

	ROFR Section: 600		TFCA Best Practices:	
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TACTICAL GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines to aid the decision making process for personnel during emergency/non-emergency incidents.

Content

Information derived from applicable IFSTA, NFPA Standards, OSHA Regulations, and department SOGs.

OVERVIEW

Tactical guidelines are supplements intended to provide personnel with benchmark actions during operations. Where applicable, these actions are referenced to a full departmental SOG.

The key to any successful operation is immediate and effective establishment of command and clear and concise communications from the first arriving company. What you say and how you say it affects firefighter safety and sets the tone for the emergency incident. Keep in mind the following command and communication tenants when using these tactical guidelines.

- Assume Command with the Initial Report:** The first arriving unit is the Incident Commander until command is transferred or passed. The initial unit should capture and control the communications process from the beginning by transmitting a brief, complete radio report.
- Follow Current Communications SOPs:** Follow and adhere to the standard operational procedures that define how members communicate with each other. Use common language in order to exchange and receive information.
- Expect Communications Difficulties and Listen Critically:** Remember that command establishes task, tactical, and strategic levels of operation. These separate but closely connected levels all operate with a different communications capability. Task and tactical level communications take place where it is often wet, noisy, dirty, exciting, and dangerous. These types of operational areas do not provide the most advantageous communications positions.
- Maintain a Clear, Controlled Radio Presence:** Assure that, as the Incident Commander, you speak in a clear, calm, and rational voice. Regardless of how desperate the situation, this is critical.

- **Use All Forms of Communication at Your Disposal:** Remember to use radio, face-to-face, and MDCs as appropriate. This process takes into account communication volume, access, and other critical elements that may disrupt normal communications processes during operations.
- **Begin to Build the IC Structure from the Beginning:** As the first due Incident Commander make sure you begin to lay the foundation of a good incident command system. Make sure the incoming units understand the tasks that need to be accomplished on arrival and assign them.
- **Use Crew Intent, Progress Reports and Benchmarks:** Make sure that everyone responding and arriving understands what your intent as the first due Incident Commander is and what you plan to do with your crew and the crews of those that follow. Make sure they understand what progress you are making towards that plan by communicating it clearly with reports and benchmarks.
- **Make Communications Brief and to the Point:** Radio discipline is important in both theory and practice. Tell people what you want them to do, where to do it, and how it fits into the plan. Confirmation of orders by the receiver is critical to assure completed communications.
- **All Communications Should be Centered Around Tactical Benchmarks:** Our regular tactical priorities – rescue, fire attack and control, and property conservation make up our critical actions

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Response: Upon arrival or while en-route, should it be determined that no emergency exists or that immediate intervention is not required, it shall be the first due company or responding Chief Officer's responsibility to downgrade the response of additional units to a non-emergency status.

Staffing and Deployment: Upon arrival the first member must assess the needs of the emergency incident in terms of staffing and apparatus. Immediate consideration to incident priorities such as rescue, fire attack and control, and property conservation require the following: initial commitment, sustainment activities, RIT, and property protection. Consider your initial and ongoing requirements and request the appropriate resources early in the incident.

FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Engine Company

- Provide fire attack using hand lines or master streams
- Provide search and rescue
- Provide water supply in hydrant and non-hydrant areas
- Provide emergency medical services
- Provide RIT as directed
- Provide cover lines on MVA's with pins and entrapments
- Provide vehicle extrication
- Support salvage and overhaul operations
- Support decontamination operations
- Support HAZ MAT operations level functions

- Support WMD operations

Quint Company

- Provide elevated streams
- Provide search and rescue on the fire ground
- Provide emergency medical services
- Provide ventilation
- Provide secondary means of egress at fire building
- Provide utility control
- Provide support to special operations at the operations level for technical rescue – all disciplines (NFPA 1670 – Training and Operations for Technical Rescue)
- Provide decontamination operations
- Support HAZ MAT operations level functions
- Support salvage and overhaul operations
- Provide RIT as directed
- Provide support for WMD operations

