

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE - 4.2.2

TOPIC - INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM - ESTABLISHMENT

PURPOSE:

To promote a standard approach to the establishment of the incident command system used in emergencies.

GENERAL:

Emergency scenes are often filled with noise and confusion, our duty is to organize and manage resources to a degree which brings order to the emergency. Initiating the Incident Command system from the time of our arrival will greatly enhance our ability to operate safely and effectively.

On arrival, the first unit must make some essential decisions to be able to effectively establish and continue command.

GUIDELINE:

1. Quickly gather sufficient information to formulate a conscious plan of action.
2. Based on available resources, and actual scene conditions, select a mode of command from three basic options.
 - a. Nothing showing mode: Command will be mobile, assisting crews to determine the exact nature of the incident. Under this mode command does not need to be transferred.
 - b. Fast action mode: This is best defined as an incident where immediate action will make a significant difference in the outcome. Command may be temporarily mobile under this mode, however for the safety of the total operation and for the effective use of additional resources, command must be transferred to a stationary position in a safe area.
 - c. Command mode: All working incidents will eventually result in the establishment of a stationary command post which is visible, identifiable and out of the way of units operating on the scene. At times the first arriving unit will not be able to safely take quick, direct action, and may be put to better use in the establishment of a command post beginning the planning process for additional arriving resources.
3. The stationary command post will use a green light to identify its location.
4. Identify the need for additional command staff. Any position not filled by another person will be handled by the Incident Commander.
 - a. Safety officer.
 - b. Public Information officer.

- c. Liaison officer.
 - d. Communications officer.
 - e. Aide.
5. Divide the incident into small manageable units, limiting the number of persons reporting directly to Command to only five.
 6. Gain status and progress reports routinely throughout the duration of the incident.
 7. Adjust the action plan to meet the requirements of the incident.