

INCIDENT STRATEGY SITUATIONS

7751

(No. 21 March 1999)

A particular strategy situation depicts the conditions that prevail on an emergency incident at any given time in the life of the incident. Common definitions and understandings of strategy situations are important when preparing presuppression plans, target hazard preplans, dispatch/response criteria, incident action plans, and when giving reports on conditions

To assure common understanding and a unified approach to emergency incident preplanning and management, the following strategy situations are defined for two of our common types of emergency responses, wildland and structure fires. All personnel should automatically think in terms of the strategy situation when giving reports on conditions, when developing preplans or incident action plans, and when defining or ordering standard responses.

WILDLAND FIRE STRATEGY SITUATIONS

7751.1

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Initial attack: The fire can be contained by the resources first dispatched, without substantial augmentation, within two hours of the report time

Extended attack: The fire can be contained within the first burning period, but requires substantial augmentation of the first-dispatched suppression resources

Major: The fire CANNOT be contained within the first burning period, even with substantial augmentation of resources; long-term resource commitment and logistical support will be required.

NOTE: Substantial augmentation means the addition of multiple units of multiple types of suppression resources (e.g., two+ airtankers AND two+ fire crews, or dozers, or engines, etc.)

STRUCTURAL FIRE STRATEGY SITUATIONS

7751.2

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First alarm (initial attack): The fire can be confined to the building/area of origin by the first-dispatched suppression resources, without substantial augmentation.

Second alarm (extended attack): The fire can be confined to the building/area of origin, but only with substantial augmentation of the first-dispatched resources

Third alarm (major): The fire CANNOT be confined to the building/area of origin, even with substantial augmentation of resources; defensive tactics are appropriate to meet a containment objective; long-term resource commitment and logistical support will be required.

NOTE: Preplanning specific dispatch alarm assignments for generic fires beyond third alarm is usually a waste of time; it may be worthwhile for target hazard preplans. Utilize special call alarms to order the numbers and types of resources appropriate to the situation.

DEFINITIONS OF “CONTROLLED”

7751.3

(No. 21 March 1999)

The purpose of this section is to:

1. provide a consistent definition of the word "controlled" to use in conjunction with Section 8.14, Immediate Response Status (IRS) as it is applied to fire emergencies
2. provide general departmental policy on when certain resources are to be placed on IRS, and
3. provide an IRS justification form.

DEFINITION OF “CONTROLLED” FOR FIRE EMERGENCIES

7751.3.1

(No. 21 March 1999)

“To complete control line around a fire, any spot fires therefrom, and any interior islands to be saved; burn out any unburned area adjacent to the fire side of the control lines; and cool down all hot spots that are immediate threats to the control line, until the lines can reasonably be expected to hold under foreseeable conditions.”

GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES FOR FIRE EMERGENCIES

7751.3.1.1

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It is CAL FIRE policy that during fire emergencies engines, dozers and fire crews will be on IRS until released from the incident.

For purposes of determining immediate response status, engines, dozers and fire crews assigned to mobilization centers are considered as assigned to an emergency.

Typically, employees assigned to support positions and recovery operations after control of an incident will not be on IRS.

DEFINITION OF "CONTROLLED" FOR NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES

7751.3.2

(No. 21 March 1999)

“The point where the incident may reasonably be considered to no longer pose an immediate and continuing threat to life, property or the environment as determined by the responsible jurisdiction/agency.”

GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES FOR NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES

7751.3.2.1

(No. 21 March 1999)

The incident commander (IC) or agency representative (AR) may authorize IRS when it has been determined that the situation poses an immediate and continuing threat to life, property or environment.

The IC or AR will only authorize IRS for those individuals required to be immediately available. Personnel managing mobilization centers will only be on IRS when the IC, AR, or the Region Duty Chief (if no IC or AR exist) determines they must be immediately available to support the facility. Initial attack resources (e.g. engines, crews, dozers) assigned to mobilization centers will be considered as assigned to an active incident and may qualify for IRS for the duration of that assignment.

Typically, employees assigned to support positions and recovery operations after the IC or AR has determined that the immediate and continuing threat to life, property or environment has been abated will no longer be on IRS.

IRS JUSTIFICATION FORM

7751.3.3

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The attached [Immediate Response Status \(IRS\) Justification form](#) is to be included in the Incident Action Plan (IAP) to document which assigned resources are to remain on IRS after a fire is declared controlled and, in the case of a non-fire emergency, to document which resources (if any) are to be assigned to IRS.

[\(see next section\)](#)

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)