Rescue Company Technical Rescue (Rescue 181)

- Provide technician level technical rescue services – all disciplines (NFPA 1670 - Training and Operations for Technical Rescue and NFPA 1006 – Professional Competency for Rescue Technicians)
- Provide RIT function
- Provide vehicle extrication
- Provide emergency medical services
- Provide manpower for engine and quint functions as directed
- Support WMD operations

TANKER COMPANY

- Provide water supply support in non-hydrant areas or as required
- Provide water shuttle operations
- Support engine and ladder company operations as directed
- Provide fire attack as directed

Brush Company

- Provide four-wheel drive capability for fire attack
- Provide fire attack in areas that are not obtainable with engine companies.
- Provide fire attack on wild land type fires
- Support companies with wash downs on the roadways.

TACTICAL GUIDELINES

When an Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) situation exists, 2 in 2 out procedures shall be applied. **For further guidance on 2 in 2 out see 2- in 2-out in section 700.**

2 In 2 Out

2 IN 2 OUT PARAMETERS IMMINENT LIFE THREATENED

- A minimum of two personnel are required to enter the IDLH environment.
- Personnel shall be permitted, with less than four personnel on scene, to initiate rescue operations while continually evaluating their situation.
- The responding Chief Officer and dispatcher shall be notified of their actions.

2 IN 2 OUT PARAMETERS WITH NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO LIFE

- When two personnel enter an IDLH environment, two personnel shall be available for immediate entry.
- Two outside personnel shall be present prior to entry.
- One of the two personnel outside the hazard area may be assigned more than one role/duty that can be abandoned. Any individual given additional duties shall be immediately accessible to the Incident Commander; duties assigned should consider this requirement.

RIT

The Incident Commander shall establish rapid intervention teams as soon as possible during emergency incidents. For further guidance on RIT see section 800.

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAMS

- Rapid Intervention Teams are used to provide dedicated personnel to the Incident Commander in the event of a rescue in an IDLH environment
- The RIT should be comprised of at least four personnel from an engine, ladder, or rescue if possible. Remember staffing and deployment requirements for the incident and request resources early to accomplish the RIT.
- RIT assignments as outlined in 800.

RIT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Face-to-face with command/assure adequate staffing assigned to RIT
- Complete a walk around reconnaissance (Team Leader)
- Assign team responsibilities
- Establish an appropriate tool cache
- Remove any obstructions from doors and windows
- Note egress points
- Place additional egress ladders
- Always maintain unit integrity
- Command shall only assign the RIT duties aiding in RIT operations
- After these tasks and any other given by incident command have been accomplished, the RIT should take a restful posture until deployed or reassigned.

HOT, WARM, AND COLD ZONES

- **Hot, warm, and cold zones should be established with specific color tape when conditions dictate per OSHA:**

- Red tape - hot zone, all personnel on scene will avoid this area unless given a direct assignment by the officer-in-charge to enter
- Yellow tape - warm zone, used to keep bystanders, news crews, and non-essential personnel away from scene
- No identifier is needed for the cold zone

FIRE

RESPONSE

- Review case comments and begin developing an action plan
- Type of structure, construction type, water supply, location, time of day, etc.
- Don proper PPE according to SOPs and officer-in-charge. All personnel shall arrive at any fire or fire alarm in full PPE, including SCBA.
- All fire fighting activities, both interior and exterior, shall utilize proper respiratory protection if there is potential for the atmosphere to be oxygen deficient, have elevated temperatures, or toxic gases

ARRIVAL

- Ensure the scene is safe and remains safe throughout the incident, crew(s) shall be operating safely, and bystanders shall be kept in the cold zone
- Determine if the responding resources are adequate or if additional resources are needed
- Check for wind direction
- Rescue
- Exposures
- Communicate whether offensive or defensive fire

