

Nationally accepted practices for Incident Command as a result of an Executive Order handed down by President Bush after September 11, 2001

Responsibilities of Command

The Incident Commander is responsible for the completion of the tactical objectives. **The**

Tactical Objectives (listed in order of priority) are:

- A. Remove endangered occupants and treat the injured.
- B. Stabilize the incident and provide for life safety.
- C. Conserve property.
- D. Provide for the safety, accountability, and welfare of personnel. This priority is ongoing throughout the incident.

The Incident Command System is used to facilitate the completion of the Tactical Objectives. The Incident Commander is the person who drives the command system towards that end. The Incident Commander is responsible for building a Command structure that matches the organizational needs of the incident to achieve the completion of the Tactical Objectives for the incident. **The Functions of Command** define standard activities that are performed by the Incident Commander to achieve the Tactical Objectives.

Functions of Command

The Functions of Command include:

1. Assume and announce Command and establish an effective initial command position (Command Post).
2. Rapidly evaluate the situation (size up).
3. Initiate, maintain, and control effective incident communications.
4. Provide and manage a steady, adequate, and timely stream of appropriate resources.
5. Identify the incident strategy, develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP), and assign companies and personnel consistent with plans and standard operating procedures.
6. Develop an effective incident organization using Sectors/Divisions/Groups to decentralize and delegate geographic and functional responsibility.
7. Review, and revise (as needed) the strategy to keep the IAP current.
8. Provide for the continuity, transfer, and termination of Command.

The Incident Commander is responsible for all of these functions. As Command is transferred, so is the responsibility for these functions. The first six (6) functions must be addressed immediately from the initial assumption of Command.

Establishing Command

The first fire department member or unit to arrive at the scene of a multiple unit response shall assume command of the incident. The initial Incident Commander shall remain in Command until Command is transferred or the incident is stabilized and Command is terminated.