



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

24-01

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**Incident Response Policy Appendix Q
Definitions**

01/02/2018

Issued by: Fire Chief Scott Goldstein

Policy Number: 24-01

Authority: Montgomery County Code Section 21-3 (b)

Supersedes: *IRP Appendix Q Definitions*, dated 07/01/2017

Effective Date: February 4, 2018

- a. **Assume (Command).** This term describes the action of a Certified Command Officer exercising his/her authority to become the Incident Commander.
- b. **Attack Tanker Operation.** The designated initial water supply operation for structure fires in rural areas. This operation requires the first engine, second engine, and first due tanker (attack tanker) to be co-located and concentrate their water resources on supporting the initial attack.
- c. **Attack Tanker.** The first due tanker on a rural water supply assignment.
- d. **Battalion Command Platform.** A command vehicle outfitted to the minimum requirements established by the Fire Chief.
- e. **Battalion Line-up.** An electronic form used to track personnel daily riding assignments.
- f. **Blocking Unit.** Fire and rescue apparatus positioned upstream from the work area to create a physical barrier between oncoming traffic and an incident scene.
- g. **Circle Check.** A 360 inspection of the outside of a structure or other hazard area intended to develop situational awareness.
- h. **Crew.** A group of two or more firefighters, rescuers, and emergency medical services personnel responding to an incident, staffing a specific unit.
- i. **Defensive.** In the context of this policy "defensive" refers to one of the two incident strategies. Defensive means that personnel recognize that they cannot actively or directly correct the problem per se and are attempting to contain the problem.
- j. **Downstream.** The direction that traffic is moving as it travels away from the incident scene.
- k. **Dump Site Operations.** A method for expanding initial water supply in the rural environment that involves the use of portable tanks to provide an on-site static water supply.
- l. **Extrication.** The use of hydraulic, mechanical, pneumatic, electrical, gas powered, and/or hand tools to free victims who are Trapped or Pinned in a vehicle.
- m. **Fast Water, Coordinated Ventilation.** This is the core operational approach for MCFRS operating on structure fires. It requires personnel to use the fastest, most direct method



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possible to put water on the fire in order to reduce the amount of heat, smoke, and other products of combustion that the fire is generating.

- n. **Flowpath.** The path that products of combustion take between the high pressure area of the fire and the lower pressure areas outside the structure.

- a. **Full Personal Protective Equipment (Full PPE).** For the purposes of *IRP Appendix P: Vehicle Collisions*, "Full PPE" is defined as either:
 - 1. MCFRS approved, NFPA 1971 compliant, structural firefighting ensemble and ANSI Z.87.1 eye protection. (extrication gloves may be substituted for firefighting gloves)

Or

 - 2. MCFRS approved, NFPA 1951 compliant, technical rescue ensemble and ANSI Z.87.1 eye protection.

Or

 - 3. MCFRS approved, NFPA 1999 compliant, EMS protective ensemble and ANSI Z.87.1 eye protection.

- o. **Heavy-Water Hookup.** A method for connecting an engine to a fire hydrant where the hydrant steamer and at least one hydrant butt end are dressed with appliances and immediately available for use.

- p. **"Own Hydrant".** A method for establishing a water supply for an incident where the engine uses the pre-connected soft sleeve to connect to the hydrant.

- q. **High Rise.** A structure more than five stories in height, or seventy-five feet above to lowest fire department vehicle access.

- r. **Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH).** An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous environment.

- s. **Incident Command System.** An organizational structure protocol that supports an Incident Commander and is intended to promote communication, coordination, accountability, and effective action to respond to a natural disaster or other emergency.

- t. **Incident Command Team.** At least two Certified Chief Officers operating inside a stationary vehicle-based command post.

- u. **Incident Duration Reminders (IDRs).** Announcements issued by the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) to advise the Incident Commander of the duration of the incident.



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- v. **Initial On Scene Report (IOSR).** A report provided by the first arriving unit to each side of a structure that provides a situation assessment.
- w. **Inner Circle.** A work area established around the vehicle(s), usually extending ten to fifteen feet in all directions.
- b. **Inner Circle Check.** Size up, perform preliminary triage, and evaluate hazards and special problems in the Inner Circle, and immediately around the vehicles.
 - 1. Assessment of scene safety and immediate life hazards (e.g., wires, fire, etc.)
 - 2. Assessment of the number and status of patients in or near vehicles.
 - 3. Isolation of vehicle power and actions to limit vehicle motion.
 - 4. Identification of vehicle-specific hazards (electric, hybrid, or compressed gas, etc) and notification of all personnel if found or suspected.
- x. **Interior Structural Firefighting.** The physical activity of performing fire suppression or rescue while inside buildings that are involved in fire beyond the ignition stage.
- y. **Keyless Ignition.** A vehicle system that allow the ignition to be turned on, or engine started, without a key being placed in a keyway. The ignition may be activated with a push of a button if the keyfob is within approximately 5' of the vehicle.
- z. **Known Life Hazard.** A circumstance where responding personnel can hear or see a person in distress, or have received reliable information from the Emergency Communications Center or a bystander indicating that a person is in an IDLH atmosphere.
- aa. **LCAN Report.** The Location, Conditions, Actions, Needs (LCAN) report is a method for providing situation updates to command.
- bb. **MAYDAY.** An emergency distress signal indicating that one or more fire/rescue personnel need emergency assistance to escape an (IDLH) atmosphere or other life threatening situation.
- cc. **Offensive.** In the context of this policy "offensive" refers to one of the two incident strategies. Offensive means that personnel are actively and directly attempting to correct the identified problem.
- dd. **Outer Circle.** The entire area of the collision outside of the Inner Circle which will need to be checked for additional vehicles or patients.
- ee. **Outer Circle Check.** Size-up the overall accident scene, especially the area surrounding the Inner Circle.
 - 1. Assessment of scene safety.



