


SHELBYVILLE FIRE & RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES		
	SECTION: Operations SUBJECT: Fireground Factors	S.O.P: 109.05
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	Approved By:	Effective Date: December 1, 2012 Revision Date:

Purpose:

This policy is to understand the Fireground Factors that may arise on any given alarm response.

Procedure:

Fireground factors offer a standard list of basic items Command must consider in the evaluation of tactical situations. This list should provide Command with a “checklist” of the basic items that are involved in size-up, decision-making, initiating action, review and revision on the fireground.

The effective Command Officer can only deal with a limited number of factors of any kind on the fireground. Within the framework of that limitation, the identification of critical factors is extremely important. All the factors that are significant in each tactical situation – the list of factors offers a framework for that process.

Many times we begin operations before adequately considering the critical fireground factors. Size-up is a conscious process involving the very rapid but deliberate consideration of the critical factors and the development of a strategy and rational plan of attack based on those conditions. Attack is many times an instinctive action-oriented process that involves taking the shortest and quickest route directly to the fire. Action feels good in fireground situations while thinking delays action. Beware of non-thinking attack situations and non-thinking attackers!


Fireground factors represent an array of items that are dynamic during the entire fireground process. The relative importance of each factor necessarily changes throughout that time frame. Command must continually deal with these changes and base decisions of factor information that is timely and current. Beware of developing an initial plan of attack and sticking to that same initial plan throughout the fire, even though conditions continue to change. Effective fire operations require attack plan revisions that continually reconsider fireground factors based upon information feedback.

In critical fire situations, Command may develop an initial plan and initiate an attack based on an incomplete evaluation of fireground factors. In such cases, efforts must continue throughout the operation to improve the information on which those decisions are based. Command will seldom operate with complete information during initial operations.

Effective management of each fireground factors requires Command to apply a somewhat different form of information management (visual, recon, preplan) to each factor. This is particularly true between the major categories of factors. Command must deal with each factor in the most effective manner.

Most tactical situations represent a complex problem with regard to how Command deals with fireground factor information. There are factors that can be determined from a Command position on the outside of the structure and other factors that can only be determined from other operating positions – both outside and inside the structure. Fireground intelligence available to Command is developed utilizing an overlapping variety revolve around the three basic information factors:

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Purpose:

This policy explains the standard company responsibilities for the SFD.

Procedure:

Standard company operations assign basic fireground functions and activities to companies based upon the capability and characteristics of each type of unit.

Standard company operations assign major fireground functions to the particular company who can best accomplish the operation.

Standard company operations integrate the efforts of engine, ladder and rescue companies to achieve rescue, fire control and loss control activities.

Standard company operations increase the awareness and confidence of company members in the standard performance of other companies operating on the fireground.

Standard company operations reduce the amount and detail of orders required to get companies into action on the fireground.

The following items represent the standard operations that will normally be performed by engine, ladder, and rescue companies. These basic functions will provide the framework for field operations for these companies:


1. Engine – Company Functions:

- a. Search, rescue and treatment
- b. Stretch hoselines
- c. Operate nozzles
- d. Pump hoselines
- e. Loss control

2. Ladder – Company Functions

- a. Search, rescue, and treatment
- b. Ventilate
- c. Forcible entry
- d. Raise ladders
- e. Provide access / check fire extension
- f. Utility control
- g. Provide lighting
- h. Operate ladder pipes (aerials and platforms only)
- i. Perform overhaul
- j. Extrication

k. Loss control

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3. Rescue – Company Functions

- a. Performs technical rescues
- b. Search, rescue and treatment: Rescue companies should communicate commitment and location to Command and maintain a retrievable status for victim treatment.
- c. General firefighting duties as assigned by Command.

The first arriving engine, ladder or rescue companies will perform these functions as required and ordered by Command. These companies will advise Command on the type of function they are performing. Company Officers will determine, based upon conditions and the risk management profile, the priority of the functions for their company unless otherwise ordered by Command.

This does not limit a company to only its listed functions. Every company will be expected to perform all basic functions safely within the limits of their capability, and it will be the on-going responsibility of Command to integrate tasks and functions as required with the on-scene units.

In the absence (or delay) of ladder companies, Command should assign ladder functions to an engine company: “Engine 13, perform ladder functions” In such cases, engine companies will perform all ladder functions within the capability of their company.

The assignment of these basic operations represents a standard fireground plan for tactical operations designed to improve the effectiveness and safety of all units working together. This plan should in no way limit the initiative of any officer and should enhance the decision making process of all officers by establishing a standard operational framework.