

Emergency Scene Priorities for the Incident Commander

Size-up:

Conduct scene size up in-route, upon arriving, and during the incident by answering the following questions: What has happened? What is happening? What is likely to happen? What resources do I need to control or resolve the incident? Additionally, consider the information below.

- F (Facts)
 - o Time of emergency
 - o Location of emergency
 - o Nature of emergency
 - o Life hazard
 - o Exposures
 - o Building or buildings involved
 - o Fire
 - o Weather
- P (Probabilities/possibilities)
 - o Life hazard
 - o Extension of fire
 - o Explosions
 - o Collapse of component parts of involved building
 - o Weather changes
 - o Preventable damage (water, heat, smoke, other causes)
- O (Own situation)
 - o Personnel and equipment
 - o Additional assistance available
 - o Water supply
 - o Private fire protection equipment
 - o Action that has been taken
- P (Plan)
 - o Initial decision
 - o Supplemental decisions
- D (Decision)
 - o Orders and instructions
 - o Supervision of operations

For all emergencies:

- Verify the map/layout of the module; view any applicable pre plans
- Start tracking resources (responding units, equipment available, in what order they may arrive, possible assignments, etc.)
- Ensure radios are on the appropriate channels
- Ensure appropriate PPE is on or easy to don upon arrival.
- Ensure your personnel are not getting too “amped up”
- Remember, fires do not kill firefighters. Instead, lack of situational awareness, complacency, over aggressiveness, poor risk management, acting outside your scope of practice, lack of building construction knowledge, lack of fire behavior knowledge, lack of strategy and tactics knowledge, lack of accountability, lack of using ICS, forgetting we did not create the emergency – we are there to mitigate the emergency and not be a part of the problem, and most importantly, the inability to learn from history kills firefighters!

Emergency Scene Priorities for the Incident Commander

For structure fires

- Fire behavior (Think where the fire will most likely travel to and stop it!)
- Building construction (especially type of construction – I, II, III, IV, or V.

For EMS responses (or any response where patients may be involved): “ENAMES”

- E (Are there any Exposure dangers?)
- N (What are the Number of patients?)
- A (Is there a need for Additional resources?)
- M (What is the Mechanism of injury/illness?)
- E (Is Extrication needed?)
- S (Are Spinal precautions necessary?)

Critical Fireground Factors:

To be used in conjunction with your size-up information above, and to help you make decisions and develop your Incident Action Plan: “*WALLACE WAS HOT*” Every company officer and chief officer should be considering ALL of these items in route to the incident and upon arrival at the incident to ensure they are covering ALL bases.

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- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| - W (Water Supply) | - W (Weather) |
| - A (Area) | - A (Auxiliary appliances) |
| - L (Life Safety) | - S (Special matters) |
| - L (Location/Extent of fire) | - H (Height) |
| - A (Apparatus responding) | - O (Occupancy) |
| - C (Construction/Collapse potential) | - T (Time of day) |
| - E (Exposures) | |

Command Options:

- Nothing showing (investigative) mode
- Fast attack (possibly passing command if another unit is on scene) mode
- Command mode

Radio Report:

- Unit designation of arriving unit
- A brief description of the incident situation (type of building/occupancy/location, type of construction, etc.)

Emergency Scene Priorities for the Incident Commander

- Obvious conditions (fire showing, smoke showing, multiple vehicles involved, etc.)
- Brief description of action taken
- Declaration of strategy (structure fires)
- Any obvious safety concerns
- Assumption of Incident Command
- Location of Command Post
- Request for additional resources or release of responding resources

Strategic Mode:

- Offensive
- Defensive
- Marginal/Transitional (Offensive/defensive or Defensive/offensive – key point: not both at the same time!)

For wildland fires:

- Direct Attack (Offensive), 4 types:
 - o Pincer
 - o Envelopment
 - o Tandem
 - o Flanking
- Indirect Attack (Defensive)

Incident Priorities:

- Life Safety / Customer Service (internal and external)
- Incident Stabilization / Hazard Mitigation
- Property Conservation
- Environmental Considerations

Strategic Priorities/Objectives/Goals:

From Lloyd Laymen, a.k.a. “RECEO-VS” – RECEO done in sequence, VS done as needed:

- Rescue
- Exposures
- Confinement
- Extinguishment
- Overhaul
- Ventilation
- Salvage

Structural Fire Tactical Goals:

From the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, a.k.a. “SLICERS”:

Sequential Actions:

S = Size-up

L = Locate the Fire

I = Identify and Control Flow Path

C = Cool the Space from Safest Location

E = Extinguish the Fire

Actions of Opportunity:

R = Rescue

S = Salvage

Emergency Scene Priorities for the Incident Commander

Tactical Objectives:

Direction/orders assigned to companies, typically 1 to 3 at a time. Based on the above Strategic Priorities/Objectives/Goals, but may include:

