

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.12

FIRST TO ARRIVE DUTIES

1. Intent and Purpose

First arrive duties shall provide a uniform guideline for determining strategic and tactical goals when evaluating an emergency incident for first arriving companies or fire personnel.

2. Upon Arrival – Size-up

- a. Transmit a brief and concise initial radio report to include:
 - i. Unit number (i.e. E310) and “on the scene”.
 - ii. Height of building in stories (i.e. 1 story).
 - iii. Type of construction (i.e. wood frame).
 - iv. Occupancy (i.e. apartment).
 - v. Conditions on arrival (i.e. heavy smoke and fire coming from the rear).
 - vi. Action being taken (i.e. E310 using a 1 ¾ “ hose line. Investigating, etc.).
 - vii. Officer in charge. (i.e. Capt. Smith in charge).
 - viii. Assign Command (i.e. Chief 310 is Command, E310 is Command).

Note: Although a “Working Fire” must be transmitted when appropriate, this is not an actual size up. “Working Fire” does let incoming Companies know they will be going to work and also lets Dispatch know additional equipment is needed on scene.

- b. Evaluate resource needs and request additional resources if needed.
- c. Assume command of the situation and remain in command until formally relieved by superior Officer.
- d. Size up the emergency situation (360).
- e. Determine primary objective(s) based on priorities.
- f. Develop plan of action.
- g. Assign other arriving companies and units until relieved of command.
- h. Communicate to the next in command the current situation and plan of action.

Note: Whenever the incident is obviously beyond the capabilities of the first arriving company it may be better for the first in officer to initially set up a command post rather than become involved directly in operations.

3. Life Safety

- a. If there is a life safety hazard or potential life hazard, then life safety will become the number one priority. All actions on the scene, by fire personnel, will be directed toward minimizing the life hazard.
- b. Sometimes, an aggressive, quick, attack on the problem will alleviate the life hazard.
- c. Life safety includes the safety of the public and of fire personnel.

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- d. Fire personnel should not be placed in precarious positions or take unnecessary risks.
- 4. Confinement
 - a. Every effort should be made to contain the problem to the smallest area possible.
 - b. Confinement also involves preventing an emergency problem from becoming more complex.
 - c. Confinement of an emergency problem is second only to life safety as a priority consideration.
- 5. Control
 - a. The term “control” is used in place of the term “extinguishment” since firefighting is not the only type of emergency incident that fire department personnel must handle.
 - b. Control relates to those activities engaged in by fire personnel, which directly reduce or abate an emergency incident.
 - c. Many times control efforts such as direct attack on a fire can accomplish life safety, confinement, and control simultaneously.
- 6. Standard Apparatus Arrival – Tactical Operations
 - a. Arrival of the Chief Officer
 - i. When first on scene – The Chief Officer shall set up the Command Post and give direction to incoming companies. The Chief Officer car(s) should be placed in a location not to interfere with the positioning of incoming apparatus and ideally be positioned to offer a view of two sides of the building.
 - ii. When preceded to the scene - The Chief Officer shall go to the Incident Commander and find out all the details of the fire or incident. After the Chief Officer has all the facts, he/she should relieve the Officer of Command and formally take command of the fire or incident by announcing via radio to the Dispatcher on all Channels that he/she is in charge. The dispatcher will confirm. The Chief Officer does not have to take Command. However, they are essentially responsible for the fire or incident.
 - b. Arrival of the First Engine Company: Primary mission is Life Safety and to locate hazards.
 - i. When first on scene - If upon arrival at the fire scene, and nothing showing, the Engine Company should proceed to the building and/or alarm panel. The crew should have tools, Thermal Imaging Camera (if available), and a water extinguisher. This is especially true for out-fires. If fire is showing, the Officer-in-charge has the option of laying a line or going on in. Officers in charge of Engines with 800 gallon or greater tanks should always be thinking of responding directly to the building without laying a supply line. If there is any doubt about the ability of the first Engine Company’s tank to take care of the fire, and it will take some time before the next Engine and/or Ladder Company will be able to lay a line to the first arriving Engine Company, good judgment may dictate

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- laying a supply line as the Engine goes to the scene. However, when making this decision consider the distance from the road that the building is sitting and accessibility of getting another Engine or other equipment to it. Consideration for long and/or winding driveways must be given when laying a line (i.e. blocking another Engine from getting to the scene when needed for fire attack, back-up lines, or equipment). If possible, locate the Engine and lay line where it will not interfere with other arriving companies. Engine placement should facilitate aerial ladder placement and viewing three (3) sides when possible.
- ii. When preceded to the scene - If preceded to the scene by a Chief Officer the Engine Company shall position at the front of the building and report their position to the Chief Officer and await orders.
- c. Arrival of the Second/Third Engine Companies: Primary mission is water supply and secondary mission is search/rescue, back-up lines, or ventilation if no ladder.
- i. The second Engine Company should stay back at the hydrant if it is within supply line range and prepare to lay hose into the first Engine. If there is no hydrant available, they should proceed to within approximately one block of the fire scene. In either case the Company Officer shall keep his Engine crew with the apparatus and report via radio his placement and that he/she is awaiting orders. The Second Engine Company may be in position for Water supply, FDC, etc. A Third Engine would assume the position or task that the Second Engine Company did not assume (i.e. Water supply, FDC, etc.).
- d. Arrival of the First/Second Ladder Companies: Primary mission is Search/Rescue and/or ventilation. Secondary mission is Hazard mitigation.
- i. Ladder Companies should be utilized and positioned for the necessary tasks based on priorities (i.e. Rescue, Ventilation, Defensive Operations, etc.). Usually this will be to the front side of the building (A side). A ladder should be placed so it remains there for the duration of the fire or incident. If proceeded to scene by an Engine Company and a second Engine has not been placed at a Hydrant, the Ladder should stay back at the hydrant and prepare to lay hose to the First Engine Company. Ladder should be placed on the opposite side if possible.
- e. The second arrival of Medic or Squad: Primary mission is Medical Care and secondary mission is Rehab.
- i. When there is a working fire and the squad or medic is dispatched to the scene, it should be located near the Command Post if possible and be prepared to care for injured personnel or citizens. Be careful if assigning them to other duties (i.e. RIT, Ventilation, etc.), personnel may not be able to take care of the injured if

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assigned other duties. They should remain flexible so that their apparatus can respond from the scene and/or their apparatus does not become blocked in at the scene. This will necessitate the proper positioning of the apparatus upon arrival at the scene. Note: Apparatus placement should facilitate each Company's primary and secondary mission. If unsure of which Apparatus arriving on scene or necessary job assignment contact Command prior to Arrival (i.e. M-210 to Command, 2 minutes out, do you have an assignment). If there is no reply from Command and staging has not been set up, report to Command in person with crew.

Note: Privately owned vehicles – park at least one block away, not blocking the street, driveways, or hydrants.

7. Standard Apparatus Arrival Placement Chart
 - a. 1st Engine – Front of the building
 - b. 2nd Engine – Hydrant
 - c. 3rd Engine – Fire department connection
 - d. 4th Engine – Rear of the building
 - e. 1st Ladder – Front of the building if not on a hydrant
 - f. 2nd Ladder – Rear of the building
 - g. Medic – Command Post