

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

40.04.06
INCIDENT SAFETY
REQUIREMENTS



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 11/18/21
Revised: 11/18/21

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan J. Pahl", is written over a horizontal line.

Purpose: This procedure is applicable to all Fire District 8 emergency responders to coordinate and control incident scene activities and to provide as safe as possible working conditions for firefighters and other emergency responders.

Note: It is the intent of this procedure to meet the spirit and intent of NFPA 1500 and Washington State Labor & Industries standards.

References: NFPA 1500, WAC296-305-05000 Incident Management, WAC296-305-05002 Fire Suppression

Procedure:

1. Responsibilities.

- a) The Incident Commander shall be responsible for overall safety of all members and all activities occurring at the scene.
- b) Unless otherwise designated, the Incident Commander shall be the on-scene Safety Officer.
- c) The Incident Commander shall integrate risk management into the regular functions of incident command.
- d) The Incident Commander shall evaluate the risk to members with respect to the purpose and potential results of their actions in each situation.
- e) The on-duty 820 officer shall be responsible to see that all accidents involving firefighters are fully and completely investigated.
 - i. If the injury results in a firefighter fatality or probable fatality, the on-duty 820 officer must notify the Fire Chief, and the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries as soon as possible.
 - ii. If a fatality occurs, the on-duty 820 officer will see that any equipment involved with the accident is not moved except where removal is essential in preventing further accidents or injuries or is essential in the continuance of emergency action.
- f) If a firefighter disappears from the fire ground, it shall be immediately reported to the Incident Commander, who will then call for an immediate roll call and begin a coordinated search and rescue operation.
- g) The Company Officer is responsible for their respective crew and will make sure everyone on their crew is wearing the appropriate protective clothing.
 - i. At structure fire scenes this would include: a complete set of protective clothing including:
 1. Hood.
 2. Helmet.
 3. Turnout coat.

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4. Turnout pants.
 5. Gloves.
 6. Pass device.
 7. SCBA, where required.
- ii. Helmet earflaps will be in place with fire coat collar up and fastened before entry into combat conditions.
- h) Members operating in hazardous areas at emergency incidents shall operate in crews of two or more; commonly referred to as the “buddy system,” or “team.”
 - i) Crewmembers operating in hazardous areas shall be in communication with each other through:
 - i. Visual.
 - ii. Audible.
 - iii. Physical.
 - iv. Safety guide rope.
 - v. Electronic means.
 - vi. Or by other means in order to coordinate their activities.
 - j) Crewmembers shall be in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of emergency.
 - k) The Incident Commander shall establish rapid intervention functions for the safety and potential rescue of fire department members working in a hazardous area which include atmospheres which may be considered immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH).
 - l) In the initial stages of an incident where only a crew of two is operating in a hazardous area, such as a structure fire, at least two additional members shall be assigned to stand by outside of the hazardous area where the crew is operating.
 - m) These standby members shall be responsible for maintaining a constant awareness of the number and identity of members operating in the hazardous area, their location and function, and time of entry.
 - n) The standby members shall:
 - i. Remain in radio, visual, voice, or signal line communications with the crew.
 - ii. Be permitted to perform other duties outside of the hazardous area, such as apparatus operator, Incident Commander, technician or aide, provided constant communication is maintained between the standby member and the members of the crew.
 - iii. Be provided with at least the appropriate full protective clothing, protective equipment, and SCBA.

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- iv. The standby members shall be permitted to rescue or provide for the rescue of the members of the crew that is operating if the need arises.
- v. If such a rescue need arises, the standby members shall communicate the situation and request an additional response if not already underway.
- o) Once a second crew is assigned or operating in the hazardous area, the incident shall no longer be considered in the "initial stage," and at least one Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) shall be established using the apparatus that has been dispatched to the incident, and will:
 - i. Consist of at least two members and shall be available for rescue of a member or a crew if the need arises.
 - ii. Rapid intervention teams shall be fully equipped with the appropriate protective clothing, protective equipment, SCBA, and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed given the specifics of the operation underway.
 - iii. Be of flexible composition and structure based on the type of incident and the size and complexity of operations.
 - iv. The Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating crews, and shall provide one or more rapid intervention teams to commensurate with the needs of the situation.
- p) In the early stages of an incident, the rapid intervention team(s) shall be on-scene members designated and dedicated as Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT).
- q) As the incident expands in size or complexity, the RIT shall be on-scene members designated and dedicated as a RIT.
- r) All supervisors shall maintain an awareness of the condition of members operating within their span of control and ensure that adequate steps are taken to provide for their safety and health.
- s) Request for relief shall go through the chain of command.
- t) The Incident Commander shall consider the circumstances of each incident and make suitable provisions for rest and rehabilitation for members operating at the scene.