

7. Incident Guidelines

7.1 General Guidelines

7.1.1 General guidelines shall be used as a blanket guideline for certain operations. These operations shall include but not limited to ladders, personnel evacuation and fireground operations.

7.1.2 Ladders on the fireground shall be used when operations require personnel to operate above the first floor level of any building. When using ladders for access to above grade floors or roof, two ladders will be used to allow an escape route. Ladder weights shall not exceed the following: single ladders 750 (seven hundred fifty) pounds, roof ladders 750 (seven hundred fifty) pounds, attic ladders 250 (two hundred fifty) pounds and extension ladders 750 (seven hundred fifty) pounds.

7.1.3 Personnel shall be familiar with the following procedure when an evacuation of a fire building is necessary due to imminent danger of collapse or possible missing personnel. When the IC determines that this procedure is necessary, the IC shall advise one unit with air horns to give 3 (three) 1 1/2 (one and one half) second air blasts - every 5 (five) seconds. Firefighters will immediately evacuate the fire building and report to their crew officer for a head count.

7.1.4 All personnel operating on the scene of a fireground will be directed by the IC for any operations. The IC will assign Line Officers or other personnel to oversee operations in and outside of the fire building.

7.2 Fire Alarm

7.2.1 When a fire alarm activation is dispatched, a full response will be initiated. The first responding officer shall request Wall Township Central Dispatch to contact a building representative, during closed hours.

7.2.2 The first arriving unit will transmit a size-up, response criteria and establish IC. All responding units will acknowledge the transmission and response criteria. (ex. proceed at a reduced rate, etc.)

7.2.3 IC shall establish investigation crews that will

check the exterior of the building, alarm panel and interior of the building for the cause of the activation.

7.2.4 The crew assigned to the alarm panel may use the Silence Mode to stop the bells/horns. At no time should the alarm be reset or troubleshot by fire personnel due to liability reasons. It is the building representatives responsibility to reset or repair the alarm system.

7.2.5 In the event an alarm system is to be put out of service, Wall Fire Prevention Bureau will be notified. The owner of the building will be notified and advised to conduct a fire watch, if necessary, until repairs are made.

7.2.6 In cases where no representative can be notified, exterior search crews will attempt to locate an unlocked entry point. If no entry point can be located, and the building is clear, Central Dispatch will be notified of the status and all units will be released. Forcible entry will not be initiated without the approval of the IC.

7.3 Smoke Scare

7.3.1 When a smoke scare, smoke condition, has been dispatched, a full response will be initiated. The first responding officer shall request Central Dispatch to notify a building representative, during closed hours.

7.3.2 The first arriving unit will transmit a size-up, response criteria and establish IC.

7.3.3 IC shall establish crews that will check the exterior and interior of the premise. When smoke is located, IC will be notified and the cause of the smoke will be searched for.

The search team will now await instructions for the disposition of the smoking material.

7.3.4 After the smoking material has been removed, ventilation operations will begin. The method of ventilation will be up to the IC or designated officer. Ventilation will proceed until all smoke has been removed from the structure.

7.4 Structure Fire

7.4.1 When dispatched to a structure fire, a full response

will be initiated. The first arriving unit will transmit a size-up, response criteria and establish IC. All responding units will acknowledge the transmission and response criteria.

7.4.2 Each responding unit will be given specific instructions by the IC. These orders shall not be deviated from unless there is a threat of death or serious injury.

7.4.3 When approaching the scene of the fire, all consideration shall be given to the possibility of fire extension. Not only will fire extend from building to building, but also the apparatus operator shall consider the possibility of his/her apparatus being exposed to fire.

7.4.4 At structural fires, there will be a team of firefighters assigned as the Firefighter Assist Search Team (FAST). For a complete definition of the tasks of this unit see Chapter #18.

7.4.5 In accordance with OSHA 1910.134, no firefighters will enter a burning structure unless there is a team of equipped firefighters outside. This will be the "Two In, Two Out" policy. Example: If two firefighters enter a structure, two firefighters must wait outside.

7.5 Brush Fire

7.5.1 A ground cover fire, brush or woods fire, is a fire that involves vegetation of any type. The New Jersey State Forest Fire Service has jurisdiction over any ground cover fire regardless of its size or location. Structural or improved property protection and water supply are the primary functions of the municipal fire company. Forest fire suppression is the last concern. The IC will work with the State Fire Warden on all ground cover fire incidents.

