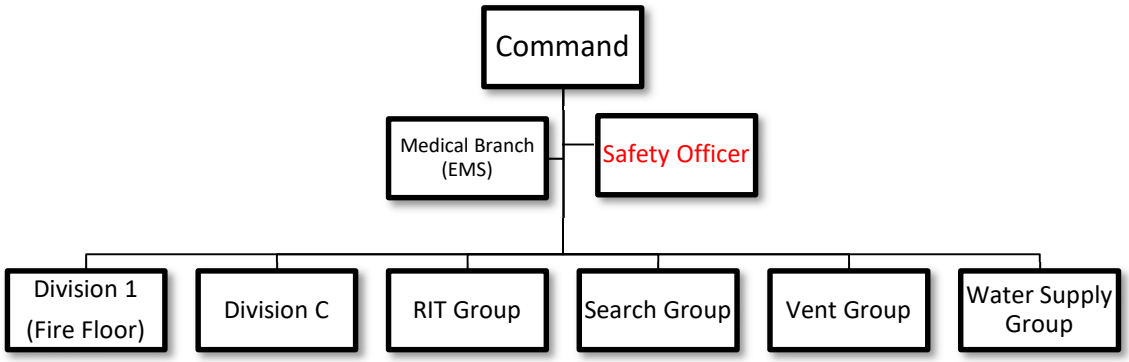
X. ICS APPROACHES

A. The general ICS approach for the Northern Wake Fire Department will be "top first, bottom up."

B. "Command" will always be established first by the fire arriving unit, with other ICS elements filled as resources assemble and/or the incident expands.

C. All incidents are dynamic, therefore the IC must have an understanding of ICS structures to expand the incident functions (Sections, Branches, Groups, and Divisions).

The basic ICS structure for a typical single-story working structure fire



D. The initial IC will not "take" command into the structure and will pass "Command" to either an arriving Chief Officer or the next arriving Company Officer when he/she must commit the immediate tactic.

E. The IC will expand the functions as needed (e.g. add Division 2, Division 3, etc.)

F. Although attacking the fire will be the most frequent operation, the use of "Fire Attack" or "Fire Attack Group" will not be used as a general approach as the responsibilities in a particular Division will be varied beyond only that of fire attack.

G. The "Medical Branch" is not considered part of the IC's span control as EMS will operate separately with specific goals and objectives, yet collaborate with the IC for medical issues.

H. The use of "Operations" is <u>not</u> a goal unless the IC has additional responsibilities beyond fire strategies and tactics (e.g. home owner needs, sheltering, media, or additional agency liaison).

I. "Operations" may be assigned at the IC's discretion.

J. A <u>Safety Officer (SO)</u> will be appointed by Command as needed for scene safety purposes.

XI. FIRE GROUND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General fire ground responsibilities will be performed based upon company arrival.

B. The information below is provided as guidance and as a general expectation, however may be altered based upon incident needs.

C. In general, the first two (2) Engine companies will position (as accessible) at the fire, with 2nd Engine performing a forward lay for water supply if the fire scene is remote from the roadway.

D. The 3rd Engine will complete the lay and set up for drafting or relay operations as required.

E. Space must be allowed at an incident for a Ladder Company to set up in Division A if at all possible.

F. Company arrival responsibilities:

1. First Engine – Establish IC, Size-up/updates, fire attack or rescue as dictated. Pass command if needed.
2. Second Engine – Initial water supply, FAST Group, 2nd attack line, Assume IC if needed, Rescue Mode if dictated.
3. Third Engine – Complete Water Supply/Draft point as needed, Establish RIT Group.
4. Fourth Engine – Ladder Company Ops (see section 13.0): Search Group and Vent Group as dictated.
5. Ladder Company – Ladder Company Ops: assist 4th Engine or initiate if not yet assigned.
6. 1st Chief Officer – Assume Command from existing IC.
7. 2nd Chief Officer – Manage Water Supply Group
8. 3rd Chief Officer – Division C
9. Water Point Pumper – Set up at determined water point.
10. Tankers – Water Shuttle

G. Northern Wake Fire Department Water Supply Procedures will be followed as a guide for water supply operations.

XII. ENGINE COMPANY EXPECTATIONS

A. Personnel riding on Engine Companies will have the following general responsibilities:

B. At a minimum, each member will be equipped with an SCBA, portable radio, and one (1) flashlight, and at least one hand tool.

C. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that they have all of the tools necessary to perform any assigned tasks and/or self-rescue.

Engine Company position (radio) assignments and minimum tools are as follows:

1. “Officer” – Thermal imaging camera (TIC), 6’ hook or pike pole
2. “Driver” (Engineer) – Operate pump, initial accountability
3. “Nozzle” – (seat behind Officer) Hose deployment
4. “Back-up” – (seat behind driver): Irons, assist with hose deployment.

D. Any additional firefighters on the apparatus will pair with one of the two firefighter positions above and provide assistance and additional hand tools as directed.

E. Example of radio call-signs: “Engine 31 Officer,” “Engine 21 Driver,” “ Engine 11 Nozzle”

XIII. LADDER COMPANY OPERATIONS

A. Personnel riding on a Ladder Company will have the following general responsibilities:

B. At a minimum, each member will be equipped with a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), portable radio , one (1) flashlight, and at least one (1) hand tool.

C. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that they have all of the tools necessary to perform any assigned tasks and/or self-rescue.

D. The Company Officer will determine the appropriate assignment of tools to his/her crew based upon incident/situation requirement.

