



Division 08

Health and Safety

Chapter 05 – Emergency Incident Safety

March 2009

POLICY

This General Order shall establish the role and responsibilities of the Safety Officer on the emergency scene, as well as a procedure for alerting firefighters when a sudden change in fire conditions or an equipment failure exists that would require a safe exit from a dangerous area.

DEFINITIONS

N/A

PROCEDURES

1. General Provisions

The Safety Officer position will be incorporated into General Order 06-20, Incident Management System, as an additional function within the Command Staff. The Safety Officer will report directly to the Incident Commander.

In general, the Safety Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all safety procedures and practices are observed on the emergency scene. The Safety Officer will observe existing conditions and identify potentially hazardous conditions that may develop. Once identified, the Safety Officer shall formulate measures to protect the safety of personnel.

The prevention of unsafe conditions and acts is the responsibility of all personnel operating on the emergency scene, regardless of rank or position. The Safety Officer shall have the

authority to halt unsafe acts that may occur on the emergency scene.

2. Authority and Responsibilities

The Safety Officer shall have the authority to halt or alter any emergency scene operation that is determined to be unsafe. He/she shall have the authority to order personnel to immediately comply with all safety regulations and Department safety practices. He/she shall have the authority to order noncompliant personnel from the emergency scene, with the consent of the Incident Commander.

No provisions in this General Order shall relieve any officer or firefighter from the responsibility of halting any unsafe act or behavior on the emergency scene. Violations are to be reported to the Safety Officer for appropriate actions.

3. Operational Guidelines

A Safety Officer shall be appointed by the Incident Commander whenever the Incident Command System is implemented. The Safety Officer shall be known as SAFETY GROUP SUPERVISOR.

NOTE: The Incident Commander will be responsible for scene safety until the Safety Group Supervisor is established.

The Safety Group Supervisor shall normally be a Command Officer. This is to ensure the requisite experience and authority inherent to the rank. However, a subordinate officer and/or crew may be appointed as Safety



Group Supervisor or to assist as secondary Safety Group Supervisor. This shall be coordinated through the Incident Commander.

Communications shall keep the Incident Commander advised of other responding Command Officers so that the Incident Commander may make appropriate designation of the Safety Group Supervisor. Communications shall ensure that a second Command Officer is dispatched in the event that only one is responding to a "working" incident.

The Safety Group Supervisor shall normally be positioned at the Command Post. He or she may have to "be flexible" on the scene to best survey overall operations. The Safety Group Supervisor shall don a red arm band or vest.

The Safety Group Supervisor and subsequent Safety Group Supervisors/companies shall not engage in operations unless safety is jeopardized.

Responsibilities

The Safety Group Supervisor shall:

- Enforce all safety regulations in a fair and equitable manner.
- Ensure all personnel are appropriately attired on the emergency scene.
- Establish safety zones to protect personnel and bystanders.
- Maintain liaison with the Command Post to advise of changing conditions or hazards.
- Halt any operations deemed unsafe to personnel or bystanders.
- Assist in critique as it pertains to scene safety.
- Prepare written statements of unsafe, flagrant or repeated, safety violations

including personnel involved, and forward such reports to the Incident Commander and Department Safety Group Supervisor.

- Assist in the investigation of firefighter injuries or deaths.
- Ensure accountability of all personnel operating on the emergency scene.

3. Evacuation from Dangerous Areas

Notification Procedure

When the Incident Commander decides an emergency evacuation of a building or area is necessary, he/she shall notify Communications. Upon receipt of this information, the following actions will take place:

- Communications will immediately transmit a distinct audible signal over all radio channels, followed by a transmission indicating the location address and that all personnel are to immediately evacuate the building or area.
- All apparatus operations, upon hearing the evacuation announcement, will immediately sound their audible devices (siren-air horns) for one (1) continuous minute.
- Upon hearing the warning signal to evacuate, all firefighters and emergency personnel will immediately and safely exit the building or area they occupy, and return to their apparatus to report to their immediate supervisor.

Personnel Accountability

Immediately following the evacuation, an accounting of all emergency operations personnel will take place. Unit supervisors will ensure all personnel are accounted for,



and make timely notification of personnel status to the Incident Safety Group Supervisor. The Safety Group Supervisor shall report this information to the Incident Commander.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A