CARVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

Section 5.07 – Operations Officer **June 15, 2013**

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to explain some of the thought process that the Operations Officer should be considering as he/she is responding and first arriving on scene.

1.1 SCOPE

This guideline applies to any member who at any time could assume the role of Operations Officer

1.2 OPERATIONS

01. Responding

A. As I am responding, I think of what I could face at the scene and establishing the ICS Positions
B. In my opinion, the more you can divide up an incident into sectors, then the more fluid it will go - More eyes focusing on smaller tasks
C. Establish Operations whenever you might have to put Firefighters inside a building, MVA's, Structure Fires, Brush Fires (possible), incident involving a large area (distance and area). Any time you feel that Command cannot run an operation safety or effectively by themselves.
D. If Command has been established and is functioning properly, I move right into the Operations sector. However, it is not unusual for Command to become Operations, since they have been at the scene the longest and have a good understanding of the Incident.
E. As Operations, you need to be well informed by Command of the incident
F. Need to have a good size up and **take a deep breath**

02. On Scene

A. Get all your gear on – vests in both cruisers
B. Size up the scene – biggest mistake I make is not identifying how many vehicles and how many victims, what the structure looks like, etc.
C. Position yourself in a spot where you get a good view of Operation.
D. Remember, Command is there to support your Operation. Let him or her know what you have and what you need.
E. Command is not there to bug you, but you must keep him or her well informed

03. MVA's

A. Command and Operations may switch at onset of Incident – Judgment call
B. Confer with Command and then move to the vehicle for a size up
C. Confer with EMS on what they need you to accomplish
D. Let Command know what you may need for equipment
E. Establish a time frame for accomplishing your goals – 10 min, 30 min, extended Inform Command and EMS of this time frame
F. You should not be running the tools, but it is OK to be close enough to be very involved in what's going on
G. You need to be directly involved with what's going on with that patient. You are the one who should be saying lift, spread, cut, STOP!
H. Helpful to make sure your experienced Firefighters are paired up with less experienced – makes things go smoother
I. Tell the leader of each team or individual Firefighter EXACTLY what you want to accomplish and in what order.
J. Command can keep a good eye on your surroundings so you can focus closely, a touch of tunnel vision here doesn't hurt.
K. You cannot assume by saying "roll the dash", that they know exactly what you want. Some will, some wont! You might have to physically show them to cut here, here and spread here.
L. Try to accomplish many things a once – Chances are that you will have plenty of Firefighters – put them to work
M. Have a firefighter stabilize the victim or victims the vehicle
N. Put someone of experience on each side of the car
O. Stabilize the vehicle
P. Have a back up plan for every situation
Q. Have back up tools ready

R. Don't get frustrated, be methodical
S. Ask for advice for Command, fellow Officers and Firefighters if you need it
T. Advise Command when the patient is removed
U. Advise Command if there is discussion regarding a Med-Flight

04. Building Fires

A. I find that the first on-scene (Officer wise) is a good candidate for Operations
B. Get a good size up of the structure. You cannot make good decisions if you haven't even looked around. How many occupants, are they home, where is the fire, is the power on or off, is this a basement fire, which is side 'A', etc.
C. Formulate a Plan of Attack
1. Is it 'life safety' – person trapped or search
2. Is it 'property conservation' – save the structure
3. Is it 'incident stabilization' – keep it from spreading
4. Is it defensive or offensive attack

D. Are we Tanker Shuttling or laying a line
E. Command will send you those first arriving crews. Tell Command what you want. It will happen very fast – be ready
F. Things you need to think about on the first few minutes
1. Plan for first attack crew
2. Back up crew - with a charged line
3. Search crew
4. Ventilation – has the fire been vented – it should be - horizontal is fine
5. R.I.T. crew
6. Establish Interior Officer to help with decisions on the inside
7. Establish a Manpower Officer – Probably taken care of by Command
8. Safety, Manpower, Water Supply Officers should be taking care of by Command
9. Do I have enough equipment and manpower to get the job done

G. Get first crew attacking the fire
H. Establish good communication with inside crews. Conduct face to face with them prior to them going in the structure
I. A good Operation Officer will give them simple, SPECIFIC and clear orders
Example: The fire is up these stairs to the right. Extinguish the fire, report to me via the radio or face to face, and then power vent.
J. Whenever possible, use face to face rather than the radio
K. When crews come out, get accurate information as to what is going on inside

L. Remember - appoint someone to be in charge inside and rotate that position
M. Once fire is knocked down, report it to Command
N. Start your overhaul phase – try to use different crew here – they may have a different perspective
O. Rotate your crews consistently
P. Be thinking one or two steps ahead, all the time
Q. Keep your Firefighters involved and up to speed on what's going on
R. Try to accomplish many things at once – chances are that you will have plenty of Firefighters – put them to work
S. You worry about using all of our Firefighters to put out the fire safely
T. Command and the other sectors will do their job and support the Operations, with Safety, lighting, manpower, rehab, extra tools, etc.
You use the stuff they give you effectively, Have a back-up plan for every situation
U. Have back up tools ready
V. Don't get frustrated, be methodical
W. Ask for advice for Command, fellow Officers and Firefighters if you need it
X. I find the most useful position is Manpower