

# STRUCTURE FIRE – COMMAND

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- **2 in / 2 out is required unless the fire is *incipient* or you are performing rescue(s).**
- Ensure size-up and incident updates are copied by dispatch, sometimes this will require parroting on a different channel. Have other companies or BC's assist you with this whenever possible.

## ENROUTE PROTOCOLS:

1. Advise ECSO / and first due BC if responding from any location other than your station/quarters.
2. BC should attempt to monitor all companies as able. After all crews are enroute and the dispatcher "goes with info" the BC shall switch the alarm to **Medford TAC Repeat**. *Switch every structure fire response without delay.* (Multiple incidents and some geographic areas require alternate TAC Channels; RV TAC 1 or Medford TAC-Direct are good alternates.
3. Companies who become available from other calls or details:
  - If you are in the first due area where the fire is – add yourself to the alarm.
  - If you believe your crew would arrive sooner than a responding company-contact the BC and they will decide if you should be added.
  - The BC will manage companies to ensure **only** the appropriate number of companies are responding.

## TERMINOLOGY:

**Nothing Showing:** When the first company arrives and advises nothing is showing it is understood they will be investigating. Additional responding companies will continue Code 1 unless directed to stage or return by the Incident Commander.

**Light Smoke Showing:** Describes a situation where there is smoke showing but may be remedied **without** the use of all responding companies. When the first company arrives and advises light smoke showing it is understood they will be investigating. Additional responding companies will continue Code 3 unless directed to reduce, stage, or return by the Incident Commander.

**Working Fire:** Describes a situation that will likely require the commitment of all responding companies. This designator advises dispatch that companies will be engaged in tactical activities and possibly held on scene for an extended period of time.

**Defensive Fire Conditions:** The incident problem has evolved to the point that lives and property are no longer savable and offensive tactics are no longer effective or safe; the primary focus with these conditions will generally be exposure protection.

**On-Deck:** Defined as a forward staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone. Once a crew is assigned to an On-Deck position, they are first and foremost available to assist with a MAYDAY until they are given an assignment by command. Personnel will walk into the forward "On-Deck" area with full PPE, RIT bag, RIT tarp/carryall, and a flashlight. The first engine assigned to a dedicated "RIT" assignment will establish the RIT cache (see the "RIT – Pre-Activation" protocol).

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## ARRIVAL (Size-Up) PROTOCOLS:

1. Provide **Arrival Report**.
    - Describe the building; size, height, and occupancy type. For big box buildings or well-known buildings call it by name (Fred Meyer, Wal-Mart, Lowe's, etc.)
    - Describe the problem AND the location; nothing/light smoke showing, working fire, or defensive fire conditions
    - Declaration the Strategy; Offensive or Defensive
    - State your Initial Incident Action Plan (IAP)
      - Utilize the Task, Location, Objective (TLO) format
        - Example; stretching a transitional line (**T**) to the Bravo side (**L**) for fire control and exposure protection (**O**)
    - Determine resource needs (cancel, reduce, stage, or request greater alarm)
    - Assume and name Command
  2. Provide a **Follow-Up Radio Report** on the command channel. If ECSO does not parrot you must rebroadcast on the dispatch channel also. This includes any additional critical information that was not reported on the Arrival Report including:
    - The results of the 360°
    - Hazards Identified including safety concerns and/or the presence of a basement
    - Designate the Alpha side
    - State if you have your own water supply
    - Identify if there are any changes to the IAP
    - Announce the accountability point (this may also establish the Alpha/Adam side)
- \*\*Note\*\*** It is assumed that Company Officers (IC #1) will be engaged at the task level as **Working Command**. Declare when and where a Fixed Command is established.
3. Transfer command when / if appropriate.

## COMMAND OPTIONS:

- **Fixed Command:**

**A fixed command post is generally either inside the vehicle or outside from the street.**

The emergency situation requires a strong, direct command from the outset due to the size of the fire, the complexity/potential of the incident, or the possibility of the expansion of the incident organization. In these cases the officer will assume a fixed command position and maintain that position until relieved, often taking the officer out of direct supervision of their company. Fixed command post locations should be broadcast during the Follow-Up Radio Report or during a transfer of command from IC #1 (Company Officer) to IC #2 (Chief Officer).