STRUCTURE FIRE (RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL)

Interior Operations Beyond the Incipient Stage:

- Always operate in teams of two or more when in IDLH environment, maintain accountability, and communications. When no imminent rescue is required, crews shall establish two personnel outside of the structure prior to entry into an IDLH environment.
- Communicate observations, crew intent, PAR, and status (**Position-Progress-Needs**)
- Rescue, fire attack, locate, confine, extinguish, property conservation
- PPV, Horizontal or vertical ventilation.
- Utility control
- Egress and rescue ladders
- Check for fire extension, internal, and external exposures
- Salvage
- Overhaul - use Class A foam if available
- Investigate cause
- Call Fire Marshal

BRUSH/GRASS FIRE

- Accessibility
- Threat to property (interface)
- Accountability

- Apparatus should be placed upwind whenever possible
- Notify power company to shut off electric line(s) if they may become involved in the fire and become a threat to the safety of any crew(s)
- Fire attacked should take place within the burn area.
- Special resources that may be called upon but not limited to: multiple brush trucks, air unit, State Forestry Division, bulldozer, tanker, extra manpower, etc.

TRASH/DUMPSTER

- Size of dumpster (manpower intensive overhaul)
- Personnel engaged in suppression of a dumpster fire shall wear SCBA when operating a hose line
- Identify hazardous materials if at all possible
- Evacuate structure if attached
- Notify responsible party
- Consider use of Class A foam when for overhaul and/or extinguishments
- Special resources that may be called upon but not limited to: waste management, front-end loader, dump truck, etc.

RESIDENTIAL FIRE ALARM/SMOKE DETECTOR

- If visible signs of smoke or fire request a box alarm assignment.
- If entry is forced or made into a structure, notify dispatch and respond a police officer for security purposes
- Consider using cell phone for obtaining additional information from the alarm company.
- Determine cause of alarm, recommend replace battery, or detector if necessary

CARBON MONOXIDE EMERGENCIES (SEE SOP ____)

When dispatched to a Carbon Monoxide (CO) emergency, personnel shall consider the following:

- Does anyone have signs and symptoms of CO poisoning in the residence (if so, shall request EMS)
- Determine level of protective gear for entry into building
- Ventilate the structure, if necessary
- Determine potential sources of CO
- Secure equipment or appliances, as necessary
- Advise occupant of potential problems and recommend they call appropriate service technician
- In any occupancy, monitoring should be considered especially when dealing with multi-family occupancies
- Appropriate forms shall be completed and filed

All CO detector incidents should be treated as emergency situations and even if no signs/symptoms are present, educate occupants on signs, symptoms, and potential sources of CO. At no time shall Fire personnel advise an occupant that no hazard exists in the occupancy.

COMMERCIAL FIRE ALARM

- Consider using cell phone for obtaining additional information
- Have dispatch notify responsible party or obtain information from pre-plans and use cell phone.

- If visible signs of smoke or fire, upgrade to full alarm or greater, force entry, provide for search operations, attack fire, and supply FD connections if necessary
- The responsible party shall reset the system (alarm), be sure alarm company gets the reset
- If entry is forced or made into a structure, notify dispatch and respond a police officer for security purposes.

HIGH RISE OPERATIONS

INCIDENT COMMANDER

- Provide for firefighter safety, accountability, and welfare
- Establish command and lobby control
- Establish a staging area
- Obtain information on the building, preplans, and on-site maintenance personnel
- On an working fire the Incident Commander shall call for additional alarm immediately and consider staffing and deployment needs
- Provide for an exclusion zone around the building
- Reassess evacuation need

ENGINE COMPANY

- Provide for life safety of the victims and occupants by rescuing the most threatened first, then evacuate the rest or shelter in place if appropriate
- Identify location and progress of fire
- Attack the fire
- Establish a continuous, reliable water supply and support the fire protection system as necessary
- Assess fire progress and reevaluate for current effectiveness

