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IV. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

A. Scope

The following basic operating procedures shall be used at emergencies, when applicable.

1. No Smoke or Fire Showing

The first arriving company shall direct its efforts to locating the emergency. The company shall proceed to the fire or reported incident location. The company officer shall establish IC and provide an initial report that includes a description of the structure and conditions observed. The IC shall also relay information to the Fire Communications Center regarding need and type of assistance or whether the situation can be handled by the first arriving company.

Following initial investigation and deployment of company personnel, the officer in charge shall immediately notify responding companies as to the necessity of laying lines and/or other assistance.

Other responding Engine Companies shall position their apparatus in primary staging mode until assigned by Incident Command.

Truck Companies will proceed to the emergency and unless directed otherwise, shall perform normal truck duties.

Use of the portable radio is of prime importance.

2. Smoke or Fire Showing

Upon arrival, the first-in officer, shall transmit an initial size-up, and either establish IC or pass command to the next in company. The IC will either lay a supply line or specifically direct another company to perform this function. Such direction shall identify both the responsible company and the hydrant to utilize for this purpose. If the initial size-up leaves any doubt, a precautionary supply line is required. Other arriving engine companies will position their apparatus at fire hydrants anticipating assignment from IC.

B. Company Officers Shall:

1. Determine the exact nature of the emergency before committing their company.

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2. Give a brief radio report to Fire Communications Center. Notify responding units as to the nature of the emergency, type of assistance needed and if standpipe or sprinkler systems need charging. During emergencies, give continuing status reports to dispatchers and/or the IC (Position, progress, needs).
3. Allow sufficient operating room for Truck Company operations at the front of the structure. Engine company placement shall be made to keep this area clear of apparatus and equipment.
4. Whenever possible, employ the Direct Attack as a fire fighting tactic at emergencies. Select initial attack lines for structure fires that will deliver a minimum of 150 GPM and take steps to back up the initial attack line with a hoseline of equal or greater GPM capacity.
5. Do not ventilate until hose streams are in place, fully charged, and ready for use.
6. Use teamwork while fighting structure and brush fires, coordinating their actions with other companies.
7. Use large hose streams to cover exposures at canyon fires, particularly where structural damage is a possibility. Be judicial when fighting grass for brush fires, remembering that structural apparatus are not designed for off road fire fighting.
8. Make certain that one of the first two companies responding to a fire in a sprinklered building lays two 2 1/2" or larger lines to the Fire Department connection.
9. Coordinate with the Incident Commander in order to determine fire cause. Call Fire Investigators for assistance as required.
10. Observe all safety procedures while operating at the fire scene.
11. Prohibit the use of civilians in fire fighting operations.