E. Ladder Company Position (radio) Assignments and minimum tools are as follows:

1. “Officer” – Six foot Halligan hook and Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC).
2. “Driver” – Halligan hook and striking tool or axe.
3. “Irons” (seat behind Officer) – Irons, 6’ hook.
4. “Outside Vent” (OV) (seat behind Driver) – 6’ Hook and Halligan bar.
5. “Hook” (5th position) – 6’ Halligan hook (relieves “Irons” of this assignment).

Note: The tools listed are not all inclusive and other tools/techniques may be more appropriate.

F. Example of radio call-signs: “Ladder 15 Officer,” “Ladder 15 Driver,” “Ladder 15 Irons”

G. Ladder Company Position Responsibilities:

1. Officer – This member is the Company Officer of the Ladder Company and is responsible for:

a) Supervision and delegation of tasks within their assigned company.

b) Implementing appropriate tactics to support the fire ground strategy.

2. Driver – This member is initially responsible for the safe operation of the apparatus. Other tasks associated with this position are:

   a) Act as “Group Supervisor” when the Ladder Company is working in two (2) groups
   b) Perform search and rescue
   c) Ground ladder placement
   d) Ventilation
   e) Aerial ladder operations
   f) Delivery of water

3. Irons – This member is the third position in Ladder Companies and works with the “Officer” position to perform assigned tasks. Assigned tasks include, but are not limited to:

   a) Forcible entry Search functions
   b) Overhaul
   c) Outside-Vent (OV) – This member works with the Driver position as the second team to perform assigned tasks. Assigned tasks may include, but are not limited to:
   d) Search and rescue
   e) Ventilation
   f) Ground ladder placement
   g) Overhaul
   h) Utility control

4. Hook (5th person) – This member works with the Officer/Irons team, relieving the Irons position of their Halligan Hook tool assignment. Assigned tasks may include, but are not limited to:

   a) Search and rescue
   b) Locating and maintaining emergency egress routes for interior crews
   c) Searching for fire extension
   d) Securing interior utilities

H. Ladder Company Group Tasks

1. Search Group (Officer and Irons positions)

   a) Gain access to the structure for entry and victim removal
   b) Perform a primary search of the fire floor and throughout the structure
   c) Locate and confine the fire
   d) Vent the structure horizontally from the interior
   e) Search for extension and hidden pockets of fire once primary duties are complete
   f) Overhaul and salvage operations

2. Vent Group (Driver and OV positions)

a) Perform obvious rescues and/or Vent-Enter-Search operations when an obvious life hazard exists
b) Perform required ventilation
c) Placement of ground ladders
d) Utility control
e) Fireground illumination

Note: While it is permissible for Ladder Companies to split into two groups at fires in residential structures, they should stay together at fires in commercial structures forming a Search Group.

XIV. FAST GROUP OPERATIONS

A. In the case of a single company on scene of a working fire, the timely splitting of a crew would allow possible entry until the arrival of additional resources.

B. Several factors should be weighed by the company officer in regards to the size, location and stage of the fire.

C. It is widely accepted to utilize a transitional attack to control the fire from a point of safety, rather than enter without sufficient resources on scene.

D. When splitting a single crew the Engineer should not be placed on the outside team.

E. A FAST Group ~~must~~ should be established prior to operating in an offensive mode. This group shall consist of at least two firefighters.

F. A primary job function of the Fast Group is to take proactive measures to improve the safety of firefighters working inside of a structure fire upon initial arrival and affect a firefighter rescue if needed.

G. The FAST Group will coordinate with the IC and consider completing the following duties:

1. Pull a backup/safety line to the point of ingress in order to protect the attack crew.
2. Maintain communications with the attack crew from the point of ingress.
3. Soften the structure as needed to prepare for a mayday event.
4. Maintain readiness to immediately react to a mayday event.

H. If it is determined that the situation warrants immediate intervention and a FAST Group is not on the scene, the first arriving company officer shall pass command and notify all units of the intent to act in the Rescue Mode for the purposes of entry to rescue firefighters.

I. Upon notifying all responding companies of this action, acknowledgement from 2nd arriving Company Officer must be received prior to entry.

XV. RAPID INTERVENTION GROUP (RIT Group)

A. The third arriving engine will join with the FAST Group on all structure fires that present an IDLH atmosphere, unless the IC specifically orders the second arriving engine to fill another assignment. The pairing of these two companies will make up the RIT Group.

B. Minimum staffing for the RIT Group should be four (4) personnel.

C. The IC may add additional personnel to the RIT Group or additional RIT Groups, if the situation dictates the need.

D. The RIT Group will coordinate with the IC and consider completing the following duties:

1. Complete an additional 360° walk-around using a TIC.
2. Ensure that a backup/safety line is in place to protect the attack crew.
3. Identify additional areas of egress/ingress.
4. Place ground ladders in strategic positions to support firefighter egress/ingress from the building.
5. Place lighting at strategic building entry points to illuminate points of egress/ingress.
6. Establish tool resource staging for RIT, including EMS equipment.
7. Force open and control exterior doors in the operational area to improve egress/ingress opportunities.
8. Remove any window obstructions in the operational area such as bars, security screens, etc.
9. Confirm that utilities have been controlled.
10. Maintain readiness to react to a mayday event.
11. Other actions that may make the incident safer for all personnel.

XVI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Radios should be on the specified talk group for the event. The radios should be removed from “scan.”

B. Certain tactical benchmarks must be transmitted to ensure that on-scene operational and tactical goals are being met. These include but are not limited to the list below:

1. Establishment of Command
2. Size-up / Operational Mode
3. Transfer of Command
4. Establishment of Water Supply
5. FAST Group established
6. RIT Group established
7. Utilities Controlled
8. Primary Search completed
9. Secondary Search completed
10. Ventilation Complete
11. Fire Under-Control
12. Loss Stopped
13. Termination of Command