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## COMMAND OPTIONS CONTINUED:

- **Working Command:**

Situations which require immediate action to try and stabilize the situation. The officer will be forward with the company working at the task level. This option generally requires the incident commander to remain in direct supervision and with their company and will end with one of the following:

- The incident is stabilized and command is terminated.
- Command is passed to a subsequent arriving officer.
- The incident is not stabilized and the officer must transition to a Fixed Command Position.

## OPERATIONAL STRATEGY/MODE:

- **OFFENSIVE:** Interior operations or exterior operations that occur in close proximity to the hazard zone. We will take calculated risk and at times risk a lot. **You have three offensive tactical action options - see below.**
- **DEFENSIVE:** Exclusively an exterior operation with the highest priority of providing for **FIREFIGHTER SAFETY** and to **protect exposures**. Generally occurs when interior conditions, fire volume, resource availability, or other incident priorities prohibit an offensive strategy. Water is applied through exterior openings and defensive fire control shall occur from **beyond** the collapse, hazard, and/or hot zone.

## OFFENSIVE TACTICAL ACTIONS:

1. **Transitional Attack:** Commonly the most effective initial tactical action. Streams are directed into the building from the exterior until sufficient interior improvement allows for the interior advance to occur. The transitional attack is carried out in very close proximity to the building with the understanding that we intend to go inside as quickly as possible.

### **Transitional Attack Considerations:**

- Choose a large enough line, when in doubt--choose the larger line.
  - Smooth bore or straight stream to the ceiling in the fire room(s) is the best option. Avoid fog streams. Avoid fanning the ceiling and letting the fire into the attic space.
  - Either make a rapid offensive transition or keep water flowing until entry is made. The fire will return to its original size within 100 seconds after water stops flowing.
2. **Interior Fire Control:** Lines are advanced and water flowed inside the building while advancing to the seat of the fire. **2 in / 2 out is mandatory.**
  3. **Rescue (May be either from a fixed or working command position):**  
Personnel are performing a rescue of a person **whom is in imminent danger**. Members and especially the IC may be unable to communicate much. **2-in and 2-out is not required during the rescue of a person in imminent danger.** Members may either be inside or outside the structure. **Next arriving officer is LIKELY to assume command UPON ARRIVAL. *You cannot be an IC unless you are on-scene.***

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## TRANSFER OF COMMAND:

1. Generally, command officers will relieve another officer when:
  - The original IC will be more effective in a subordinate position. (Company Officer, Division/Group Supervisor, Incident Safety Officer, etc.)
  - IC requests relief or the original IC is not performing in a satisfactory manner
  - The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) needs to assume command due to political or financial complexities of the incident
2. Transfer of command:
  - IC #2 (generally a Chief Officer) arrives and timestamps their arrival using the MDC
  - IC #2 updates their command board/tactical worksheet and performs their own 360° to gain a good situational awareness of the incident
  - IC #2 communicates with IC #1 face-to-face or by radio to obtain a briefing
    - Verify all operating positions match the current incident conditions
    - Verify the position/function of all hazard zone resources with IC #1 and get a CAN report
    - Announce to IC #1 that you'll be "assuming command"
  - Contact ECSO and confirm the command transfer
    - *"BAT2 has assumed Main Street Command"*
    - Announce/re-state the current strategy
    - Identify the fixed location of the command post
    - State the resource determination (continue assignment, greater alarm, etc.)

## IC BENCHMARKS to ECSO (when appropriate)

**\*\*Ensure these are recorded and timestamped by broadcasting on the appropriate channel\*\***

- Provide arrival report and follow up radio report
- Declare operational strategy/mode
- Assume and name command
- Transfer of command
- Incident Safety Officer (ISO) established (if delegated)
- Fire knockdown
- Primary search complete **and** its result
- Secondary search complete **and** its result
- Any change to operational strategy/mode (strategic shift)
- Abandon, Withdrawal, etc.
- PAR/Rollcall results
- MAYDAY DECLARED
- Overhaul period initiated (see Overhaul Protocol)