7.5.2 The following apparatus shall respond first to ground cover fires, brush truck and one engine. Additional apparatus will respond at the discretion of the IC. Personnel responding on the apparatus will wear the following personal protective equipment (PPE): Nomex jumpsuits, approved work boots, Approved Firefighting helmet, approved leather gloves, eye protection and Nomex hood if burning embers are airborne.

No structural firefighting turnout gear will be worn due to early fatigue at large scale incidents.

7.5.3 While responding on apparatus, personnel shall be wearing the proper PPE, other PPE shall be carried by the firefighter for incidents that may escalate from a ground cover fire to a structure fire. Personnel will remain seated on the apparatus at all times.

7.5.4 The number of personnel allowable while responding in B393 shall be a maximum of 3 (three). While operating on the fireground, there shall be a maximum of 3 (three) firefighters consisting of 1 (one) driver/firefighter in the cab and 1 (one) or 2 (two) firefighters in the rear. Personnel in the rear shall not sit on the rear tailgate.

7.5.5 While operating at the scene of an incident, no apparatus shall drive off the road or on State property, unless directed otherwise by the IC. When handlines are being operated off of the apparatus, that unit will not move. In cases where the apparatus is using the pump and roll method, the unit will move in a counter clockwise direction and the water streams shall be directed at the outskirts of the fire. Personnel will remain seated.

7.5.6 When communications with the State Forest Fire Service is needed, the IC will advise Central Dispatch to contact the Monmouth County Radio Room and advise the unit to switch to Monmouth Fire 5 and contact the IC. Once contact has been established with the unit, the IC will advise him/her of the status of the incident and if additional support is needed.

7.5.7 When dispatched to a leaf fire in the roadway. Only one apparatus per station shall respond. Any other personnel shall remain at the station until further orders are given by the IC.

7.6 Hazardous Material/Gas Leak

7.6.1 When alerted to a hazardous material incident (haz-mat), engine companies will respond prior to rescue companies unless otherwise requested by the IC. All responding personnel will wear full PPE including SCBA.

7.6.2 Responding apparatus will not approach the endangered area and keep a clear escape route, if evacuation is

needed. Apparatus will remain upwind and never travel through any vapor clouds, liquids or smoke.

7.6.3 All crews will remain on the apparatus until assigned a task by the IC. After the IC has determined an attack plan, a crew will be assigned to find and remove any victims. Another crew may be sent into the Hot Zone to identify the product and extent of leak.____

7.6.4 Once the product has been identified, the IC will determine what further action will be taken. If the spilled product is more than 5 (five) gallons or has a great environmental impact, the IC will notify the Monmouth County Board of Health or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy. These two departments can assist in product detection and cleanup. Haz-mat incidents that involve tidal waters require the US Coast Guard or the New Jersey State Marine Police to be notified.

7.6.5 The following operations will be the limit of all firefighters in the company:

- A. Elimination of all ignition sources.
- B. Absorption - speedy-dry
- C. Dike, Dam, Diversion or Retention - sand, air pressured hose, cotton pigtailed
- D. Dilution - water streams
- E. Vapor Dispersion - water streams
- F. Vapor Suppression - foam

In the event that the haz-mat has grown beyond the capacity of this company, the Monmouth County Radio Room will be notified and they will dispatch the proper level haz-mat team.

7.6.6 On incidents where haz-mat operations are based on a larger scale, the following control zones will be established:

HOT ZONE - area immediately surrounding the spilled product.

WARM ZONE - area where decontamination and Hot Zone support takes place. All personnel working in this zone will remain until decontaminated and released.

COLD ZONE - area containing the Command Post, staging and unexposed personnel.

7.6.7 During incidents where personnel have been exposed to

hazardous products, a decontamination area will be set up. The procedure used will be the hose off method. The equipment used, by personnel wearing full PPE with SCBA, in this operation will be a decon pool to catch runoff and a hose with a shower type nozzle. All equipment and PPE will be removed and bagged until disposition is determined.____

7.6.8 The following orders will be followed when responding to natural gas and propane leaks:

- A. Immediately notify the proper gas company.
- B. Responding units will remain upwind at least 2 (two) blocks away and prepare water supply for possible ignition.
- C. All personnel approaching the area will turn off radios, pagers and will wear full PPE with SCBA.
- D. Extinguish all open flames, have all machinery shut down.
- E. Evacuate nearby buildings, block off all access and naturally ventilate any buildings if needed.
- F. If odor is detected indoors, do not turn electric off or on and do not use telephones.
- G. Turn off gas supply outside of house, do not use any striking tools and do not attempt to plug leak.

