
Emergency Operations

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| Book: | 3 Emergency Operations |
| Chapter | II Fire Company Operations |
| Subject | 3 Initial Fireground Operations |
| Code | 3-II-3 |
| Revised | |

3.01 Purpose

- A. To reduce the amount and detail of orders required to get companies into action on the fireground.
- B. To integrate the efforts of engine, special operations, ladder truck, and chief officer operations to maximize effective rescue, incident control, and property conservation.

3.02 Definitions

- A. Box Alarm – 4 engine companies, 1 special operations company, 1 ladder company, 1 ambulance, 1 chief officer
- B. D/O – driver operator.
- C. Due – The order in which a company arrives or is expected to arrive at an incident.
- D. FF – firefighter
- E. PPE – personal protective equipment (turnout gear)
- F. SCBA – breathing apparatus with personal alert safety system (PASS) device.
- G. TIC – thermal imaging camera.

3.03 Policy

- A. Companies should attempt to follow these guidelines whenever possible in order to meet the stated purpose. However, personnel must maintain a level of flexibility enabling them to adapt to unique situations.

3.04 Procedure

- A. The first arriving unit will give a situation report which should include (where applicable) the height of the building in stories, the type of occupancy, smoke or fire conditions visible, the location from which they are showing, the establishment of command and the immediate action being taken.
- B. If the fire will require a hose line to control a fire in a building, he/she will advise Communications that the incident is a "working fire".

- C. Incident Commanders working with less than a box alarm assignment may, if necessary, request that Communications dispatch the balance of a Box Alarm (totaling 4 engines, 1 special operations unit, 1 ladder, 1 ambulance and 1 chief).
- D. Information received by Communications prior to arrival of units, that suggests a "working fire" is in progress, shall be relayed the responding companies. The information may include but not be limited to multiple calls, reports of visible smoke or fire by responding units or police confirmation of a building fire.

3. 05 Responsibility

- A. First Due Engine – The first due engine is responsible for locating the fire building, identifying a water supply, and getting the first line in service.

Officer – PPE, SCBA, TIC, portable radio, hand light. Size-up situation, determine proper engine placement, direct line placement. Establish command. Radio ID will be unit number followed by the letter "A" (example 3531-A)

D/O – portable radio. Establish water supply, operate pumps/lights, and pull backup line if time permits. Radio ID will be unit number followed by the letter "D" (example 3531-D)

1st and/or 2nd FF – PPE, SCBA. Pull line to position indicated by officer, operate nozzle. Radio ID will be unit number followed by the letter "B" (example 3531-B)

3rd and/or 4th FF – PPE, SCBA, haligan bar and/or pike pole. Assist 1st FF with line advancement, check line for kinks. Radio ID will be unit number followed by the letter "C" (example 3531-C).

- B. Second Due Engine – The second due engine is responsible for supplying water to the first due engine if necessary, and operating the backup line. On sprinklered/standpiped buildings, the second due engine is responsible for supplying the system.

Officer – PPE, SCBA, portable radio, hand light. Direct back-up line placement, check for kinks in attack lines. Radio ID will be unit number followed by the letter "A" (example 3530-A)

D/O – Assist the first due engine D/O with establishing water supply if necessary. Assist with line advancement at building entry point. Radio ID will be unit number followed by the letter "D" (example 3530-D)

1st and/or 2nd FF – PPE, SCBA. Pull backup line to position indicated by officer, operate nozzle. May assist with line advancement at building entry point if directed by officer. Radio ID will be unit number followed by the letter "B" (example 3530-B)

3rd and/or 4th FF – PPE, SCBA, haligan bar and/or pike pole. Assist with line advancement. Radio ID will be unit number followed by the letter "C" (example 3530-C)

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- C. Third Due Engine – The third due engine shall report to the Command Post and is responsible for operating as the Rapid Intervention Team.

Officer – PPE, SCBA, TIC, portable radio, hand light. Size-up building, identify entry points, make openings, place ladders, and identify hose lines for possible use.

D/O – PPE, SCBA, portable radio, hand light. Establish accountability board at command post.

1st and/or 2nd FF - PPE, SCBA, hand light, spare SCBA, forcible entry tools and/or saw. Pre-position 2 ½" back-up line as directed by officer. Assist officer.

3rd and/or 4th FF – PPE, SCBA, hand light, forcible entry tools. Assist officer.

- D. Fourth Due Engine – The fourth due engine should level one stage, away from the incident and wait for an assignment from command. The crew is responsible for identifying secondary water supplies and should be in a position to approach the scene using alternate routes.

- E. Special Operations Company – The special operations company is responsible for search and rescue, ventilation, forcible entry, laddering, and opening concealed spaces for the engine companies. Secondary functions include lighting, salvage, and overhaul. The unit should position itself to maximize the use of its resources and best facilitate completion of its tasks. Forcible entry and ventilation tools are dependant on building construction.

Officer – PPE, SCBA, portable radio, hand light, forcible entry tools. Determine proper apparatus placement, force entry as needed, enter with Engine Company, search fire area, vent. Radio ID – 3590-A

D/O – PPE, portable radio, hand light. Establish positive pressure ventilation, place ground ladder(s) as appropriate, provide lighting to building, move tools to building. Radio ID – 3590-D

1st and/or 2nd FF– PPE, SCBA, portable radio, hand light, pike pole or haligan. Perform outside ventilation, control exterior utilities, report on conditions not visible to command, enter building and assist officer. Perform roof ventilation if necessary. Radio ID – 3590-B

3rd and/or 4th FF – PPE, SCBA, portable radio, hand light, pike pole. Assist officer inside or roof ventilation as needed. Radio ID – 3590-C

- F. First Due Ladder Company – The first due ladder company shall assist the special operations company with ground ladder placement, search and rescue, ventilation, forcible entry, and opening concealed spaces for the engine companies. Secondary functions include lighting, salvage, and overhaul. The unit should position itself to maximize the use of its resources and best facilitate completion of its tasks. Forcible entry and ventilation tools are dependant on building construction.

- G. First Arriving Officer or Acting Officer – The first Arriving Officer or Acting Officer is responsible for establishing command, sizing up the incident, developing an action plan, monitoring its effectiveness, and managing resources as necessary. The focus is more tactical than strategic in nature. He/she should monitor the fireground radio channel.
- H. First Arriving Chief Officer – The first arriving Chief Officer may assume command, assessing the effectiveness of the action plan and modifying it as necessary to reflect a more strategic, long-range viewpoint. This may include calling for more specialized resources, developing more advanced sectoring, and identifying possible incident scenarios (including worst case). He/she should have PPE, portable radio, and hand light, and should be prepared to operate a more formal command post.