

## COMMAND POST GUIDELINES

### Purpose:

To familiarize all members with the guidelines for establishing a command post.

### Criteria:

- A. A command post should have the following:
  - 1. Good communications.
  - 2. Distance from traffic, evolutions, PIO.
  - 3. Proximity to support agencies.
  - 4. Visibility.
  - 5. Green rotating light or flag.
- B. A command post should be:
  - 1. Safe.
  - 2. Secure.
  - 3. Sheltered from the elements.
  - 4. Suitably quartered.
  - 5. Available for the extent of the emergency.

### Guidelines:

- A. Initial Operations:
  - 1. The first arriving unit at an emergency scene should establish Incident Command and continue as such until formally relieved by a higher-ranking officer.
  - 2. If the emergency is not going to progress to the point where it will require additional personnel and apparatus, then a formal command post may not be necessary.
  - 3. If the emergency will require additional personnel and apparatus, the Incident Commander should establish a firm command post with all the identifying features. This would include activating the command post light, the announcing of who is in command, and giving the location of the command post.
  - 4. The command post is usually set up at a visible location near the incident, however, the type and location of the incident may dictate a different location for the command post.
  - 5. A single command post is mandatory. One central location is needed so that monitoring and control of the incident can occur in an organized manner.
- B. Command Vehicle:
  - 1. Spot the vehicle in a visible location so you can see the maximum amount of the scene as possible while keeping out of the way of

apparatus evolutions. Communicate your location to everyone at the incident.

2. Take firm command and communicate it to all personnel and PSCC. Command must be formally passed on and assumed or confusion results.
3. Activate the command post light, set up any communications equipment, and set up a portable table, if available.
4. Stay at your post. Utilize information relayed by companies operating in remote locations.