If the gas has ignited:

- A. Check fire for life safety and exposures, do not extinguish fire.
- B. Do not turn any street valves.
- C. If the fire is indoors, shut off gas supply and ventilate building for possible gas build-up.

If gas is detected in manholes, vaults or sewers

- A. Have the gas company identify the source, do not extinguish burning gas.
- B. Do not enter manhole or vault, use natural ventilation.
- C. Prepare handlines for possible ignition and monitor nearby buildings for potential gas.

7.7 General Alarm

7.7.1 General Alarm responses for incidents that occur in District #3 will remain as standard responses. This SOG will mainly deal with apparatus responding outside of District #3.

7.7.2 Wall Township Chiefs jointly designed the following procedure to ensure an organized response to any general alarm incident. This procedure applies to all personnel that intend to respond to a general alarm incident.

7.7.3 Unless otherwise requested, one ladder truck, one engine and one rescue are the only apparatus that will respond out of District #3. No firefighters are permitted to respond to the scene of a general alarm incident in their personal vehicles. Any personnel that are left at the station are required to stand-by until further instructions are given or the incident is terminated by the District IC (DIC).

7.7.4 Responding apparatus will acknowledge their response with SWFR IC on Wall Fire 1. The apparatus officer will then switch the radio to Wall Fire 6 for any other radio communication. Arriving and on scene will be transmitted on Wall Fire 6 to the SWFR IC. Responding apparatus will proceed to a staging area designated by the DIC.

7.7.5 Any other apparatus will stage at the Atlantic Avenue firehouse until advised further by the DIC or SWFR IC.

7.8 Mutual Aid

7.8.1 Mutual aid will be provided by this company when requested. Only requested apparatus will respond to mutual aid incidents. Any other apparatus will stand by at the station until further instructions are given by the IC.

7.8.2 All responding units will have full certified operators and crews prior to leaving the station.

7.8.3 No firefighters shall respond to the scene of a mutual aid incident in their personal vehicle unless advised otherwise by the IC.

7.8.4 When requesting mutual aid, the IC will refer to the Mutual Aid Alarm Levels Response plan already established by this company. This procedure will either be completed by notifying Central Dispatch on Wall Fire 1 or contact Monmouth County Radio Room using Monmouth Fire 2. On

incidents requiring more than 3 (three) outside companies for aid, the IC will request a Field Communication Unit from Monmouth County Radio Room, by either contact the Radio Room directly or requesting the unit through Central Dispatch. __

7.9 Extrication

7.9.1 When dispatched to an extrication assignment, R386 will respond, from that assigned station, with a minimum of 4 (four) and a maximum of 6 (six) certified members, prior to any other apparatus. The other station will respond with an engine with a full crew. Additional personnel will stand by at the station until assigned by IC.

7.9.2 When dispatched to an extrication assignment outside of District #3, R386 will respond with full certified extrication crews only. Additional apparatus will be assigned at the discretion of the IC.

7.9.3 Personnel performing extrication shall wear the following PPE: Full turnout gear, Approved Firefighting Helmet, Nomex hood, approved leather gloves with rubber gloves underneath and face shield or goggles.

7.9.4 Upon arrival of the incident, the IC shall transmit the size-up of the incident including, number and type of vehicles involved, position of vehicles (ex: overturned, upright, etc.), conditions of vehicles, scene hazards, and extent of extrication involvement. When traffic control is a consideration, Fire Police may be requested to close the road or Wall Township Police will shut the road.

7.9.5 The IC shall assign the following sector officers that will perform the following tasks:
EXTRICATION OFFICER - will evaluate the scene and direct all extrication operations. The extrication officer will wear a White Fiberglass Firefighting Helmet bearing the helmet crests that read Extrication. No other personnel will direct extrication operations. Only this officer will communicate with the EMS Officer. The EMS Officer will direct patient removal once the vehicle has been removed from the area of the victim.
FIRE SUPPRESSION OFFICER - will direct fire suppression activities at the scene. This may be any member at the scene. It is the responsibility of this officer to

alleviate any fire hazards. In the event of fire or explosion hazards, this officer will provide protection for rescue crews and entrapped patients.

