

**TOWN OF WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

**SECTION: Company Operations
SUBJECT: First to Arrive Duties
REVISED: 7/2013**

PURPOSE:

To provide a uniform guideline for determining strategic and tactical goals when evaluating an emergency incident for first arriving apparatus.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of this department to have first in companies to evaluate an emergency incident and establishing strategic and tactical goals.

PROCEDURES:

- A. Upon Arrival:
 - 1. Transmit a brief and concise initial radio report to include:
 - a. Unit number and "on scene"
 - b. Height of building in stories.
 - c. Type of building usage (dwelling, apartment, commercial, etc.)
 - d. Conditions on arrival.
 - e. Officer or person in charge.
 - 2. Evaluate resource needs and request additional resources if needed. CAD alarms for mutual aid calls are located in Annex B.
 - 3. Assume command of the situation and remain in command until formally relieved by a chief officer.
 - 4. Size-up the emergency situation.
 - 5. Determine the primary objectives based on priorities.
 - 6. Determine strategy based on objectives and strategies.
 - 7. Develop an action plan based on objectives and strategies.
 - 8. Assign other arriving units until relieved of command.
 - 9. Whenever the incident is obviously beyond the capabilities of the first arriving unit, it may be better for the first officer to initially set up a command post rather than become involved directly in operation.

LIFE SAFETY:

- A. If there is a life 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 towards minimizing the life hazard.
- B. Sometimes an aggressive quick attack on the problem will alleviate the life hazard.
- C. Life safety includes the life safety of the public and fire personnel.
- D. Fire personnel should not be placed in precarious positions or take unnecessary risks.

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.

CONTROL:

- A. The term “control” is used in place of the term “extinguishment” since firefighting is not the only type of emergency problem that the fire department personnel must handle.
- B. Control relates to those activities engaged in by fire personnel which directly reduce or abate an emergency problem.
- C. Many times control efforts such as direct attack on a fire can accomplish life safety, confinement, and control simultaneously.
- D. Control operations are utilized with an offensive strategy.

OTHER:

The alarm assignment list set up with Jefferson County CAD will be attached to this guideline Manual as Annex-B.