



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

STRUCTURE FIRES

TOPIC: Structure Fire - Initial Attack Incident Organization

TIME FRAME: 1 Hour

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Level II

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written quiz

Behavior: The student will list and describe the responsibilities of an initial attack incident commander on a structure fire.

Standard: With a minimum of 70% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment

REFERENCES:

- NFPA, Fire Command, Brunacini, 1985
- CDF, Health and Safety Handbook 1700, 1999

PREPARATION: When fire is showing upon arrival too often initial attack incident commanders decide the best attack is to lay hose and put water on the fire utilizing the fastest, shortest, and most direct route without considering other alternatives. (Candle and moth syndrome). The result of this activity may include unnecessary fire damage, unnecessary firefighting damage and personnel injuries.

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STRUCTURE FIRE-INITIAL ATTACK
INCIDENT ORGANIZATION

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. INCIDENT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>A. Mental Attitude - Transition from Combat to Command</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approach command of an incident with the attitude that you did not create the problem but that you will do the best you can to abate it.2. Realize that in many cases as the Initial Attack Incident Commander the resources at hand are insufficient to abate the incident. In such cases your job becomes one of:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Prioritizing incident objectivesb. Assigning resources as they come on scenec. Ensuring that assignments further your overall plan so that you do not have to start over when additional resources arrive.3. With current staffing limitations it is sometimes necessary to assume the command and combat roles simultaneously.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Determining when to assume the command role and when to assume the combat role is a skill which will improve with experience. <p>II. INCIDENT ORGANIZATION</p> <p>A. Incident Command System (I.C.S.) is Evolving as a National Standard</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All risk system2. To be used on any size incident	

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<p data-bbox="228 331 1047 472">B. As the Initial Attack Incident Commander, You Are Responsible for Overall Management of the Incident Including But Not Limited to the Following Command Functions:</p> <ol data-bbox="305 510 1047 1822" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="305 510 506 541">1. Planning<ol data-bbox="381 577 1047 955" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="381 577 917 609">a. Gather and Evaluate Information<li data-bbox="381 646 917 714">b. Determine and prioritize incident objectives<li data-bbox="381 751 1023 783">c. Develop a plan based on strategic goals<li data-bbox="381 821 1047 955">d. Communicate that plan to subordinates<ol data-bbox="457 888 1047 955" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="457 888 1047 955">(1) I.C.S. position not rank determines who is a "subordinate"<li data-bbox="305 993 506 1024">2. Directing<ol data-bbox="381 1060 1047 1438" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="381 1060 1047 1165">a. Monitor resource activity and get involved in that activity as necessary to accomplish objectives<li data-bbox="381 1203 1047 1438">b. Avoid the temptation to over-direct or micro-manage<ol data-bbox="457 1308 1047 1438" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="457 1308 820 1339">(1) Trust subordinates<li data-bbox="457 1377 1047 1438">(2) Increases subordinate's skill and confidence levels<li data-bbox="305 1476 535 1507">3. Organizing<ol data-bbox="381 1543 1047 1822" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="381 1543 1047 1822">a. Order adequate resources, by type and quantity, to accomplish objectives<ol data-bbox="457 1648 1047 1822" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="457 1648 852 1680">(1) Command personnel<li data-bbox="457 1717 1047 1749">(2) Tactical personnel and equipment<li data-bbox="457 1787 1047 1822">(3) Support personnel and equipment	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">4. Coordinating<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Advise and assist command, tactical, and support personnel as necessaryb. Ensure that the command, tactical, and support personnel are working well together5. Communicating<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Downward through the organization<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Be sure subordinates understand what is expectedb. Upward<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Encourage and demand feedback as to progress and problems(2) Don't just "hear" but "listen" and then follow through as appropriatec. Sideways through the organization<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Provide opportunity for "peers" to work out details at the lowest possible level(2) Eliminate obstacles to this process6. Delegating<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Assign resources<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Division - geographical(2) Group - functionalb. Give subordinates authority to carry out tasks once assigned.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. I.C. CAN NOT DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY <p>7. Evaluating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish benchmarks b. Monitor progress c. Analyze reasons for poor performance when detected <p>III. DEVELOPING AN INCIDENT ACTION PLAN</p> <p>A. Definitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An ordered sequence of events over a specified period of time to accomplish a specific objective 2. A directive which sets forth the strategy, the tactics, and the time frames in which to accomplish the incident abatement objectives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Should be written if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) There will be a change of shift (2) The plan is complex (KISS) b. Must take reflex time into consideration. The period of time between an action being ordered and the resources being in position to begin that action. c. Structure fires are dynamic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Be pro-active plan for the potential not for the usual (2) Resources can always be canceled and plans downsized to meet conditions 	

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<p style="text-align: center;">(3) DO NOT PLAY CATCH-UP!!!!</p> <p>B. Methods of Organizing Structure Fires</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organization of structure fire control operations revolves around dividing the incident into manageable increments. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ideally a supervisor should supervise 3 - 7 subordinates with 5 as the optimum number. 2. Delegating authority <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The complexity of the incident not the size should dictate when it is appropriate to expand the I.C.S. organization and delegate authority. <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Example: Fully involved large structure almost on the ground may not require division while single family residence with; one room involved, backdraft suspected, and rescue problem may require division.</p> 3. Typical organizational breakdown <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Groups - functional or task oriented organization <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Rescue group (2) Exposure protection group (3) Salvage group (4) Ventilation group (5) Water supply group b. Divisions - geographical organizational structure 	

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<p>(1) Divisions may be identified according to cardinal direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) North division - north side of building(b) East division - east side of building(c) South division - south side of building(d) West division - west side of building <p>(2) Divisions A, B, C, and D could be north, east, south, and west sides of the building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Lettering starts on the street address side(b) Lettering continues in clockwise direction <p>(3) Division 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 could correspond to the floors on a high-rise building</p> <p>c. It is permissible to have geographical and functional breakdowns on the same incident.</p>	

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SUMMARY:

As the Initial Attack Incident Commander you must be capable of making rapid decisions based on incomplete information. The organization developed at the outset should be sufficiently flexible to adapt to incident changes.

EVALUATION:

A written quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by instructor(s).