

POST INCIDENT CRITIQUE

Purpose:

- A. To provide a means of objectively analyzing fire department operations in a post-emergency environment.
- B. To provide a continuing review and development process through which improved methods and operations may be realized.

Responsibilities:

- A. The Incident Commander is responsible for initiation of the formal critique process following every major incident or whenever directed to do so by the Chief.
- B. The Company Officer is responsible for initiating semi-formal or informal incident critiques following any incident, which may prompt numerous questions from personnel that may provide a valuable training opportunity.
- C. The Incident Commander is responsible for serving as critique chairperson at all formal critiques.

Guidelines:

- A. Informal Critique – The informal critique simply involves an informal discussion of the events, which transpired during an emergency incident.
 - 1. The informal critique can be utilized at the company level after any type of an alarm to which the involved unit(s) may have responded.
 - 2. Personnel of the involved unit(s) may simply meet together in quarters and informally discuss the various aspects of the incident.
 - 3. A Company Officer should serve as the chairperson of the informal critique.
 - 4. Training tips relating to the incident should be brought up during the discussion.
 - 5. The critique emphasis must be on overall operational improvement and should not be designed to embarrass anyone.
- B. Formal Critique – The formal critique is designed to involve all personnel of the fire district. It is intended to be utilized as a method of detailed analysis of major emergency operations.
 - 1. Based on the nature of the emergency, the Incident Commander may initiate a formal critique.
 - 2. The Incident Commander shall make arrangements for the time and place at which the critique shall be conducted.
 - 3. The Incident Commander shall notify all involved personnel of the fire district of the scheduled critique. The Incident Commander

shall also notify all outside agencies and departments, which may have participated in the incident.

4. The critique shall begin with a description of the involved facts, including:
 - a. Date.
 - b. Time.
 - c. Location.
 - d. Weather conditions.
 - e. Topography.
 - f. Water supply.
 - g. Occupancy (if applicable).
 - h. Building construction (if applicable).
 - i. Special conditions (such as traffic, crowds, etc.).
5. Fire department operations should be discussed in chronological order by allowing the involved Company Officers to recount and discuss their observations and actions in order of their arrival at the scene.
6. Once the facts and a description of the operations involved have been presented, the discussion should be opened for questions and answers and expression of opinions from all those present at the critique.
7. The emphasis must be on overall operational improvements and should not focus on embarrassing any individual or group.
8. The Incident Commander should conclude the critique by summarizing the key points involved and providing additional comments as may be necessary.