

Establishing Fireground Operations

401.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document outlines initial arrival and on-scene procedures for Eulesse Fire Department to establish fireground operations.

Corresponding Policies:

Fireground Accountability
High-Rise Incident Management
Incident Management
Staging

401.1 FIRST FIVE MINUTES

The first arriving Eulesse Fire Department unit should:

#Contact Dispatch and provide the following information:

- Unit on-scene
- Initial scene size-up
- Unit assuming incident command (IC)

#If fire or smoke is visible, declare a working incident and move the incident to channel 3.

#Locate a Primary (Level 1) staging area and direct units to the scene or primary staging needed.

#Establish the department personnel accountability system and advise incoming units of the accountability location. Whenever practicable, the accountability location should be at the incident command post.

#Perform or direct another member to perform a 360 assessment of the incident and report results to the IC.

#Declare a command mode:

- Nothing Showing
- Rescue Mode
- Fast Attack
- Command

#Declare an initial operational mode based on extent of fire, life hazards, building construction, occupancy premises and resources available:

- Offensive
- Defensive

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#Develop an initial Incident Action Plan and, based upon available and arriving personnel, prioritize, assign and tasks to incoming units. Task assignments include:

- Scene safety
- Primary search and rescue
- Initial fire attack
- Water supply
- Ventilation
- Rapid Intervention Team

#Utilize groups and/or divisions to maintain proper span of control.

#Call for or cancel additional resources as required. Total response time should be considered when requesting additional resources.

401.3 PROCEDURES

401.3.1 RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT

(a) Apparatus

1. Arriving apparatus should be positioned as the IC directs and for the specific incident and conditions. To prevent unsafe or ineffective positioning or the need to reposition, apparatus positioning should follow staging levels:
 - (a) Primary (Level 1) Staging: As determined by department policy, only one or two pieces of apparatus should proceed directly to the scene along with any responding chief officers. Any other unit responding should stop one block away from the incident in the direction of travel and report its location.
 - (b) Secondary (Level 2) Staging: This is where all second or greater alarm or mutual-aid companies report. The location should be announced when the additional resources are dispatched. This is the cue to establish the Staging Area Manager function.
2. The IC should consider a stage-away option when there may be a violent encounter.

(b) Personnel

1. Personnel should be wearing appropriate structural firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) and be prepared to carry out their assigned tasks.
2. No personnel, regardless of rank, should enter an immediate danger to life and health (IDLH) atmosphere without full PPE and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

401.3.2 OPERATIONS

Operations will be dictated by the incident and conditions.

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401.4 UNIVERSAL PRACTICES

1. The IC should incorporate risk management and risk assessment principles into all levels of the incident management system to define acceptable and unacceptable risks for all members working at an incident.
2. The IC should implement Crew Resource Management principles of communications, teamwork, leadership, task allocation and critical decision making during all emergency incidents.
3. Crew leaders or Division/Group supervisors should coordinate all fireground activity by communicating all intended actions and waiting for confirmation and an affirmative response before initiating their assigned task. For example, the ventilation crew should coordinate with search and rescue crews and hose teams to avoid any change in fire flow path that could trap these crews.

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401.5 PROCEDURE DECISION TREE

