
Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines

Operations

Subject: On Scene Fire Operations
Revised: 7-1-09
Effective: 10-20-09
Approved: 9-24-09 (Fire Chief)
Section: 409.00

409.01 Purpose

Establish guidelines and procedures to properly manage and control fire ground operation/s, with the safety of all personnel as the highest priority.

409.02 Policy

- A. The first arriving personnel will establish incident command.
- B. An initial size up will be communicated over the radio by the incident commander with pertinent information that is available, such as; type of emergency, type of structure, building type, visuals, occupancy, alarms, water supply, equipment placement, electrical disconnects, elevators, management company or representatives, and any other information.
- C. Members shall wear full protective equipment and have readily accessible SCBA.
- D. Accountability will start at the first arriving engine or at a fixed command.
- E. Items recommended for initial entry are a water supply, rabbit tool, high- rise pack, thermal imager, and tools.

409.03 Responsibility

- A. The first arriving members will be committed to fire suppression, i.e. supply connection, investigation, search and rescue, and whatever initial duties need to be accomplished.
- B. The first arriving EMS crew members will be committed to maintaining medical support for the fire scene unless the current fire situation requires them to become committed to part of the fire suppression team. This decision will be made by the Incident Commander and relayed to the on-duty Fire/EMS Officer.
- C. If first arriving EMS crew are committed to fire suppression, the next closest medic unit will be dispatched to the fire scene to take over medical support for the fire scene. This crew will not be involved in fire

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- suppression. They may assist in fire ground operations if necessary, but must be available for fire ground medical support if needed.
- D. A staffed ALS unit must be available to assist the general public should a medical 911 call arise. This unit cannot be the same crew that is committed to the fire scene for medical support.
 - E. If at anytime an ALS crew is not available for the responsibilities to the fire ground and to the general public, a crew must break away from the fire ground to become available or the Fire/EMS officer must notify Communications to alert for a standby ALS crew. The Fire/EMS officer will notify Communications as to where this ALS crew will be positioned.
 - F. Due to the unpredictability of fire conditions, the decisions to deviate from these responsibilities for the protection of fire ground personnel and the general public lie with the Incident Commander.