

**BODEGA BAY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

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SUBJECT:	FIREGROUND OBJECTIVES/DIRECTIVES		DATE: 21FEB05

**PURPOSE:**

"Provide for a safe and efficient working environment utilizing uniform tactical priorities for fireground operations."

**DEFINITION:**

**ADDITIONAL ALARMS:** Additional response assignment for structure, vegetation and MCI assignments, called by the incident commander.

**ATTACK LINE:** Any size hose line used for either offensive or defensive fire control. Includes master streams and elevated streams if used in the attack mode.

**AVAILABLE:** A term used to indicate that a fire resource is available to be dispatched to incidents, but does not indicate where the unit is located.

**DEFENSIVE:** An attack strategy, used for exterior fire attack.

**EMERGENCY TRAFFIC:** The term used to clear radio traffic to report a fire ground emergency or significant fire ground event.

**ESTABLISHING COMMAND:** Establishing command requires personnel to act in the position of Incident Commander until relieved by another fire officer.

**EXPOSURE LINE:** Any size hose line or master stream that is used to protect adjacent exposures.

**FIRE CONTROL OBJECTIVES:** Activities required to prevent the forward progress of fire.

**FULL ASSIGNMENT:**

URBAN:	3 Engines, 1 Truck, 1BC
SUBURBAN:	4 Engines, 1 BC
RURAL:	3 Engines, 2 Water Tenders, 1 BC

**GENERAL STAGING:** A designated area other than primary staging, typically used in incidents of more than two alarms or when multiple resources are requested.

**ICP:** Incident Command Post.

**INITIAL OPERATING MODE:** Investigating(gather information), Attack(engage), Command(assume IC).

**MASK UP:** A term used to have firefighters don their SCBA and proceed to their assignment.

**OFFENSIVE:** An attack strategy, used for interior, direct fire attack.

**OVERHAUL:** An orderly examination of the fire building (area) and its contents to insure that the fire is completely out.

**OVERHEAD:** A term used to identify Chief Officers or Command Staff.

**PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (PAR):** A systematic headcount of fireground personnel.

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**PASSING COMMAND:** Passing command allows first due company to designate the next arriving Company Officer or Chief Officer as IC.

**PASSPORT:** A nametag, which aids in the fireground accountability.

**PRIMARY SEARCH:** The initial search of the fire building for victims. This is a rapid cursory type of search. Completion by the term "Primary Search All Clear".

**PRIORITY TRAFFIC:** A term used to gain priority to report a new incident.

**PRIMARY STAGING (Level 1):** An area approximately one block away from the incident used to stage initial arriving companies-limited to the first alarm assignment. The second due engine should be staged at a water source, ready to supply water to the first due engine if needed.

**PROPERTY CONSERVATION:** Activities required to stop or reduce additional property damage.

**PRIORITY TRAFFIC:** The term used to clear or stop radio traffic to report a new emergency incident.

**PROTECTION SYSTEMS:** Fire protection systems built into a building, such as fixed sprinkler systems.

**QUICK ATTACK:** A term used to designate a Company's operations, typically fire attack.

**RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC):** Personnel provided for the rescue of firefighters. At least two firefighting personnel assigned for the rescue of personnel operating within an incident.

**RESCUE:** Activities required to protect and remove occupants and firefighters.

**SAFETY LINE:** A second, staffed hose line that is positioned behind an interior attack line. A safety line crews monitors the safety and evaluates the effectiveness of fire crews advancing through the interior of a fire building.

**SECONDARY SEARCH:** A detailed methodical search of the fire building for victims. This should be conducted after fire extinguishment is achieved.

**SINGLE ASSIGNMENT:** Normally, one engine, depending on type of incident.

**SUPPLY LINE:** Large diameter hose laid from the hydrant to the fire, from the engine to the FDC or to another engine in relay.

**TACTICAL RADIO CHANNEL:** A radio frequency assigned to an incident for unit-to-unit communications.

**TOOL UP:** A term used to have firefighters obtain hand tools for an assigned task.

**TRUCK COMPANY OPERATIONS:** Support fire control efforts with rescue, ventilation, forcible entry, scene lighting and salvage operations.

