

# On Scene Operations

## CHAPTER 8.8

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### Arrival Report

When the fire units arrive on scene of an incident, they must announce their arrival on the operational TAC.

The first unit on scene should announce a description of the scene in the following order:

- Unit ID
- Visual description of the scene
- Visual description of hazard or injury
- Report of operational mode
- Assumption of command

The Dispatcher then repeats the arrival report on the operational TAC.

**EXAMPLE** Situation: Arrival report given by Engine 21. E21: “Alachua, Engine 21 on scene, of a two-story wood framed residential structure, with smoke and flames showing on the Charlie side, we’ll be in Offensive Mode, E21 is establishing 29th Street Command” CDC: “E21 on scene, of a two-story wood framed residential structure, with smoke and flames showing on the Charlie side, Offensive Mode, assuming 29th Street Command, (time)”

**EXAMPLE** Situation Arrival report given by Rescue 10 “Alachua County, Rescue 10 on scene, 2 vehicle accident, Investigative Mode” CDC “Rescue 10 on-scene, two vehicle accident, Investigative Mode, (time).”

Upon arrival evaluate and communicate as soon as possible what is found and what is needed to CDC.

### Size-up

Size-up is the ongoing observation and evaluation of problems and conditions used to develop strategic goals and tactical objectives that affect the outcome of an incident.

**Factors to consider** when doing a size-up

Construction

Occupancy

Apparatus

Life Hazard

Water Supply

Aux Appliances

Street Conditions  
Weather  
Exposures  
Area  
Location/Extent of Fire  
Time  
Height/ Hazmat

### **Placement**

Effective apparatus placement begins with the arrival of the first unit. The placement of the initial arriving apparatus should be based upon initial size-up and general conditions. The first arriving engine company will place themselves in a location that allows for the appropriate initial operations while leaving room for additional units. Additional arriving units should be placed in a manner that builds on the initial plan and allows for expansion of the operation. Company Officers arriving after the initial company should report to Command for a specific assignment.

### **Establish RIT**

RIT must be established before making entry into any Immediate Danger to Life or Health (IDLH) atmosphere unless there is an imminent life threatening situation and immediate action needs to be taken to prevent loss of life.

### **Charge Hydrant (Supply Line)**

When the order is given to utilize a supplemental water source, the Driver Operator shall signal for the supply line to be charged by blowing the apparatus air horn 3 consecutive times.

### **Operational Modes**

**Investigative Mode:** These situation generally require more gathering of information before completing a full size-up

**Offensive Mode:** Actions that involve a direct attack on the fire to control and extinguish the fire. This mode should not last more than a few minutes.

**Defensive Mode:** Conducting an exterior attack, with larger lines, while protecting exposures.

**Extrication Mode:** Removal of person(s) entrapped in vehicle(s), by machinery, in a building collapse, or some other physical confinement.

**Overhaul Mode:** Checking the structure to insure that the fire is completely out and securing the scene so that it is safe to leave.

**Salvage Mode:** Conducting activities such as smoke and water removal and covering of furniture to reduce damage from water/smoke.

**Search/Rescue Mode:** Searching for victims and removing them from unsafe areas.

**Ventilation Mode:** The removal of smoke and heat from the structure through existing or intentionally created openings in the structure.

**Treatment Mode:** Giving medical care to patients

### **Status Reports**

Status Reports are given throughout an incident to keep everyone aware of the situation. Status Reports are announced by the Incident Commander and include information on the progress of the incident, patients involved, operational modes, Benchmarks, and special orders.

**Fire Out:** The fire has been extinguished.

**All Clear:** Primary search has been completed and all salvable occupants have been removed (when it is impossible to conduct a primary search the Incident Commander shall advise that “No all clear will be given”

**Patient Being Transported:** Patient is being transported to hospital by Rescue unit.

**Secondary Search Completed:** A thorough search of the structure was completed once the fire was controlled or extinguished.

**Task Completed:** The specific task assigned to a unit or sector has been completed. (Ex. ventilation, triage or overhaul)

**Under Control:** The fire is contained within its present area and can be extinguished with the resources on the scene.

