

Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association

*Augusta County Government Center
P.O. Box 590 – 18 Government Center Lane
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Fire-EMS Standard Operating Guideline

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| Section: | 4 Fire Operational Information |
| Title: | Initial Fire Ground Operations |
| Date: | July, 2013 (REVISED September 2013) |

Initial Fire Ground Operations

Purpose

To provide the Personnel of the Fire and Rescue Department a policy to support the strategy declared by the Incident Commander (I.C.).

Definitions:

- a. **Division:** The organizational level that is responsible for operations within a defined geographic area, or within a functional responsibility. Examples:
 - i. Division by geographic area: In a multi-story structure, each floor would be a division (i.e. 1st floor would be “Division 1”, basements begin subdivisions).
 - ii. Division by functional responsibility: Rapid Intervention Team would be the “RIT Division”.
- b. **Division/Group Supervisor:** Is the individual who is responsible for implementing the assigned portion of the incident action plan (I.A.P.), assigning resources within the Division/Group, and reporting on the progress of control operations and resource deployment within the Division/Group. This is typically who would conduct radio traffic with the I.C. or Operations Officer, thus preventing multiple radio transmissions from that division or group.
- c. **Group:** The organizational level that is responsible for implementing assignment at an incident that is defined or “tactical”, i.e. fire attack, ventilation, salvage, water supply, etc.
- d. **Incident Commander (I.C.):** The individual who is responsible for the overall management the incident. Radio designation is “(location) Command”, i.e. “Lee Highway- Command”.

- e. **Staging:** An area that is designated by the I.C., ideally away from the command post. Any additional responding units shall report to the “Staging Area Manager” with appropriate PPE, SCBA, and equipment.
- f. **Lead/Master Firefighter:** The firefighter who is in charge of a crew in the absence of an officer.
- g. **Rehab:** An area designated by the “Rehab Manager” to provide rehabilitation for people who have been relieved from operations. Ideally, the rehab area should be set up near the staging area designated by the I.C.
- h. **Staging Area Manager:** The individual who is responsible for personnel and apparatus resources needed to support the operations.

Standard Operating Procedure

A. General operational practices:

- 1. Freelancing will not be tolerated. All personnel on-scene shall either be in a command staff position, assigned to an operational crew/position, assigned to “Staging” or assigned to “Rehab”. Someone who has no assignment and is actively involved is considered freelancing.
- 2. Each “division”, or “group” shall have a “supervisor “that is responsible for the crew’s accountability, safety, and to ensure that their crew’s assignment is completed.

B. Operational Strategies:

- 1. **Investigative:** A strategy used when nothing is showing from the structure upon arrival.
- 2. **Fast Attack:** A strategy used when it is necessary for the first arriving company officer to participate in the initial task/tactical priority. The second arriving officer will assume “Command” and establish a command post. This is often done when immediate actions are needed to rescue a life.
- 3. **Offensive:** A strategy used when the first arriving unit officer will assume and maintain “Command” of the incident. The lead/master firefighter will then be assigned the “Group or Division Supervisor”. The I.C. will establish the command post, and not involve himself/herself in tactical/task level operations. This is typically an interior fire attack scenario.
- 4. **Defensive:** A strategy when the first arriving unit officer will assume and maintain command. The I.C. will establish the command post, and not involve himself/herself in tactical/task level operations. A defensive strategy involves large flow, exterior lines and/or master streams with no interior operations.

C. Position Requirements and Responsibilities:

INCIDENT COMMAND (I.C.)
****All Incidents Require An I.C.****

Radio Designation: “Location- Command” (i.e. “South Street-Command”)

Responsibilities: Establishes strategy for the incident. May confer with Divisions/Group to determine tactical and task level assignments.

Initial Procedures:

1. Size up the scene, provide an on-scene report and establishes “Command”
2. Determines the strategy:
 - a. Investigative
 - b. Fast Attack
 - c. Offensive
 - d. Defensive
3. Communicates strategy to ECC and the fireground personnel (i.e. “South street command to ECC, we are in an offensive mode of operation and placing interior fire attack personnel).
4. Re-evaluate situation based on:
 - a. Life safety considerations
 - b. Property conservation
 - c. Incident stabilization
5. Request resources as necessary.

FIRE ATTACK DIVISION (FIRE OPERATIONS)

****Not All Incidents Require an Operations (small incidents are manageable with an I.C. only) ****

Radio Designation: “Fire Attack or Operations”

Reports To: I.C.

Responsibilities: Establishes tactical objectives that carry out the strategy set by the I.C. and may confer with crews to determine task level assignments.

Initial Procedures:

1. Search & Rescue
2. Fire Attack
3. Ventilation per I.C./Division Supervisor discretion

STAGING (STAGING)

****Not All Incidents require A “Staging” (small incidents are manageable with an I.C. only) ****

Radio Designation: “Staging”

Reports To: I.C.

Responsibilities: Establishes a staging area and resource pool near the rehab area. “Staging” establishes personnel resources in functional crews of two (2) or more with a leader for each crew.

Initial Procedures:

1. If the I.C. has not already done so, determine the location of the staging area.
2. Assemble crews in “functional groups”.
3. Communicate with “Accountability” to ensure personnel are tracked from staging and rehab to the incident location.
4. Deploy resources to “Divisions/Groups” per the I.C.’s instruction.

R.I.T. (R.I.T.)
****All Incidents Require a R.I.T. ****
See RIT SOG also

Radio Designation: “R.I.T.”
Reports To: I.C.
Responsibility: Firefighter rescue and rapid assistance in MayDay situations.
Initial Procedures:

1. Establish a cache of tools, RIT Kit/spare SCBA
2. Create alternative means of access.
3. Place ladders to upper Divisions.

ACCOUNTABILITY (ACCOUNTABILTY)
****All Incidents Require An Accountability Position. ****
See Accountability SOG also

Radio Designation: “Accountability”
Reports To: I.C.
Responsibility: Maintains accountability of all personnel at the incident (includes staging and rehab).
Initial Procedures:

1. Collects passport tags and begins the organizational process per SOP.

D. Other Positions:
The implementation of the following positions is dependent on the size and duration of the incident, as well as specific natures (i.e. water supply shuttles, etc).

1. Water Supply: “Water Supply Group/Division”
2. EMS: “EMS Group/Division”
3. Others (I.E. HazMat Incidents, Technical Rescue Incidents, etc).