**UNAVAILABLE IN QUARTERS:** A term used to indicate that a unit is located in quarters, but is not staffed or available for immediate response.

**UNITY OF COMMAND:** The incident commander is ultimately responsible for the accountability of all personnel on the incident. Each supervisor (Operations, Branches, Division/Groups, Strike Teams, Single resources) is responsible for all personnel under their command.

**VACATE:** The immediate evacuation of a structure or area that is in imminent danger.

**VACATE SIGNAL:** Consists of a continual blast of fire apparatus air horns, not less than 1 minute to signal the immediate evacuation of a structure or area.

**VACATE SIGNAL: (WILDLAND)** Consists of a series of air horn blasts from fire apparatus.

- 1 Blast: (Routine Movement) Pick up hose and equipment, return to engine, move to next objective.
- 2 Blasts: (Priority Movement) Pick up nozzle, leave hose, return to engine, move to next objective or safety zone.
- 3 Blasts: (Emergency Movement) Cut hose, leave equipment, return to engine, possible shelter deployment, move to safety zone.

**VEGETATION FIRE:** A term used to indicate a fire involving grass, brush or trees.

**2 IN 2 OUT:** A term used to indicate that two safety personnel have been assigned to firefighter rescue and that four fire suppression members are on the scene. 2 OUT will be assigned prior to IDLH entry, unless immediate rescue of a known (visual, audio, or other circumstances) victim is present.

## **PROCEDURES:**

### **1. Operational Priorities:**

Fireground tactical decision will be based on the following strategic priorities;

- a. Rescue of victims
- b. Fire control, including confinement, exposure protection and complete extinguishment.
- c. Property conservation.
- d. Environmental protection.

### **2. Response Protocols:**

Fires involving or threatening structures will be dispatched as a structure assignment. The duty Officer may upgrade or request additional alarms based on information received while enroute.

## **SINGLE ASSIGNMENT RESPONSE:**

A response assignment consisting of a single piece of apparatus, usually a single engine company. Upgrading the response to a complete full assignment will occur when either:

- 1) A size up is completed by the first arriving fire unit and additional resources are required, or
- 2) Duty Officer or Company Officer upgrades the assignment based on information received while enroute.
- 3) Dispatch receives information placing the incident into another dispatch category.

## **PLACEMENT AND ASSIGNMENT OF APPARATUS:**

Fire Department apparatus should be positioned on the fireground in a manor that will promote safe and effective operations.

Apparatus responding with a full assignment will respond either directly to the scene or to a primary staging area, one block away in the direction of travel toward the fire, based on the following criteria;

### **DIRECTLY TO SCENE:**

First arriving engine company  
Duty Officer (Chief)  
Fire companies that receive an assignment enroute

### **LEVEL 1 STAGING:**

Second and third arriving engine companies  
Truck Company  
Rescue Company  
Mutual/Auto aid companies

Fire department apparatus will be placed on the fireground by a priority system that supports the operational requirements of the incident.

**PLACEMENT GUIDELINES:**

**FIRST DUE ENGINE COMPANY:** Positioned for access to the fire building, securing a water supply, primary search efforts and the deployment of hose lines and equipment.

**DUTY OFFICER(CHIEF):** Positioned for maximum incident overview. The Duty Officers vehicle should not impede the operations of pumping apparatus.

**FIRST DUE TRUCK COMPANY(LEVEL 1 STAGE):** Positioned for access to the fire building for offensive roof top operations or defensive ladder pipe operations. Truck company operations, ventilation (PPV/horizontal/vertical), utilities, scene lighting, search, forcible entry, etc.

**SECOND DUE ENGINE COMPANY(LEVEL 1 STAGE):** Positioned to pump the fire department connection in protected buildings. If not a protected building, positioned adjacent to the fire scene. Personnel to support with safety and/or exposure lines, and RIT. If used as additional pumping apparatus, at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

**THIRD DUE ENGINE COMPANY(LEVEL 1 STAGE):** Positioned adjacent to the fire scene. Objectives as directed by the Incident Commander.

