

EMERGENCY TERMS STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

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I. Scope

This standard lists and defines common terms used by operations personnel to manage fire control and rescue incidents.

II. Definitions

1. EMS Division: Where triage takes place and necessary EMS personnel and equipment are located to provide aid to fire victims and fire service personnel. The person in charge may be either a fire service or an EMS person. The person assigned should be the highest EMS certified person available. All activities should be coordinated through the incident commander.
2. All clear: The primary search has been completed.
3. Command post: The location at which the primary command functions are executed. The command post is manned by the incident commander and other support personnel as required. The command post shall designate frequencies to be used by support operations.
4. Incident commander (IC): The person with overall responsibility for a particular incident. The person will use the radio term Command and may use a geographical identifier when multiple operations occur, such as, "North Lee Highway Command."
5. Attack unit: Usually the first piece of fire apparatus on the scene, the attack unit sets up hose lines to fight the fire. It can consist of more than one unit if necessary.
6. Drafting: Using a pump to lift water from a supply source, such as a river, pond, dump tank, etc.
7. Fill site: The location where the tankers go to get loads of water, such as a hydrant, draft site, etc.
8. Tanker: A fire truck used primarily to carry large quantities of water for rural firefighting.
9. Tanker shuttle: Using several tankers to transport water from a water supply source to a fire scene.
10. Working fire: A fire that will require considerable effort to extinguish and may require an additional response of apparatus, such as water tankers/tenders in rural operations.

11. Division: A smaller, more manageable unit of command delegated by the incident commander to provide management and command for specific functions or geographical areas. Divisions shall be designated as Divisions A, B, C, etc., and shall be assigned on a clockwise basis. For multi-story operations, the division above the fire shall be designated before the sector below and be numbered according to the floor number. For example, if a fire is on the 3rd floor of a 4-story building, the division above the fire would be Division 4. Other divisions may be designated by location or function, such as roof, interior, rehab, triage, transportation, etc.
12. Division officer: A person in charge at a given area of the fire ground. The division officer shall be assigned by the incident commander and coordinate operations through the command post and shall operate on the command frequency.
13. Staging area: That location where incident personnel, apparatus, and equipment are assigned in an available status. The staging officer shall coordinate activities through the command post. If necessary, the command post shall assign a staging frequency.
14. Support officer: An aide assigned to the incident commander and normally located in the command post. The incident commander may require all activities such as water supply, staging, etc., to be coordinated through the support officer.