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2. Determination of number of vehicles, whether they can be accessed by the responding units (if they are separated by moving traffic or a physical barrier), and potential number of patients.
 3. Assessment of additional hazards (traffic hazards, fuel leaks, wires down, etc.)
 4. A process to determine if there are patients away from the Inner Circle or who have been ejected or walked away.
 5. Control the scene: keep bystanders clear and direct non-essential personnel away from Inner Circle.
 6. Consideration of the need for cones, flares, or fireline tape to designate barriers and warn traffic.
- ff. **Pass Command.** When the Incident Commander transfers command of the incident to another party.
- gg. **Personnel Accountability Report (PAR).** A vocal check initiated by the Incident Commander to determine the status of units and personnel operating on an incident or during training.
- hh. **Pinned.** When a patient is entangled in or impinged upon by displaced metal or wreckage.
- ii. **Primary Unit.** An engine, truck, or rescue squad.
- jj. **Protected Work Zone.** The area of a roadway incident that is shielded from traffic by a Blocking Unit or other heavy barriers.
- kk. **Radio Return.** A radio transmission intended to provide an update on current incident status.
- ll. **Rapid Intervention Company (RIC).** The primary unit on the initial alarm assigned to provide rapid intervention.
- mm. **Rapid Intervention Dispatch (RID).** An automatic dispatch of an additional aerial unit, rescue squad, and an EMS unit (an ALS unit, if one is not already on the fireground) when ECC has reason to believe the incident is a working fire, or when units on the scene report a working fire.
- nn. **Rapid Intervention Group (RIG).** The combination of units from the RIC and the RID.
- oo. **Relay Operations.** A method for expanding initial incident water supply system that uses a series of interconnected engines to connect to a water source.
- pp. **Rescue Truck (or Rescue Engine).** An aerial, tower, or engine equipped with a comprehensive set of extrication and stabilization tools.



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- qq. **Risk Assessment.** A systematic consideration of the known or predicted hazards of an incident, the likelihood of their occurrence and the severity of the impact if they do occur.
- rr. **Rural Area.** For purposes of this SOP, any response area in Montgomery County that is not supplied by a municipal water distribution system supporting fire hydrants.
- ss. **Signal 3.** The communication of a need for immediate law enforcement response because fire/rescue personnel are faced with an imminent or occurring danger to life or personnel welfare.
- tt. **Situational Awareness.** The process of identifying, processing, and comprehending the critical elements of information about what is happening at the incident. It is knowing what is going on around you.
- uu. **Stabilization.** The process of making a vehicle safe to work on by rendering it inoperative and preventing unwanted movement of a vehicle in any direction. Stabilization may include:
1. Isolation of vehicle power and limit vehicle motion.
 2. Isolation of the the chassis from the suspension.
 3. Placement of cribbing, struts, straps, or cables to secure a vehicle from unwanted movement.
- vv. **Standby Team (2-Out).** At least two personnel who qualify as minimum staffing on an engine, truck, or rescue squad, who observe the initial entry team entering an IDLH atmosphere, and are available, trained, and equipped for immediate response to rescue the entry team.
- ww. **Stationary Command.** When the Incident Commander is dedicated solely to performing the incident command function from a fixed location, typically a command vehicle or other fixed position.
- xx. **Survivability.** An assessment of the likelihood of survival based on current conditions in the compartment in question.
- yy. **Tactical Command.** Tactical command describes the situation where the Primary Unit Officer is engaging in direct action with their crew. Because every incident has an Incident Commander tactical command it is in effect simply by virtue of a unit being on the scene of an incident. Tactical command can be used for both initial incident investigation and for initial engagement in emergency operations.
- zz. **Tanker Shuttle.** A water supply system in which tankers (or engines) fill at one location and dump or discharge at another.
- aaa. **Traffic Safety Vest.** A brightly colored vest that meets the requirement of ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Class II or III garment, or the ANSI 207-2006 Public Safety Vest or high visibility clothing that meets current ANSI requirements.



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- bbb. **Transfer (Command)**. The orderly transition from one Incident Commander to another, usually of equal rank.
- ccc. **Trapped**. When an occupant is confined within a vehicle because of damage to the vehicle or when something blocks the means of egress.
- ddd. **Upstream**. The direction that traffic is traveling from as the vehicles approach the incident scene.
- eee. **Ventilation-Limited**. A fire in which the heat release rate is limited by available oxygen.
- fff. **Water Supply Officer (WSO)**. The incident command position responsible for assessing, developing and managing incident water supply.
- ggg. **Wind Impacted Fire**. This describes a situation when the wind augments or modifies flowpaths in a structure, typically resulting in a rapid increase in the rate of heat release.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Goldstein".

Scott E. Goldstein
Fire Chief

01/02/2018
Date