MANPOWER OFFICER - will collect all unassigned personnel and stage them in one area. No personnel will free-lance at the scene of an extrication. The officer will keep track of personnel staged in his/her pool and will dispatch the rescuers to tasks as needed. Any other activity that needs manpower will communicate directly with the Manpower officer.

MEDIVAC LANDING ZONE OFFICER - will establish a landing zone that is selected by the IC. This officer will make sure that the landing zone is appropriate for the landing of an aero-medical unit. This officer shall communicate directly with the air unit and will advise the IC and EMS Officer of the air units status and estimated time arrival. Communication with the Medivac unit will be done on a Monmouth County Fireground Channel.

7.9.6 After the rescue incident has been completed, all personnel shall return to the Station to complete a clean up and refueling of all tools, report any equipment problems, report any exposures to Blood Borne Pathogens and critique the incident including first aid personnel.

7.10 Water Rescue

7.10.1 When a water rescue incident has been dispatched, a full response including Marine One will be initiated. The first responding Officer shall determine if additional assistance is needed with any tidal water operations.

7.10.2 SOG Chapter #17 shall be followed at any time that Marine One is requested to respond. All personnel shall also adhere to SOG #10.4.3 regarding PPE on the scene of a water incident.

7.10.3 At no time shall personnel approach the water with structural firefighting turnout gear. All operations will be at the discretion of the IC.

7.11 High Angle

7.11.1 When a high angle incident has been dispatched, a full response will be initiated. T391 and R386 will be the first unit to respond out of that respective station.

7.11.2 Due to lack of maintained equipment and training, NO South Wall Fire Rescue personnel will perform High Angle operations. In the event, a high angle rescue is necessary, Monmouth County Radio Room will be notified and they will dispatch the proper high angle team.

7.12 Bomb Threat

7.12.1 When fire company units are requested for a bomb threat, a stand by assignment shall be dispatched from Central Dispatch. All personnel shall respond to their respective stations and await a phone call regarding the particulars of the incident at hand. One Officer shall contact Central Dispatch and establish an IC post that has the availability of telephone communication.

7.12.2 If units are requested to respond to a scene of a bomb threat incident, units shall respond with no lights or sirens. The units will not broadcast any radio transmissions within 300 (three-hundred) feet of the possible location of the explosive device. Radio transmissions may cause the device to activate. Once on location, the officer of that unit will verbally notify the IC of the apparatus status.

7.12.3 At no time shall fire company personnel be used to search for an explosive device.

7.12.4 In the case of detonation, no personnel shall proceed to the scene until instructed to do so by the IC.

7.13 Confined Space

7.13.1 Currently there is no training offered to this company for confined space operations. Any incident involving confined space, the IC will call the proper rescue team via Monmouth County Radio Room.

7.14 Rest and Recovery

7.14.1 At all incidents, rest and recovery shall be a consideration by all firefighters. The IC shall establish an area that is free from smoke, noise and congestion for personnel to retreat to and relax.

7.14.2 Rest and Recovery is an important consideration for all firefighters. Each firefighter will take a rest break after spending two bottles of air at any incident. It will be the Division or Group officers responsibility to assure that each firefighter working at the scene of any incident adheres to this guideline. It is for the safety of each and every person working at the scene that no matter how silly this guideline appears, the results of not following can be severe.

7.14.3 During incidents of extreme hot or cold conditions, rest and recovery shall be taken by all personnel working for any extended period of time.

7.14.4 In the event that a firefighter is experiencing dizziness, light headiness, severe headaches or extreme fatigue, that firefighter shall notify his immediate crew officer, who shall notify the IC, and seek the proper medical attention.

7.15 Firefighter Assist Search Team (FAST)

7.15.1 FAST response will be provided by this company when requested. Only R386, from Atlantic Avenue Station, and one piece of apparatus from the Church Street Station, will respond to FAST requests.

7.15.2 SEE SOG Chapter 18, Firefighter Assist Search Team.

7.16 Other Special Operations

7.16.1 Special operations involve many other situations and vary too greatly for a defined SOG. These incidents may include but are not limited to flooded basements, animal rescues, traffic details, etc.

7.16.2 All incidents that fill the criteria for special operations will be closely observed and commanded by the IC. The commanders instructions shall be followed word by word due to the objective view that he/she must maintain.

Any decisions made by the IC at these type of incidents shall not be challenged.

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