QUINT COMPANY

- Provide for life safety of the victims and occupants by rescuing the most threatened first then evacuate the rest or shelter in place if appropriate
- Provide elevated ladders for rescue, master streams or rescue operations
- Establish control of the stairwells with positive pressure ventilation
- Establish elevator controls-safety check all elevators in use
- Provide for search of entire building
- Check for smoke and fire extension
- Control the movement of smoke and heat by using HVAC, mechanical, or natural ventilation

RESCUE COMPANY

- Accomplish tasks as directed by the Incident Commander, engine, or quint functions
- Establish RIT
- Provide specialty services as required and directed

CHIMNEY FIRE

- IF WORKING FIRE, UPGRADE ALARM
- EXTINGUISH FIRE AND REMOVE FUEL FROM THE FIREBOX
- CHECK THE FLUE
- CHECK THE ATTIC FOR EXTENSION
- ADVISE THE OCCUPANT NOT TO USE THE FIREPLACE UNTIL IT HAS BEEN INSPECTED BY A CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN
- NOTIFY FIRE MARSHAL

ODOR OF SMOKE

- Investigate, take action as required, determine source
- Use TIC as required, check internal exposures

FIRE REPORTED OUT

- Investigate
- Check for extension using the TIC
- Assist in any needed ventilation, or salvage and overhaul

VEHICLE FIRE

- Position apparatus to protect the operator and firefighters from oncoming traffic the best way possible
- Personnel engaged in fire suppression and hose line operations shall wear SCBA
- Check for victims
- Chock tires on burning vehicle
- Use caution with undeployed air bags and loaded bumpers

DOWNED AIRCRAFT

- Obtain wind direction/speed (stay clear of the smoke)
- Determine military or civilian aircraft
- Assess number of souls on board
- Establish a safety perimeter
- Consider the use of Class B foam
- Contact FAA and DPS for support
- Refer to MCI protocol if applicable

BOMB THREAT/EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

BOMB THREAT

- If dispatched it means that a suspicious package has been found
- If a search is conducted, Law Enforcement and ATF will be in charge of operations and will establish an entry point and "hot" zone
- Provide EMS to members during search operations
- Fire personnel are not to handle, transport, and store suspicious packages

FOUND EXPLOSIVE/MILITARY ORDINANCE

- Response is upgraded to Code 3
- Request Fire Marshal, ATF, and or FBI
- Request additional units as necessary
- Stage in an area that will provide best access in case of explosion
- If first on scene, establish a 300 yard perimeter (request additional police units as necessary)
- Once found, Law Enforcement and ATF will be in charge of operations and will establish an entry point and “hot” zone
- While technician is approaching/working with a suspected device, a RIT will be established. Fire department shall provide RIT.
- In the event of a detonation prior to arrival, consider a secondary device (consider elevated/master streams rather than approach)
- In the event the technician accidentally detonates device **DO NOT IMMEDIATELY APPROACH** until cleared by Bomb Squad supervisor

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- Identify type of electrical hazard and what agency maintains it. Determine if extinguishment is required. If so, use dry chemical or carbon dioxide for extinguishment of electrical equipment.
- Beware of gradient grounding
- Assume all equipment is energized until the proper agency deems safe

UNDERGROUND VAULTS

- Explosion hazards - due to accumulation of gases a short circuit or spark is all that is needed for ignition
- Do not park over utility covers
- DO NOT ENTER VAULT
- Determine if extinguishment is necessary. If so, extinguish any fire by discharge of CO₂ or dry chemical in vault. If cover is still on vault, do not remove to extinguish until you confirm the cover is not charged.

GROUND TRANSFORMERS

- Cable: Has an electrical feed from the power company with a power disconnect. A high amperage generator for charging batteries in case of a power failure is fueled by natural gas line or two propane bottles.
- Power company: High voltage and high amperage. If any oil is noticed leaking, establish a safe zone away from the transformer; eminent explosion hazards exist if the transformer still has power.
- Be aware of potential for the ground around the transformer being charged.

