

Halifax Fire Department

September 19, 2003

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Initial Fire Ground Operations

8.01 PURPOSE

- A. To reduce the amount and detail of orders required to get companies into operation on the fire Ground.
- B. To integrate the efforts of engine, ladder, and incident command operations to maximize effective rescue, incident control, and property conservation.

8.02 DEFINITIONS

- A. AO / PO = Aerial Operator / Pump Operator.
- B. Due = The order in which a company arrives or is expected to arrive.
- C. FF = Firefighter.
- D. PPE = Personal Protective Equipment.
- E. SCBA = Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.
- F. PASS = Personal Alert Safety System.
- G. TIC = Thermal Imaging Camera.

8.03 POLICY

- A. Personnel should attempt to follow these guidelines whenever possible in order to meet the stated purpose. However, personnel must maintain a level of flexibility enabling them to adapt to unique situations.

8.04.1 PROCEDURE

- A. The first arriving unit will give a Brief Initial Report (BIR) which should Include (where applicable) the number of stories, type of structure, what's showing, which side showing from, report on exposures, and who is in command.
- B. If the fire in a building requires deployment of a hoseline, the Incident Commander will advise Fire Alarm that the incident is a "working fire" that will prompt the dispatcher to notify Plymouth County Control for the proper coverage, unless otherwise specified by the IC. If conditions warrant the Incident commander may skip the "working fire" report and request a second alarm (or greater) alarm as necessary.
- C. All companies will operate on an assigned fire ground channel unless directed otherwise by the Incident Commander.

8.04.2

- A. ***First Due Engine*** – is responsible for locating the fire building, identifying or establishing a water supply if conditions warrant, performing initial rescue operations if evident, and putting the first attack line into operation.

Officer – PPE, SCBA, PASS, portable radio, and hand light. Size-up situation, determine proper engine placement, direct and assist in line placement. If the Ladder Company is not on-scene at the same time the officer should have a tool with them to force entry and or ventilate if necessary.

Driver Pump Operator (DPO) – PPE, portable radio. Establish water supply, operate pump, deploy back up line, and if necessary supply the FD connection for buildings with sprinklers or standpipes.

Firefighter 1 (FF) – PPE, SCBA, PASS, portable radio, and hand light. Deploy initial attack line into position indicated by the officer and operate nozzle under supervision of the officer.

Firefighter 2 (FF) – PPE, SCBA, PASS, portable radio, axe or haligan, and hand light. Check line for kinks and assist in deployment of attack line.

- B. ***Second Due Engine*** – is responsible for supplying water to the first due if necessary, operating the back up line, and if necessary supplying and pumping to the FDC for buildings with sprinkler or standpipe systems. Unless instructed otherwise by the IC.

Officer – PPE, SCBA, PASS, portable radio, and hand light. Request assignment from IC, direct and assist in back up line placement.

Driver Pump Operator (DPO) – PPE, portable radio, and hand light. Assist the first due DPO in establishing a water supply if necessary, pump from the hydrant, and assist with line advancement at entry points.

Firefighter 1 (FF) – PPE, SCBA, PASS, portable radio, and hand light. Deploy back up line into position indicated by the officer and operate nozzle, if pumping the hydrant connect hydrant assist valve and hose(s), and open hydrant on request of first due DPO.

Firefighter 2 (FF) – PPE, SCBA, PASS, hand tool, portable radio, and hand light. Assist FF 1 with assignment(s).

- C. **First Due Ladder** – is responsible for search, rescue, ventilation, forcible entry, laddering, and opening concealed spaces. Secondary functions include lighting, salvage, and overhaul. The ladder should be positioned to maximize the use of its resources and best facilitate the completion of its tasks (usually in the front of the structure).

Officer – PPE, SCBA, PASS, TIC, hand tool, portable radio, and hand light. Determine proper apparatus placement and direct ladder company operations.

Aerial Operator (AO) – PPE, portable radio, and hand light. Operate aerial ladder, place ground ladder(s), establish positive pressure ventilation, provide lighting, and establish equipment area.

Firefighter 1 (FF) – PPE, SCBA, PASS, portable radio, hand light, and pike pole. Perform ladder operations under the direction of the officer.

Firefighter 2 (FF) – PPE, SCBA, PASS, portable radio, hand light, and axe or haligan. Assist FF 1 with assignment(s).

- D. **First Due Chief** (Deputy / Chief) – PPE, PASS, portable radio, and hand light. The first due chief is responsible for assuming command if necessary, sizing up the incident, developing an action plan, monitoring its effectiveness, and managing resources as necessary. While both radio channels must be monitored, the fire ground channel should be the priority.