
	<b>STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE</b>			
	OPERATIONS			
	FIRE GROUND SAFETY			
	Effective: 01/Jan/92	Revised:28/Dec/2020	S.O.G. #: O- 322	

## 1.0 Purpose



- 1.1 The purpose of this guideline is to establish procedures to minimize fire ground confusion and congestion and to limit the number of personnel exposed to fire ground hazards to only those necessary to control the operation.

## 2.0 Responsibility

- 2.1 It is the responsibility of all Department personnel to understand the procedures documented in this Standard Operating Guideline.

## 3.0 Tactical Positioning

- 3.1 Positioning of operating companies can severely affect the safety/survival of such companies. Personnel must use caution when placed in the following positions:
- 3.1.1 Above the fire (floors/roof).
  - 3.1.2 Where the fire can move behind them.
  - 3.1.3 Where the companies cannot control their position/escape route.
  - 3.1.4 When involved with opposing fire streams.
  - 3.1.5 Combining interior and exterior attacks.
  - 3.1.6 With limited access - one way in/one way out.
  - 3.1.7 Operating under involved roof structures.
  - 3.1.8 In areas containing hazardous materials.
  - 3.1.9 Below grade fires.
  - 3.1.10 In areas where there is a backdraft potential.
  - 3.1.11 Above or below grade or confined space rescues.
- 3.2 The safety of firefighting personnel represents the major reason for an effective and well-timed offensive/defensive strategy. When operating in the defensive mode, operating positions should be as far from the involved area as possible while still remaining effective. Position and operate from behind barriers if available (fences, walls, etc.). The intent is for personnel to utilize safe positioning where available in an effort to safeguard against sudden hazardous developments such as backdraft explosions, structural collapses, or other unforeseen hazards.
- 3.3 When operating in an offensive mode, be aggressively cautious. An effective, coordinated interior attack operation directed toward knocking down the fire eliminates most safety problems.
- 3.4 Due to the inherent hazards of the immediate fire or incident scene, efforts will be made by Command to limit the number or personnel on the fire ground to those assigned to necessary functions. All personnel shall be:
- 3.4.1 Positioned in staging.
  - 3.4.2 Assigned to a task or operating within a Sector with their company intact.
  - 3.4.3 Having completed an assignment and no other task being needed within that Sector, those crews should be assigned to a Resource, Staging, or Rehab Sector until such a time that they can be reassigned to an Operating Sector or released to in-service status.
- 3.5 When it is necessary to engage personnel in exceptionally hazardous areas (above or below grade rescues, confined space rescues, etc.), Command will limit the number of personnel exposed to an absolute minimum and assure that all feasible safety measures are taken.

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- 3.6 In situations where crews must operate from opposing or conflicting positions such as front vs. rear attack streams, roof crews vs. interior crews, etc., utilize radio or face-to-face communications to coordinate your actions with those of the opposing crew in an effort to prevent injuries.
- 3.7 Ground crews must be notified and evacuated from interior positions before ladder pipes go into operation.
- 3.8 Do not operate exterior streams, whether hand lines, master streams, ladder pipes, etc., into an area where interior crews are operating. This procedure is intended to prevent injuries to personnel due to stream blasts and the driving of fire and heavy heat and smoke onto interior crews.
- 3.9 When laddering a roof, the ladder selected shall be one which will extend two to three feet above the roof line. This shall be done in an effort to provide personnel operating on the roof with a visible means to locate the ladder in smoke conditions. If possible, when laddering a building under fire conditions, place ladders near building corners or firewalls as these are generally more stable in the event of structural failure.
- 3.10 When operating either above or below ground level, establish at least two (2) separate escape routes where possible. These exit locations should be at opposite ends or diagonal corners of the building or separated by a considerable distance.

**4.0 Fire ground Perimeter**

- 4.1 Many safety principles revolve around action that takes place within the Fire ground Perimeter or on the fire ground.
- 4.2 For the purpose of Highland Park Fire Department operations, the Fire ground Perimeter can be defined as:
  - 4.2.1 The area inside an imaginary boundary that has been determined by safety and tactical considerations according to the foreseeable hazards of that particular incident.
- 4.3 The flexible boundary that determines the Fire ground Perimeter can be altered by various safety factors.
- 4.4 All personnel entering the Fire ground Perimeter shall:
  - 4.4.1 Wear protective clothing including S.C.B.A.
  - 4.4.2 Have crew intact
  - 4.4.3 Be assigned to a Sector
- 4.5 All other personnel will remain outside unless otherwise instructed by the Incident Commander or Safety Officer.
- 4.6 The Fire ground Perimeter is not necessarily marked by any warning device. The area is defined in most cases by an imaginary boundary. It is suggested that you use imaginary lines such as a sidewalk, trees, lamp post, fence posts etc. as your Fire ground Perimeter on the involved property.
- 4.7 Yellow or red fire line tape is intended to keep civilians and spectators out of an area where a hazard exists or operations are in progress. This tape may also be used as a warning device for personnel authorized to operate on the fire ground.

**5.0 Reference**

- 5.1 Highland Park Fire Department

Approved:  Fire Chief