



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

TOPIC: Incident Command Decision Making

TIME FRAME: 30 Minutes

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written quiz

Behavior: The student will recognize basic pitfalls and problems of emergency scene decision making and tips for improving the process

Standard: With a minimum of 70% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Chalk
- Chalkboard
- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment

REFERENCES:

- Fire Fighting Strategy and Leadership Charles Walsh, McGraw Hill, Part 4

PREPARATION:

The decision you make as Incident Commander on the emergency scene can dramatically affect the lives of victims, fellow firefighters and yourself. Making wise decisions in this stressful environment is not easy, but decisions must be made and they must be effective.



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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>A. Excitement All Around You</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "Look like a duck"<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Calm and unruffled above the surface, paddling like crazy below the surface. <p>B. Noise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Do not let it intrude into your communications or data gathering.2. Separate yourself from as much noise as possible.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. "Tune out" nonessentialsb. If possible, leave noise area<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Command post location must be chosen well<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) Close enough to command(b) Far enough away so as not to get caught up in myriad of small details <p>C. Sights</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Watch for danger signs2. Pay attention but do not fixate<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Maintain focus on entire incident3. Do not be drawn to point of most flame.	<p>What is candle-moth syndrome?</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Try to "look past" the smoke and flame b. Determine what is really important <p>D. Smells</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clear heads do not contain smoke 2. First rule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DO NOT BREATHE SMOKE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Stay out of smoke - or - (2) Wear SCBA <p>II. THE PROCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Approach Emergency Incident with the Attitude That You Did Not Create the Problem But You Will Do Your Best to Abate It B. Avoid "Dead-End" Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Expansion b. Reversal c. Modification C. Gather Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use delegation where possible 2. Make sure you "understand" what is told to you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Repeat information back to communicator 	<p>How can you be sure you understand?</p>



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<p>D. Separate Real Problem from Symptoms</p> <p>E. Break Problem Down Into Manageable Increments</p> <p>F. Decisions Based On:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Problem analysis2. Desired outcome <p>G. Reevaluate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Keep track of effect of previous decisions2. Be prepared to modify plans <p>III. MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF</p> <p>A. Develop and Use Checklists</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Helps keep track2. Reminder of areas to look at <p>B. Realize That You May Not Have Sufficient Resources to Deal with the Entire Incident</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish priorities2. Assign resources in accord with those priorities.	<p>Discuss examples from class.</p>



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SUMMARY:

The emergency scene is not the easiest place to make calm and logical decisions. However, by controlling the environment as much as possible by being prepared and by using a logical process, you will be able to "keep your head while all around are losing theirs." (Rudyard Kipling)

EVALUATION:

A written quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by the instructor(s).