
Emergency Operations

Book:	3 Emergency Operations
Chapter	III –Command Operations
Subject	1 – General Strategic Guidelines
Code	3-III-1
Revised	10/28/2003

1.01 Purpose

- a. To facilitate more effective and efficient management of emergency operations.
- b. To provide definitions (within the context of Command Operations) of the following terms: Priorities, Operational Objectives, Strategies and Evaluations
- c. To provide guidelines for on-scene emergency operational planning.

1.02 Policy

Jersey Village Emergency Services employees and members shall utilize, whenever possible, the guidelines contained within this policy.

1.03 Priorities

- a. Priorities are identified as a result of the on-scene analysis of the emergency situation (size-up).
- b. Priorities identify the most important or urgent factors of an emergency situation. Since emergencies are dynamic in nature and change as they progress and/or are affected by the efforts of the department, the priorities involved, in any given emergency situation will also change.
- c. Priorities provide the basis for determining “operational objectives”
- d. In a general sense, the basic priorities may be divided into three (3) categories. In order of importance they are as follows:
 1. Life Safety – All factors and operations, which affect the safety and well being of persons involved in the emergency. Involved persons include victims, bystanders, and emergency service personnel.
 2. Control – Those operations or activities required to stop the spread or growth of an emergency incident and bring about its final termination.
 3. Property Conservation – Those operations or activities required to stop or reduce additional loss to property.
- e. Although priorities are normally placed into a hierarchy, overlapping can and does occur. Such a case of overlapping may be illustrated by situations where rapid control of a fire is necessary to provide life safety.

1.04 Operational Objectives

- a. Operational Objectives are derived from the priorities, which have been identified. They are specific in nature and must be realistic in the sense that they can be accomplished with the available resources.
- b. They must be identified and communicated in short, easy to understand terms.
- c. Operational Objectives normally follow the same hierarchy as the priorities from which they have been derived. Operational Objectives may however, also overlap in the same sense as priorities sometimes do.
- d. Operational Objectives change as priorities change. Normally achievement of an operational objective leads to the next objective in the hierarchy. However, different tactical divisions at the emergency scene may simultaneously handle many times the operational objectives. This simultaneous achievement of operational objectives requires close coordination by the Incident Commander.

1.05 Strategies

The choice of strategy is dependent upon the operational objectives, which have been set. As with priorities and operational objectives, the chosen strategy must change in accordance with changes in the nature of the emergency.

The following defines the four (4) basic strategies:

1. Offensive – An aggressive attack or effort to bring about rapid control of a problem.
2. Offensive/Defensive – An effort to make a direct attack or attempt at control while simultaneously providing backup resources for confinement.
3. Defensive/ Offensive – Initial efforts concentrate on achieving confinement of a problem while additional resources are amassed to begin an offensive control operation.
4. Defensive – Strictly an effort to confine a problem

1.06 Planning and Decision Making

- a. On-scene emergency operations planning and decision making requires analysis of the factors involved; realistic projection and forecasting; identification of priorities, operational objectives, and strategies and evaluation of results.
- b. The following is a guide for on-scene emergency operational planning and decision making:
 1. Determine the nature and extent of the problem (size-up).
 2. Estimate growth and spread potential.
 3. Determine priorities based on existing and projected conditions.
 4. Determine objectives based on priorities and available resources.
 5. Determine strategy based on objectives.
 6. Develop a plan of action based on objectives and strategy.
 7. Establish time frames and of evaluations.
 8. Modify plans or actions as required by evaluation.