- Locate and confine the fire to the room/building of origin
- Rescue (and/or evacuate) all occupants from the building
- Establish water supply
- Place a ____ hoseline into operation on the _____
- Evacuate all occupants from the neighboring buildings
- Provide medical treatment for patients
- Triage for patients
- Establish a treatment area
- Establish a staging area
- Keep the fire from _____
- Check for extension
- Assess for ventilation needs
- Collect T-cards/Establish accountability
- Provide ventilation (horizontal or ventilations)
- Secure utilities
- Ladder the building
- Provide salvage
- Establish rehab
- Utilize a gated wye and bundles to ____
- Establish SCBA bottle support cache

Incident Objectives:

These are the “big picture” objectives you use to manage your incident; the typical incident may have anywhere from 3 to 7 incident objectives, being carried out by the crews through various assignments. In addition to the above Strategic Priorities/Objectives/Goals (RECEOVS):

- Provide for the safety, accountability and welfare of personnel
- Stabilize the patient
- Keep the fire from spreading to _____ (location, street, building, etc.)
- Conserve property
- Secure (or control) the perimeter
- Create hazard zones
- Establish control zones
- Identification of hazard/problem/material
- Secure ignition sources
- Establish decontamination process
- Establish protective action options
- Stabilize the incident and provide for life safety
- Remove endangered occupants and treat the injured
- Contain/control the hazardous materials release
- Identify and eliminate debris and fall hazards
- Providing information to media
- Providing support to on-scene personnel (rehab, tools/equipment, SCBA bottle support, etc.)
- Provide shelter to displaced occupants
- Determine cause and origin of problem
- Determine what caused the explosion
- Secure the scene (prior to departure)
- Notify appropriate other agencies

NOTE: The best way to describe incident objectives is they are items beginning with action verbs. Many of these are found within our Standard Operating Guidelines.

Emergency Scene Priorities for the Incident Commander

Benchmarks to State on Radio:

- On scene / report on conditions
- Command established
- Location of command post
- Strategic mode
- Water supply (who will establish)
- 2 in/2 out established (or not established)
- Utilities secured
- RIC established (including location)
- Staging area location
- All clear (primary search)
- Confirm core stations are covered
- Confirm all standard notifications are made and agencies/people are confirmed to be responding
- PARs (as appropriate)
- Knockdown
- Under control
- Secondary search completed
- Command terminated or transferred
- Duty Chief notified/updated

When Establishing a Division or Group (or Branch/Unit, etc.):

- Advise of who will be in charge / their radio designator
- Advise them of their tactical objectives
- Advise them of their assigned resources
- Remind them to provide a CAN (Conditions/Actions/Needs) report as needed

Notifications to Consider (if not a part of response strings):

- Utility company (gas and/or electric)
- Utility company supervisor
- On-call department personnel to assist with incident management team responsibilities
- Safety Officer
- Fire Investigator
- Volunteer or off-duty paid personnel
- Station move-ups to cover must-fill stations in the district
- Public Information Officer
- Law enforcement
- Law enforcement supervisor
- Ambulance Supervisor
- Ambulances
- Mutual aid resources not normally dispatched (water tenders, station coverage, etc.)
- Mass Casualty Alert or Activation?
 - o Alert (Local or Countywide)
 - o Activation (If requesting an Activation, don't forget to provide the following information):
 - Level of Activation (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5)
 - Number of patients requiring transportation
 - Ground ambulance staging location
 - Safety or approach instructions
 - Request additional units

Transfer of Command Briefing:

- Incident Conditions (Fire location/extent; haz mat conditions – spill or release; # of patients, etc.)
- IAP
- Progress toward completion of the Tactical Objectives
- Safety considerations

Emergency Scene Priorities for the Incident Commander

- Deployment and assignment of operating companies and personnel
- Appraisal of need for additional resources

OR

- What is the life hazard and what actions are being taken to address it?
- What is the location and extent of the fire (or hazard)? Is it extending?
- What are the exposures?
- What is the occupancy? Type of construction?
- What is the location of all on scene units and where have hoselines been placed?
- Are any additional units needed?
- Who is the RIC and what is their location?

