

FIRST TO ARRIVE DUTIES

Purpose:

To provide a uniform guideline for determining strategic and tactical goals when evaluating an emergency incident for first arriving apparatus.

Guidelines:

- A. Upon Arrival
 - 1. Transmit a brief and concise initial radio report to include:
 - a. Unit number and “on the scene”.
 - b. Height of building in stories.
 - c. Type of building (dwelling, commercial, educational, etc).
 - d. Conditions on arrival.
 - 2. Evaluate resource needs and request additional resources if needed.
 - 3. Assume Incident Command of the situation and remain in command until formally relieved by a higher-ranking officer.
 - 4. Size up the emergency situation by conducting a 360° survey.
 - 5. Determine the primary objective(s) based on priorities.
 - 6. Determine strategy based on objective(s).
 - 7. Develop a plan of action based on objective(s) and strategy.
 - 8. Assign other arriving companies and units until relieved of command.
 - 9. Communicate to the next in command the current situation and plan of action.
 - 10. Whenever the incident is obviously beyond the capabilities of the first arriving company it maybe better for the first in officer to initially set up a command post rather than become involved directly in operations.
- B. Life Safety
 - 1. If there is a life hazard or potential life hazard, then life safety will become the number one priority. All actions on the scene, by personnel, will be directed toward minimizing the life hazard.
 - 2. Sometimes, an aggressive, quick attack on the problem will alleviate the life hazard.
 - 3. Life safety includes the life safety of the public and personnel.
 - 4. Personnel should not be placed in precarious positions or take unnecessary risks.
- C. Confinement
 - 1. Every effort should be made to contain the problem to the smallest area possible.
 - 2. Confinement also involves preventing an emergency problem from becoming more complex.
 - 3. Confinement of an emergency problem is second only to life safety as a priority consideration.

D. Control

1. The term “control” is used in place of the term “extinguishment” since fire is not the only type of emergency situation that personnel handle.
2. Control relates to those activities engaged in by personnel that directly reduce or abate an emergency problem.
3. Many times control efforts such as a direct attack on a fire can accomplish life safety, confinement, and control simultaneously.
4. Control operations are utilized with an offensive strategy.