POLE TRANSFORMERS

- Be aware of possible polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB's) or hot insulating oils and any falling wires
- Allow to burn until power company disconnects power
- Apparatus should position a minimum of two poles/spans away
- Identify pole number or closest pole accessible

COMMERCIAL HIGH VOLTAGE INSTALLATIONS

- Identify by HIGH VOLTAGE signs, large disconnects and large meters
- Avoid using water unless directed by power company

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ELECTRICAL SERVICE

- In dangerous life treating situations the Incident Commander may order the meter pulled
- Secure power to structure via panel/fuse box - note position of breakers before securing. Note: during structure fires pull only the main breaker, leave all subsequent breakers in place for inspection by the Fire Investigator if necessary
- Beware of split buss panels in older homes
- If power needs to be cut at meter base or the drop, contact the power company
- Take note of the condition of the meter: burnt, melted, blackened, etc.

ELECTRICAL SHORT (RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES)

- Find complainant
- Identify problem
- Isolate power then secure

TREE/WIRE DOWN

- Apparatus positioning to block area
- Establish a staging zone for incoming agencies
- Call police for traffic control
- Apparatus should be positioned a minimum of two poles/spans
- Identify pole number or closest pole accessible
- SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE: It may be necessary to identify the hazard, notify the proper agency, secure the area, and return to service.
- DO NOT CUT ANY ELECTRICAL LINES

ELEVATOR

- Have dispatcher notify responsible party and maintenance personnel
- Secure the power source
- Consider additional resources (i.e. Technicians for specialized equipment)
- If on fire or when using cutting tools, lay a line from a standpipe if possible
- Do not alter mechanical system to move elevator

ELEVATORS

- Only attempt a rescue if an emergency situation exists or if mechanical problem cannot be immediately resolved

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Note: For more specific incident command and technical detail see departmental SOPs_____. Members shall operate at the appropriate level of knowledge, skills, and abilities as provided in awareness,

operations, and technician level training.

The following tasks should be performed at the scene of all Technical Rescue Incidents:

- Establish command
- Secure and isolate the area
- Identify and secure utilities (if possible)
- Evaluate the need for additional resources
- Determine rescue vs. recovery
- Secure Responsible Party (if possible)
- Don appropriate PPE for the situation

In addition to the above items the following tasks should be performed:

STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE

- While operating at a structural collapse take care to ensure that no personnel are committed to an unsafe structure
- Be alert for the potential for secondary collapse
- Control and extinguish fires
- Establish an observation platform by positioning an aerial platform at the front of the building
- Assign police to perimeter control and assist with victim accountability
- Assess structural stability of adjoining structures
- Perform initial recon (identify type of structure, use, and possible victims)
- Remove surface victims first

CONFINED SPACE

- Attempt an initial contact with victim(s)
- Deploy a reconnaissance team to evaluate opening, number of victims, and entrapment – non-entry
- If possible, undertake a non-entry rescue
- Entry with standard SCBA may be made if NFPA 1670 operations level requirements are met
- Gather information on the location, number, and position of victims
- Obtain blueprints, maps, or sketches of the space if possible

ROPE RESCUE

- Use only as a last resort – consider all other means of access and egress first
- Gain access to a location above the patient
- If possible, place an aerial ladder in a location where victims can be accessed
- Contact victims with intercom or megaphone to advise help is imminent
- At the Incident Commander's discretion either prepare to access the victim and stabilize prior to removal or await arrival of Technical Rescue Team and support as needed

TRENCH RESCUE

For detailed information on trench see trench and excavation collapse in section 2000

- Approach trench from ends
- Consider the effects of vehicles/heavy equipment on the stability of the trench and spoil pile
- Under no circumstances should anyone enter an unprotected trench
- Assess the number of victims and their location
- Place at least one ladder into the trench for emergency egress
- Place ground pads around the perimeter of the trench
- Assist victims in self-rescue if possible
- Ventilate trench

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZ MAT)

Note: For more extensive technical guidance see Department SOPs in section 2100. The following actions shall occur on all HAZ MAT incidents.

