
**Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines**

Operations

Subject: On Scene Fire Operations
Revised: 08.15.2023
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Section: 409.00

409.01 Purpose

Establish standard guidelines and procedures to properly manage and control the fire ground with the safety of all personnel as the highest priority, and efficiently establish initial tactical fire ground operations.

409.02 Policy

- A. The first arriving personnel will give a Brief Initial Report (BIR), as outlined below:
 - 1. Announce water supply/layout information
 - 2. Provide the correct address if different from the dispatched address.
 - 3. Announce the number of floors.
 - 4. Announce the type of occupancy (single family, multi-family, high-rise, commercial)
 - 5. Announce conditions found/pertinent information.
 - 6. Announce mode of attack: Investigating – Offensive – Defensive
 - 7. Location of accountability and Command (Fixed or Tactical).
- B. The Individual (Unit Officer) in the officer's seat shall complete, when physically possible, an initial 360-degree size up that will be communicated over the radio.
- C. All fire apparatus shall respond with a minimum of three personnel that includes one (1) qualified driver/operator and two (2) SCBA qualified members.
- D. Personnel shall wear full protective equipment and SCBA.
- E. Personnel must exercise radio discipline (priority tactical messages by unit officers).
- F. Personnel arriving in Personally Owned Vehicles (POV) shall report to the Command Post to be assigned a crew and task.

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409.03 Apparatus Assignments

A. 1st Arriving Engine

1. Establish a primary water supply, utilizing the closest source and announce location on the tactical channel to responding units.
2. Position Side A when possible or identify the Alpha Side with a landmark, and leave room for the truck.
3. Provide a BIR as outlined above in 409.02 A.
4. Unit Officer is to complete a 360-degree, size-up exposure assessment and basement check when physically possible.
5. Complete forcible entry as needed.
6. Place the initial attack line, minimum 1 ¾", in service for residential structures depending on fire conditions, (2" line for commercial) locate and attack the seat of the fire and announce the location of the fire.
7. Pump operator will charge the attack line and place an extension ladder on side A or D for multi-story buildings.
8. Primary search in the immediate area of the attack line.
9. Pump operator connect and charge the sprinkler/standpipe connections when applicable.
10. Unit Officer to indicate "water on fire" transmission to incident command.

B. 1st Arriving Truck/or Special Service— functions may be assigned to crews other than those arriving on an aerial apparatus or special service unit. (ambulance crews, volunteers arriving in their POV, or other crews arriving on scene).

1. Position Ladder Truck or Special Service on Side A.
2. Place ground ladders around the structure, starting with areas that show the greatest hazard, for access and egress.
3. Unit Officer and crew to assist the engine crew with forced entry as needed.
4. Conduct primary search of the fire floor, starting with areas of greatest hazard for access and egress. VEIS (Vent, Entry, Isolate, Search) as indicated. Unit Officer will notify Command when complete.
5. Coordinate horizontal ventilation with fire attack.
6. Driver operator will extend aerial to appropriate locations for VEIS or to the roof for possible vertical ventilation, and coordinate with fire attack.
7. Crew can support engine operations on the fire floor and perform fire extension checks upon fire suppression.
8. Secondary search of affected areas and notify Command when complete.
9. Provide the necessary equipment for salvage and overhaul operation

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C. **1st Arriving Medic Unit**

1. Position medic unit and do not block or impede suppression units for a rapid exit if necessary.
2. Assist in completing the 1st arriving engine's water supply if needed.
3. Dress out in full protective structural firefighting gear and SCBA.
4. Collect and position all vital Rapid Intervention equipment on the primary attack side of the structure.
5. Attempt an updated 360
6. Function as the 2 out and IRIT responsibilities on side A of the incident.
7. A second medic unit will be dispatched to the scene for medical support.

Note: Should the need arise, ALS equipment may be retrieved by the first arriving Medic unit, off one of the responding Paramedic Engines at the scene.

D. **2nd Arriving Engine**

1. Establish a secondary water supply and announce the location.
2. Position to operate/access side opposite of the 1st engine.
3. Unit Officer will provide a thorough update from side Charlie (C) when possible.
4. Unit Officer will coordinate forcible entry on side C as needed.
5. Unit Officer and Firefighter will ready equipment for fire attack on Side C at the direction of the Incident Command OR, place a second attack line in service backing up the first due engine. This line should be of equal size and length, at minimum.
6. Pump operator will place an extension ladder on Side C or B.