**FIREGROUND COMMUNICATIONS:**

In order to promote fireground safety and accountability, the REDCOM standards and/or policy for fireground communications will be adhered to.

Use of radio channels:

**Primary (REDCOM) guidelines:**

- Dispatching calls

**Primary (Control 2) guidelines:**

- Communications with dispatch
- Fireground communications (less than a full assignment)
- Used for report of conditions regardless of the alarm assignment.

**Tactical channel (TAC 3) guidelines:**

- Switch to designated tactical channel after arriving on scene or staging
- Personnel receive assignments of tactical operations
- Communication between groups and/or divisions
- Broadcast emergency scene significant event information
- Personnel operating on the tactical channel will disable the "scan" feature of their radios
- Chief Officers shall maintain all radio channel capability while operating at an incident.
- Not required on single engine responses

**Multi-agency channel (Control 5) guidelines:**

- Used for multiple agency incidents
- Switch to designated tactical channel after arriving on scene or staging
- Personnel receive assignments of tactical
- Communication between groups and/or divisions
- Broadcast emergency scene significant event information
- Personnel operating on the tactical channel will disable the "scan" feature of their radios
- Chief Officers shall maintain all radio channel capability while operating at an incident.

**REPORT ON CONDITIONS/OPERATING MODES:**

The first arriving fire unit will broadcast a report on conditions on the assigned control channel to aid in setting strategic objectives for the incident.

The initial report on conditions should include the following observations and be relayed to incoming companies in a clear, narrative style description.

**Units on scene and the correct address:**

"8880 on scene at 123 Main St."

**Fire Conditions:**

1) Nothing showing, 2) Smoke showing, 3) Fire showing.

May be modified with; light, moderate, heavy.

"...moderate fire showing from a second floor window."

"...heavy smoke showing from the attic vents-no visible fire."

**Building description:**

A. Size of building: "two story", "small outbuilding", "large industrial complex".

B. Construction type: "wood frame", "unreinforced masonry", "concrete tilt up".

C. Type of occupancy: "single family house", "commercial building".

**Operating mode:**

When the initial size up is complete, the company officer will decide and then broadcast which one of the three initial operating modes that the company will be using.

**Investigating:**

Normally used when there is nothing showing from the fire building upon arrival.

**Attack/Quick Attack:**

This includes both offensive and defensive attack, exposure protection and the immediate rescue of victims. Companies operating in the attack mode will need to specify the type of attack based on the above criteria. EXAMPLE: "8880 on scene.....advancing a line into the interior" or " 8880 on scene.....will be defensive attack mode with a master stream and a 2 ½" exposure line".

**Command:**

First arriving unit establishes command and acts as full function Incident Commander until relieved by another fire officer. Most often used when first arriving units are overwhelmed by the incident and any plan of attack would be futile until additional resources arrive. It is also used when an engine company is operating as a single resource on a non-fire incident.

### **RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC):**

Provide personnel for the rescue of Firefighters by assigning a team to monitor fire and building conditions and perform rescue when required.

**Interior Fire Attack Protocols:** A rescue team of two firefighters will be assigned and in place outside the fire building prior to interior fire control activities. One of these rescue firefighters must monitor crews assigned to the interior. The second firefighter assigned to the initial rescue team may perform other tasks as long as that task can be abandoned without adversely affecting firefighter safety. Personnel assigned to this team will be designated "Intervention". The initial rescue team will remain in place until the fire is under control or the RIC assignment is filled.

As resources become available, priority should be given to establishing the rapid intervention team to replace the initial rescue team. The re-assignment can be easily accomplished by designating the firefighter that in monitoring interior crews as the RIC leader and assigning at least one more firefighter as a fully dedicated RIC member(s). Additional RIC's may be required if fireground tactics call for multiple, remote entry points.

Exceptions: The RIC or initial rescue team is not required when a known rescue condition exists or when first due companies find clear fire conditions (see investigating mode).