- Always be aware of wind direction, remain uphill and upwind, and pay close attention to the nature of the call
- **DECIDE**
 - Determine presence of hazardous material(s): see it, dead vegetation, placarding, type of container, markings, symbols, and/or victims/patients
 - Estimate potential for harm without intervention: EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDE, HAZ MAT training, and on-scene technical support
 - Choose response options: do nothing, call HAZ MAT Team, set up emergency decontamination and initial hot, warm, and cold zones
 - Identify best option: done by analyzing all information gained throughout the incident; at a minimum a hot, warm, and cold zone shall be established, as well as emergency decontamination if patients are present or personnel are required to enter the hazardous environment
 - Do best option: this is the tactic that requires the least involvement, while mitigating the hazard or preparing the scene for additional response apparatus due to the magnitude of the incident
 - Evaluate: if plan is working continue, but if not, revisit response options and correct them
 - Members shall operate at their level of knowledge, skills, and abilities as provided for in awareness, operations, technician, or specialist training.

RESPONSE TO UNKNOWN CHEMICAL AGENTS WITH PATIENTS

- place:
- Upon arrival at an unknown substance with victims, the following actions must take place:
 - Assure all personnel are in proper PPE and respiratory protection
 - Establish water supply
 - Establish minimum of one 1-³/₄" line for emergency decontamination
 - Determine number and signs exhibited in victims
 - Request additional assistance as needed

EMS

Note: Members shall follow appropriate medical protocols associated with patient care. For more detailed information see ROFR first responder protocols.

RESPONSE

- Review case comments and begin developing an action plan. Don proper PPE and BSI as appropriate per officer-in-charge and SOPs/Protocols

ARRIVAL

- Ensure the scene is safe and remains safe throughout the incident and crew(s) are operating safely. If appropriate, stage prior to entry into the area.
- Determine if the responding resources are adequate or if additional resources are needed.
- Resources may include: Police, air ambulance, Chief Officer, ALS engine,

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE

- Follow appropriate ROFR medical protocols and SOPs

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/EXTRICATION

- Position apparatus to protect personnel and maintain egress
- Establish priorities
- Multiple vehicles
- Command
- Additional resources
- Engines will provide a cover line (minimum of 1 3/4" handline) for entrapment/pin
- Provide initial stabilization of vehicle

MCI (UNEXPECTED EVENTS THAT MAY OVERWHELM AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND NORMAL OPERATIONS)

- Establish priorities
- Communications
- Command
- Staging areas
- Resources needed (mutual aid, any special equipment, etc.)

WATER/ICE RESCUE

- Structural turnout gear is not recommended to be worn within 25 feet of the water's edge (the hot zone)
- Minimum PPE will consist of helmet, gloves, and a properly fitting PFD and will be worn at all times while operating in the hot zone
- Assess reach, throw, row, go options
- Determine Point Last Seen (if possible) if victim is no longer visible

LANDING ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT

- Establish a tactical channel
- Find a large open area with no obstructions
- If any obstructions are seen, advise aircraft immediately
- Establish a 100 foot by 100 foot landing zone. In the event the landing zone is smaller, advise the incoming aircraft
- When a landing zone is on a dry dirt surface, wet it down prior to the aircraft's arrival to prevent a BROWN OUT (flying dirt and debris that inhibits the pilot's view)
- Police the area for anything that could become a projectile
- Turn off all white and bright lights that could impact pilot's night vision
- DO NOT APPROACH AIRCRAFT UNTIL SOMEONE FROM THE FLIGHT CREW APPROVES

