

Emergency Operations, SOG 260
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

1. Scope. This standard establishes guidelines for the management of fire and rescue incidents.
2. General.
 - A. It shall be the policy of this department to implement the incident command system ("ICS") for all fires, haz -mats, and rescue incidents.
 - B. The ICS shall also be used at all incidents in which the scope and complexity of the incident exceeds the capabilities of routine operations.
3. Command.
 - A. There are three levels or types of command:
 - (1) Forward command.
 - (2) Mobile command.
 - (3) Fixed command.
 - B. Forward command: Means to lead from the front and is the exact opposite of a fixed command position. Forward command is task-oriented and should be used:
 - (1) When the incident requires further investigation.
 - (2) When the incident requires an immediate, aggressive, hands-on action and it may not be appropriate to pass command.
 - (3) During any incident by company commanders who may not be in charge of a specific sector or function but who are actually performing an assignment-e.g., manning an interior hoseline, ventilation, search and rescue, etc.
 - C. Mobile command: The commander moves around. Normally this should be limited to sector commanders.

- D. Fixed command: A command post is established in a safe, secure environment that allows for efficient, effective operation.
- E. Passing command: Command is passed from one incident commander to another by the following means:
 - (1) The first-arriving officer may designate another officer as Command if it is known that the other officer will arrive momentarily.
 - (2) Command may be passed at the command post on arrival of a senior, more experienced command officer at the request of Command or on the senior officer's assessment that it is necessary to assume command.

4. Establishing Command.

- A. On initial arrival, the first-arriving officer or unit shall:
 - (1) Notify Dispatch by radio of their arrival.
 - (2) Provide a brief size-up of the situation found on arrival. The following information shall be provided at minimum:
 - a. Fire: (1) The size and construction of the building or situation encountered and (2) the extent of involvement.
 - b. Rescue: "Out checking" or "One-car rollover", etc.
 - (3) Instruction.
 - a. Designation of Command. (who is in command?)
 - b. Designation of sector officers (operations, safety, staging, etc.)
 - c. Level I or Level II staging.
 - d. Request for additional assistance-example, (a second alarm, mutual aid, etc.)
 - e. Orders-example, (lay supply line, reduce code, disregard, etc.)

- f. Actions you are taking-example, (investigation, pulling preconnect, etc.)
- B. Subsequent arrival of other units:
 - (1) Notify operations of arrival.
 - (2) Notification of status-e.g., “Engine Two staged at the hydrant at Elm and McKinney.”
 - (3) Ask operations for instructions.
- C. Incident commander:
 - (1) Shall use the term Command on all radio traffic. May also use a geographical designation-e.g., “Elm Street Command.”
 - (2) Shall identify the type of command (i.e., mobile or fixed) and the location of the command post.
 - (3) Shall designate sectors.
 - a. Fires: Staging, Rehab, Sector C (rear), etc.
 - b. EMS: Transportation, Rehab, Triage, Staging, etc.
 - (4) Designate support functions: Safety, Water Supply, etc.
 - (5) Shall complete Tactical Worksheets (see Attachment 8) on all incidents in which the system is used.
 - (6) Shall terminate command whenever appropriate.
 - (7) Shall conduct a post-fire critique or postmortem.