OR

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| - What I have | - What I need |
| - What I have done | - What I recommend doing |

Incident Now Under Control/Post Incident:

- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing needed (need may be determined at any time during incident)?
- Start preparing a demob plan to get apparatus/personnel back in service & to their stations.
- Gather on scene officers to determine an overhaul plan, in conjunction with the Duty Investigator
- Ensure cause and origin process has been started and/or determined
- Complete a tailboard session prior to departure
- Ensure occupants/involved citizens are knowledgeable about what we are doing, why we are doing what we are doing, and what they need to do while we are on scene and after we leave the scene
- Prepare for the Post Incident Analysis
- Obtain radio tape from County Communications (automatically generated on 2nd alarms or greater)

Typical ICS Organization Chart Positions Filled Or Relevant Issues:

STRUCTURE FIRE:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| - Incident Commander | - Information Officer | - Planning Chief |
| - Safety Officer | - Operations Chief | - Logistics Chief |
| - Divisions: | | |
| o 1, 2, 3, etc. | | |
| o Subdivision 1, 2, 3, etc. | | |
| o A, B, C, D (for building/areas when looking from above) | | |
| - Groups: | | |
| o Fire attack | o Patient Transportation | o RIC |
| o Ventilation | o Salvage | o Rehab |
| o Exposure | o Rescue | o Structure protection |
| o Medical | o Haz Mat | |
| - Staging Area Manager | | |
| - Water Supply Officer | | |
| - Units: | | |
| o Medical | o Documentation | o Situation |
| o Rehab | o Resource | |

Emergency Scene Priorities for the Incident Commander

HIGH-RISE FIRE:

- Incident Commander
- Safety Officer
- Divisions:
 - o 1, 2, 3, etc.
 - o Subdivision 1, 2, 3, etc.
 - o A, B, C, D (for building/areas when looking from above)
- Groups:
 - o Fire attack
 - o Ventilation
 - o Medical
 - o Patient Transportation
 - o Salvage
 - o Rescue
 - o Rehab
 - o Haz Mat
- Staging Area Manager
- Base Manager
- Water Supply Officer
- Units:
 - o Medical
 - o Rehab
 - o Lobby
 - o Systems Control
 - o Ground Support
 - o Resource
 - o Situation

High Rise Incident First Alarm Resource Assignment Acronym – ALS BASE:

A = Fire Attack/Investigation

S = Staging/Supply

L = Lobby/Systems Control

Base = Incident Base

NOTE: If smoke/fire is present at a high-rise, upgrade to a 3rd alarm, strongly consider a 4th or 5th alarm!

WILDLAND FIRE:

- Incident Commander
- Safety Officer
- Branches:
 - o A, X (left flank/right flank for wildland fires)
 - o Can be functional or geographical
- Divisions:
 - o A, X (left flank/right flank for wildland fires)
- Groups:
 - o RIC (may or may not be a group – could be a Unit)
 - o Rehab (may or may not be a group – could be a Unit)
 - o Structure defense
- Staging Area Manager
- Water Supply Officer
- Units:
 - o Medical
 - o Rehab
 - o Documentation
 - o Ground Support
 - o Resource
 - o Situation

HAZ MAT:

- Incident Commander
- Safety Officer
- Divisions:
 - o 1, 2, 3, etc.
 - o Subdivision 1, 2, 3, etc.
- Information Officer
- Operations Chief
- Planning Chief
- Logistics Chief

Emergency Scene Priorities for the Incident Commander

- A, B, C, D (for buildings/areas when looking from above)
- A, X (left flank/right flank for wildland fires)
- Interior
- Groups:
 - Fire attack
 - Ventilation
 - Exposure
 - Medical
 - Patient Transportation
 - Rescue
 - Evacuation
 - Haz Mat
 - RIC
 - Rehab
- Staging Area Manager
- Units:
 - Medical
 - Rehab
 - Entry
 - Site Access Control
 - Documentation
 - Decontamination
 - Resource
 - Situation

Typical Hierarchy Haz Mat:

- Assistant Safety Officer (Haz Mat) – reporting to the Safety Officer/I.C.
- Haz Mat Group Supervisor
 - Entry Unit Leader
 - Site Access Control Unit Leader
 - Safe Refuge Area Manager
 - Decontamination Unit Leader
 - Technical Specialists

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT:

- Incident Commander
- Safety Officer
- Information Officer
- Branches:
 - Geographical or functional
- Divisions:
 - A, B, C, D (for buildings/areas when looking from above)
- Groups:
 - Fire
 - Law
 - Medical
 - Patient Transportation
 - Rescue
 - Haz Mat
 - Rehab
- Units:
 - Triage
 - Treatment
 - Site Access Control
 - Documentation
 - Resource
- Managers:
 - Staging Area Manager
 - Treatment Dispatch Manager
 - Immediate Treatment Area Manager
 - Delayed Treatment Area Manager
 - Minor Treatment Area Manager
- Other:
 - Medical Supply Coordinator
 - Medical Communications Coordinator
 - Ground Ambulance Coordinator

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Typical Hierarchy Mass Casualty Incident:

Medical Group Supervisor

- Triage Unit Leader
 - Triage Personnel
 - Morgue Manager
- Medical Supply Coordinator
- Treatment Unit Leader
 - Treatment Dispatch Manager
 - Immediate Treatment Manager
 - Delayed Treatment Manager
 - Minor Treatment Area Manager

Patient Transportation Group Supervisor

- Medical Communications Coordinator
- Ground Ambulance Coordinator