**Staffing:** A RIC consists of at least two firefighters, assigned by the incident commander and equipped with full personal protective equipment, a personal alert safety system device and self contained breathing apparatus. In addition, the RIC shall equip themselves with the following:

- Portable radio
- Halligan tool and flat head ax
- Portable hand lights
- Utility rope
- Extra complete SCBA unit, mask and bottle

**Location:** The RIC will report to the command post. There, they should stay within the verbal or radio contact range of the Incident Commander. The RIC will also monitor tactical radio traffic for requests for help from firefighting crews.

**Tasks:** The primary task of the RIC is to respond to any firefighter reported in distress.

Generally, personnel in distress are in one of two situations;

1. Trapped
2. Disoriented and/or lost in a building

An additional task performed by the RIC is the placing of a ground ladder to be used in case of rescue or escape. Upon arrival the RIC will assess the fire building and raise a ground ladder to the fire building based on the following criteria:

- An escape ladder will be raised even if another ladder is already in place for operational purposes.
- An escape ladder will be raised to any building taller than a single story.
- Two story structures will have an escape ladder raised to the floor above the fire or, if the fire is on the second floor, to a window adjacent to the seat of the fire.
- An escape ladder will always be raised to the roof when firefighters are operating on the roof. This should be placed at a spot remote from the operating ladder.

Escape ladder locations should be made known to personnel operating on the fireground by notifying the incident commander, who will then rebroadcast to all personnel on the fire scene.

### **FIREGROUND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

To insure firefighter safety, Incident Commanders must have timely and accurate information on the condition and status of all personnel operating on the fireground.

#### **Personnel Accountability (Passport):**

All members of the fire department shall be issued an "Accountability Tag/Label" upon employment. During full assignment responses, all fire suppression personnel, shall place their "Passport Tag" on the apparatus identification passport. Upon arrival at the incident, this information shall be given to the IC for accountability purposes. The passport system shall be used on:

1. Full assignment incidents.
2. Mutual/Auto aid incidents.
3. Any large scale, large participating resource incident.

#### **Personnel Accountability Report (P-A-R):**

A P-A-R is a systematic headcount of personnel that is conducted by the Incident Commander every 30 minutes during an incident. A P-A-R is also requested when there is a significant fireground setback or when there is a distress call. To complete a P-A-R, follow these steps:

1. IC announces on the tactical channel to standby for a P-A-R.
2. The IC only contacts division supervisors and group leader who, in turn, account for personnel assigned to them.
3. Respond to the P-A-R with your designator and the number of personnel that are accounted for. Example: "Interior P-A-R-5, with the driver at the panel".
4. If a group or division comes up short on personnel, the response to the IC should be: "Interior PAR-4, with one down/missing (name)".

When the IC and/or SAFETY OFFICER have determined the safety of individual(s) or companies operating at an emergency scene is compromised, a PAR shall be instituted. The IC or his designee will call out the designators of individual(s) or companies and they shall take a head count and respond in kind. For Example: "Engine 1, IC." "IC, Engine 1 is OK." "Division A, IC." "IC Division A is OK."

#### **"EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" Distress call:**

The word; "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC", shall be used to alert fireground personnel of significant fireground events.

1. Actual or impending building collapse.
2. Firefighter(s) lost, trapped, injured or unaccounted for on the fireground.
3. Significant changes in fire conditions.

When EMERGENCY TRAFFIC is announced, all personnel will monitor radio traffic for the following EMERGENCY TRAFFIC message. If the message requires fire crews to make an emergency exit from the fire building; division supervisors, group leaders and company officers will be responsible to remove all personnel assigned to them and prepare to give the IC an personnel accountability report. EMERGENCY TRAFFIC messages from firefighters requiring assistance will be broadcast in the same manner. The IC, RIC group leader or any other personnel may acknowledge the EMERGENCY TRAFFIC call and prepare to note the pertinent information regarding the downed firefighter. Information will immediately be relayed to the RIC group leader or IC.