



PURPOSE

This policy serves to provide framework to incident commanders in their practical implementation of the incident command system.

POLICY

Establishment of Incident Commander

Command shall be established at all incidents. The ranking member of the first arriving company shall establish command by transmitting a brief size-up report containing the following information to the Dispatch center:

1. Unit Designation
2. Brief description of incident and size-up report (fires only)
 - A. Size of the building-height
 - B. Type of construction and/or occupancy type
3. Obvious Conditions
 - A. Nothing showing
 - B. Smoke showing
 - C. Working fire
4. Actions Take

Incidents should be given a specific name in anticipation of a second incident sharing the same frequency/dispatcher. This is typically done by using the name of the street addressed to the building or incident.

Command Mode

There are three command modes available for the first arriving emergency responder:

1. **Investigative/Nothing Showing Mode:** This mode indicates the first arriving company will establish command and go inside of a building to investigate further. In this circumstance nothing is visible and then incident commander strongly anticipates a false call. Should an actual incident be discovered once inside, either Fast Attack or Command mode will have to be chosen.



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Command
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2. **Fast Attack:** In this mode immediate action is required to stabilize the incident and the company officer's assistance and direct involvement will be required with the crew to provide supervision and complete the task.
3. **Command:** Command mode is used in incidents where size, complexity, or potential for rapid escalation require immediate strong, direct, overall command.

The IC must determine if initial command activity will be conducted from a fixed position (Command Mode), or conducted simultaneously with tactical operations of the first arriving Company (Fast-Attack or Investigation). When an incident is complex or rapidly escalating, Command Mode is preferred.

Command must initially answer the following two questions to determine the command option:

1. Will the initial tactical operations of the first-arriving company have a significant impact on the eventual outcome of the incident?
2. Will the personal efforts of the Company Officer in the performance of tactical activity have a significant impact on the ability of the Company to achieve their assigned tactical objective(s)?

If the answer to these two questions is no, the Command Mode shall be initiated.

Command in the Fast-Attack Mode shall only be performed until command or tactical activities can be transferred. Once Command has been established, all routine communications between dispatch and the scene will be directed through Command.