Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Title:	Incident Command and Control		
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PURPOSE

1. Provide for the safety of personnel operating at emergency incidents through command and control (or management of emergencies).

2. Provide for appropriate use of resources and implementation of strategy, tactics while ensuring continuous size-up of an incident.

3. To ensure compliance with applicable federal, state and local ordinances regarding the use of the National Incident Management System for emergency incidents.

4. To communicate effectively and to ensure consistency among members, shifts and stations regarding recognition of primary factors, application of mitigation efforts and development of safety considerations.

The Rogers Fire Department shall establish the Incident Command System, part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) at all incidents. All personnel shall receive applicable training on NIMS and shall be proficient with the application and expansion of the system.

POLICY

The Incident Commander at any fire incident shall be responsible for the following:

1. Assessment of Incident Priorities - Tactical activity may address more than one incident priority simultaneously.
    - Life Safety **–** Protection or removal of endangered occupants and treatment of the injured.

- Incident Stabilization – Containment and control of the incident to prevent conflagration, exposure issues or the potential for a future life safety problem.

- Property Conservation – Protection of belongings of emotional or monetary value.

- Safety, Accountability and Welfare of Firefighters – A continuous degree of protection shall be provided to all emergency personnel operating at the scene to ensure tactical objectives do not create undo risk.

2. Perform Size-Up -

Size-up is generally performed by posing the following three questions:

- What have I got? (Define the situation)

- Where is it going? (Analyze the potential)

- What do I need to control it? (Determine needed resources)

Specifically, size-up is a much more complex and on-going process that evaluates numerous factors occurring at the incident scene. Those specific factors can be found in Table 1. It should be noted that this list is NOT considered comprehensive.

Table 1 - List of Size-Up Primary Factors

Primary Factor	Description or Detail
Life Hazard	*What is the possibility of finding viable occupants? Are firefighters at risk operating in collapse zones? What life safety considerations or scenarios do I need to prepare to handle?*
Location and Extent of Fire	*Where and how big exposures are upon arrival? How is Conduction, Radiation and Convection affecting the fire? What floor(s) is the fire affecting or will affect by the time lines are in place? What is the fire flow for this situation?*
Building Construction	*What type of construction is present? What are the "weak" points in this construction type? Are structural materials combustible?*
Occupancy	*What is the occupancy of the fire building and surrounding exposures? Does the occupancy affect life hazard,*

	special considerations, rapid intervention need, etc?
Height	*What is the height of the fire and exposure buildings on all sides (A,B,C,D)? Do I have a vertical communication of fire problem?*
Area	*What is the floor plan or configuration of the fire building? Do I have egress issues for victims or firefighters? Have I evaluated the three dimensions of the building (height, width, depth)? How will the fire travel horizontally if it spreads? Is the building compartmentalized?*
Exposures	*What and where are my exposures? Which exposures present the largest threat? Do I have a collapse issue? Are apparatus staged in appropriate locations to not become exposures via collapse or radiant heat?*
Weather	*Is visibility adequate for size-up? How is temperature and humidity affecting rehab operations? What is the wind speed and direction?*
Apparatus / Personnel	*What resources will this incident require in 30-minutes or an hour? Will any special equipment be required to respond to this incident?*
Auxiliary Appliances	*Are standpipes, automatic sprinklers or any other auxiliary devices present to aid in mitigation operations?*
Special Matters	*Are hazardous materials involved?*
Water	*How much water is needed based on Needed Fire Flow or the potential for conflagration? How much water is available through hydrants or alternative resources?*
Time	*What is the estimated duration of the incident? Does the time of day affect the potential for a life safety issue?*

3. *Select the Command Option or Mode* - There are three command options available for the first arriving company:
    - Investigation or Nothing Showing Mode: Involves the fire company establishing command and going inside a structure with no apparent hazard and limited potential for an incident. All other companies are to stage unless directed otherwise.

Another company or chief officer can arrive and assume command thus changing the incident to "Command" mode. In this mode the Driver/Operator of the fire company should stay with the apparatus and prepare to begin pumping operations or to establish lobby control (if a high rise incident).

Radio Traffic Example: "Engine 2 arrived on scene, no visible indicators, establishing New Hope Road Command and going in for investigation"

- Fast Attack**:** Immediate action is required to stabilize the incident and the company officer's assistance and direct involvement will be required with the crew to provide supervision and to complete the task. Another company or chief officer can arrive and assume command thus changing the incident to "Command" mode or option.

  Radio Traffic Example: "Engine 3 arrived on scene, heavy smoke from a first floor window, going in for fire attack and passing command"

- Command: Used in incidents where size, complexity, or potential for rapid escalation requires immediate strong, direct, overall command. Command mode is typically the safest way to operate at emergency scenes and thus is recommended to provide for the welfare of emergency responders.

  Radio Traffic Example: "Engine 6 arrived on scene, heavy smoke from a 3rd floor window, establishing Promenade Command"

Fast-Attack and Command Modes may be conducted in either Offensive, marginal, or Defensive Mode. The decision is based on the answers to the following questions:

- Is it safe to conduct offensive operations?

- Is resource capability (present and projected) adequate for offensive operations to control the incident?

4. *Identify Objectives and Define Strategies* – Objectives are basic statements that describe what needs to get done to safely address incident priorities and primary factors. Examples of objectives could include safe removal of occupants, or containment of a fire to the room of origin. After identifying objectives the Incident Commander shall define and implement strategies to address the concerns. Strategies are then typically assigned to companies or crews on the incident scene. A pneumonic for strategies is RECEO VS which provides strategies typically utilized at structural fire incidents – Rescue,

Exposures, Confinement, Extinguishment, Overhaul, Ventilation and Salvage.

5. *Establish Tactical Direction and make Resource Assignments* - Tactical direction is the specific operations that must be accomplished to achieve strategic goals. Tactics must be both specific and measurable, defining:

    - Assignment of resources *(Engine 3)*
    - Nature of the tactical activity *(advance a hoseline)*
    - Location in which the tactical activity is performed *(to the 2nd floor)*
    - If the tactical action must be performed in sequence or coordinated with other tactical action *(when RIT is established)*

6. *Implement the Incident Action plan* - Command shall establish an appropriate organizational structure to manage the required resources and communicate the tactical objectives. Formal written action plans are normally used during wide area or extended time incidents where personnel changes are needed.

    - Tactical Standard Operating Procedures may define common components of the incident action plan such as water supply, standard apparatus placement, and the methods used for basic tactical evolutions.
    - Orders from Command may specify tactical operations assigned to subordinate positions within the Command structure or to a specific resource.

7. *Evaluate the Incident Action Plan* - The Incident Commander should evaluate the effectiveness of the Incident Action Plan continually to meet the overall incident objectives. This evaluation should occur every 10 minutes while operating under emergency conditions at an incident. Fireground conditions can change very rapidly during emergency operations, and fireground commanders must evaluate the effectiveness of the IAP continually.