

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE CRITERIA

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE GUIDELINES

This section sets forth the standard response for a given type of emergency incident. While these response guidelines may vary depending upon the nature of the specific call, the manpower available, and other factors known, it is the purpose of these response guidelines to provide a sufficient number of responding apparatus so as to not jeopardize protection of the remaining non-involved portions of the Fire District.

For the purpose of the response guidelines, the Western Reserve Joint Fire District has been divided into four districts (91, 92, 93, and 94). District 91 comprises primarily the area of Poland Village. District 92 is the southern area of Poland Township. District 93 encompasses the northern area of Poland Township (“The North Hill”). District 94 encompasses eastern Poland Township.

Multiple Alarms/MABAS

This standard sets forth the standard response for Fire District’s apparatus to various types of emergency incidents. In many cases, the District may not have sufficient apparatus for the magnitude of the emergency incident. In that case, the Incident Commander may request manpower or specific apparatus from neighboring jurisdictions. However, if time is of the essence, the Incident Commander may simply request a second, third, fourth, etc., alarm. In that case, the fire dispatcher shall summon the units set forth in the District’s multiple alarms (MABAS) preplan which are included in this section.

In the event that multiple alarms are struck by the Incident Commander, a Staging Officer shall be assigned, and all incoming companies shall be requested to report to the staging area. The District shall continue to utilize the Incident Management System set forth in these SOGs when multiple alarms have been struck, and specifically recognized is the increasing need to do so when additional companies are operating on the fire ground.

GENERAL OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY INCIDENTS

1. Manpower Requirements

The Fire District shall provide an adequate number of personnel to safely conduct emergency scene operations. No member or members shall commence or perform any fire fighting function or evolution that is not within the established safety criteria set forth in this Section. If sufficient manpower is not available, the Fire District shall require assistance from other departments or agencies. Operations shall be limited to those that can be safely performed by the personnel available at the scene.

2. Inexperienced Members

When inexperienced members are working at an incident, direct supervision shall be provided by more experienced officers or members. This requirement shall not reduce the training requirements set forth in the Standard Operating Guidelines.

3. Hazardous Areas

Members operating in the hazardous areas at emergency incidents shall operate in teams of two or more. Team members operating in hazardous areas shall be in communication with each other through visual, audible, physical, safety guide rope, or electronic means, or by other means in order to coordinate their activities. Team members shall be in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of emergency.

In the initial stages of an incident where only one team is operating in a hazardous area, at least two additional members shall be assigned to standby outside of the hazardous area where the team is operating. 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. Standby members shall remain in radio, visual, voice or signal communications with the team.

The “initial stages” of an incident shall encompass the tasks undertaken by the first arriving company with only one team assigned or operating in the hazardous area.

The standby member shall be permitted to perform other duties outside of the hazardous area, such as Apparatus Operator, Incident Commander, or Technician or Aid, provided constant communication is maintained between the standby member and the members of the team

The standby member shall be provided with appropriate full protective clothing and protective equipment as required in these Standard Operating Procedures. The standby member shall be permitted to rescue or provide for rescue of the members of the one team that is operating if the need arises. If such a rescue need arises, the standby member shall indicate the situation to the communication center and additional response shall be dispatched if not already underway.

Once the second team 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 crew shall be required.

4. Emergency Medical Care

When members are performing special operations, the highest level of emergency medical care shall be standing by at the scene with medical equipment and transportation capabilities. Basic life support shall be the minimum level of emergency medical care.

All emergency medical personnel who provide emergency medical care and medical monitoring at a hazardous material incident shall meet the minimum requirements of NFPA 473, Standard for Competencies for EMS personnel responding to hazardous materials incidents.

At all other emergency operations, the Incident Commander shall evaluate the risk of the members operating at the scene and, if necessary, request that at least basic life support personnel and patient transportation be available.

5. Hazardous Motor Vehicle Traffic

When members are operating at an emergency incident and their assignment places them in a potential conflict with motor vehicle traffic, they shall wear a garment with fluorescent and retroreflective material. (DOT vest)

Apparatus shall be utilized as a shield from oncoming traffic wherever possible.

When acting as a shield, apparatus warning lights shall remain on, and fluorescent and retroreflective warning devices such as traffic cones, illuminating warning devices such as highway flares, or other appropriate warning devices shall be used to warn oncoming traffic of the emergency operations and hazards to members operating at the incident.