E. **2nd Arriving Truck/or Special Service** – functions may be assigned to crews other than those arriving on an aerial apparatus (ambulance crews, volunteers who arrive in their POV, or other crews arriving on scene).

1. Position opposite the 1st arriving Truck or Special Service preferably on Side C, if possible.
2. Place supplemental ground ladders on sides C & B at areas that are the greatest hazard.
3. Unit Officer and crew to force entry as needed to support interior tactical operations.
4. Conduct an oriented primary search of the floor above the fire and notify Incident Command when done.
5. Ventilate as needed on the floor above the fire or as directed by the Incident Commander.

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6. Truck or Special Service Driver operator will attempt to place aerial for necessary VEIS or to the roof to assist with any vertical ventilation operations.
 7. Crews can support the engine crew operating on the floor above the fire and complete a secondary search as assigned by the incident command.
 8. Control utilities and officer will notify command when completed.
 9. Assist with lighting incident scene and salvage and overhaul.
- F. **2nd Arriving Medic Unit**
1. Park unit for access out of the scene and do not block other fire, rescue or EMS units entering the incident scene.
 2. Bring stretcher and all necessary EMS equipment to command post area.
 3. Standby at the command post for an assignment by the Incident Command.
- G. **3rd Arriving Engine**
1. Pump operator will ensure water supply is adequate for incident operations.
 2. Prepare to function in the following capacity as designated by incident command:
 - Secure own water supply
 - Position engine on assigned side and deploy attack line.
 - “Soften” the structure and function as the RIT.
 3. Protect exposures as directed by the Incident Command.
- H. All other additional units shall stage in the direction of travel and await an assignment.

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409.04 Responsibilities

- A. Personnel assigned to interior operations need to provide the Incident Commander with situation updates on a regular basis. Those reports shall utilize the following format:
1. **C – CONDITIONS** that are currently being experienced.
 2. **A – ACTIONS** that you have or are taking to complete your assigned task
 3. **N – NEEDS**; what resources do you need to complete your assigned task.

B. Incident Commander Responsibilities

1st Arriving Command Officer

1. Assume command by radio or face to face if command was previously established.
2. Establish command, and announce the location of the command post if command has not been established.
3. Transmit an updated size-up of the incident.
4. Identify the incident strategy as offensive or defensive.
5. Identify staging area for additional units if requested.
6. Don the IC command vest.
7. Assign Division Commanders as needed for the incident.
8. Designate a Safety Officer position.
9. Confirm primary and secondary searches are completed by responsible crews.
10. Confirm control of utilities from crews.
11. Fill out the RIT assignment.
12. Provide a situation status (sit-sat) report for the incident.
13. Confirm the incident is under control.
14. Designate a rehab area.
15. Consider requesting, additional Ocean City Fire Department personnel and/or mutual aide to backfill firehouses.
16. Perform accountability for units and personnel operating at the incident.

2nd Arriving Command Officer

1. Report to the Command Post for assignment:
 - a. Safety Officer position
 - b. Division Commander
 - c. Interior Division
2. Complete a 360
3. Observe fireground operations and advise the Incident Command of any pertinent information.

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409.5 Non-Hydrant Response Areas

The following provides a basis for pre-planning a structure fire response to a non-hydrant area. Unit Officers can formulate a tactical plan based on the following:

A . 1st Engine Tanker and or Engine Company

1. Establish an initial water supply plan to initiate a continuous water supply.
2. Always leave access and room for the tanker if needed and the truck or special service.
3. Position any apparatus tactically near but safely from the structure.
4. A tanker task force (2 additional tankers from mutual aide to augment a tanker and engine-tanker) should be automatically sent and or requested should there be fire or smoke evident.
5. Consider a nurse tanker operation with the engine as an initial attack plan.
6. Consider a relay pumping operations for fire attack.
7. Identify a water source as a fill site or at a hydrant.
8. Consider a tanker shuttle with a draft engine at the folding tank.