### **Collapse**

In recent times structural collapse has been one of the leading causes of serious injuries and death to Firefighters. Structure collapse should be a major consideration in the development of any tactical plan. Structures have been known to collapse without warning but usually there are signs which may tip off and alert the officer.

### **Tell Tale Signs**

Cracks or bulges in exterior walls, flexible movement of any floor or roof and interior or exterior bearing walls or columns – leaning, twisting or flexing. Sounds of structural movement – cracking, groaning, snapping. Smoke or water leaking through walls. Whenever these signs are observed an Evacuation of the building should be immediate.

The following construction features or conditions have been known to fail prematurely when affected by fire:

- Large open (unsupported) areas-supermarkets, warehouses etc.
- Large signs or marquees-which may pull away from weakened walls.
- Cantilevered canopies-which usually depend on the floor for support and may collapse as the roof fails.
- Ornamental or secondary front or sidewalls which may pull away and collapse.
- Buildings with light weight truss, bar joist, or bow strings truss, roofs.
- Roofs supported by unprotected metal-beams, columns etc.
- Look for external signs of wall ties such as stars.

### **Evacuation**

It may become necessary to evacuate certain areas surrounding an incident to prevent injury or death. The IC must decide early what type of protective measures to take, such as evacuation or protecting in place. In-place protection maybe an alternative to evacuation and should be considered under the following conditions:

- Fire spread potential is minimal
- Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and the sick, could sustain more injury during evacuation, than by staying in place and taking appropriate protective actions. **The signal for a Firefighter Evacuation is 4 short 1 long, horn blasts and is repeated until everyone has been evacuated.**

**Additional Alarms:** An Incident Commander may determine that the resources committed will not be able to sufficiently handle the incident and may require another full complement, (2 engines, 1 truck/tower, or tanker, squad, & rescue) to be added to the call. This is called a Second Alarm. Each additional alarm is an exact duplicate of the INITIAL DISPATCH. An IC can also request a specific unit instead of a full alarm.

### **Patient Status Reports**

On medical calls, a status report will include patient contact and an operational mode. Units will provide patient status reports to CDC on the operational TAC assigned to the incident.

### **Safety Staging**

If dispatched to a scene that may possibly be dangerous to Fire Rescue personnel, according to the information provided by Dispatch, they may elect to stop short of the actual address and wait for law enforcement to secure the scene. When a unit stages they will notify dispatch. When LEA secures the scene, Dispatch will notify the units that the scene is secure.

### **American Red Cross (ARC)**

During fire incidents the Red Cross may be called upon to provide any of the following services:

- **Firefighter relief** – providing drinks and snacks for fatigued firefighters. Red Cross will need to know total number of people to provide for.
- **Support of the homeless** – providing clothing and temporary lodging for families who have lost their homes. Red Cross will need to know number, age, and sex of all persons needing clothing and will need to know the number and sizes of families displaced.
- **Evacuation** – Assist in evacuating citizens to a safe place and manage evacuation centers.

### **Station and Resources**

Below is a list of the types of apparatus at ACFR's disposal, including but not limited to generalized responsibilities.

**Engine:** Crew (3-4): Company Officer, Driver-Operator, 1 or 2 Firefighters Primary Responsibilities: suppression, exposure protection, life safety, medical assistance.

**Quint/Truck:** Crew (3-4): Company Officer, Driver-Operator, 1 or 2 Firefighters Primary Responsibilities: Search & Rescue, ventilation, salvage & overhaul, elevated rescue.

**Squad:** Crew (3) Company Officer, Driver-Operator, Firefighter Primary Responsibilities: medical assistance, vehicle extrication, fire ground support.

**Brush Truck:** Crew (1-2) Company Officer, Firefighter Primary Responsibilities: Initiate attacks off-road and minimize fire spread and exposure.

**Tanker:** Crew (1-2) Driver/Operator, Firefighter Primary Responsibilities: Delivery of water supply to fire ground scene in absence of sustained water supply.

**District Chief:** Crew (1): District Chief Primary Responsibilities: Directs fire ground and medical operations, oversees all daily vehicle/personnel operations for assigned shifts.

**Rescue Unit:** Crew (2) Rescue Lieutenant, Firefighter Primary Responsibilities: Advanced life support transport vehicle.