



Establishing Command on Vegetation Fires

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First arriving battalion chief ensures the following is done:

- Provide initial report on conditions to the ECDC
- Establish an ICP that is accessible to PD, incoming resources, media, SDGE, etc.
- Notify ECDC of ICP location
- Establish incident objectives
- Manage incoming resources to address suppression efforts
- Assign divisions (A, Z, M) providing clear objectives, strategy, and tactics to be used
- Ensure monitoring air-to-ground frequency
- Evaluate evacuation needs
- Consider FMAG

Second SND (AHJ) Chief Officer Arrival

1. Make contact with IC to obtain an incident briefing:
 - A. Incident strategy and objectives
 - B. Incident priorities, significant threats and/or concerns
 - C. Resource needs
 - D. Evacuations / FMAG

If the incident has potential to increase in size and complexity, the first arriving BC should consider transferring command to the second arriving SND (AHJ) BC or Shift Commander and assume Operations (OSC)

1. This allows the BC with intimate knowledge about the strategy and tactics of the incident to continue developing the plan they initiated
2. A non-SND (AHJ) Chief Officer cannot take command, they should be assigned to a division or branch as appropriate

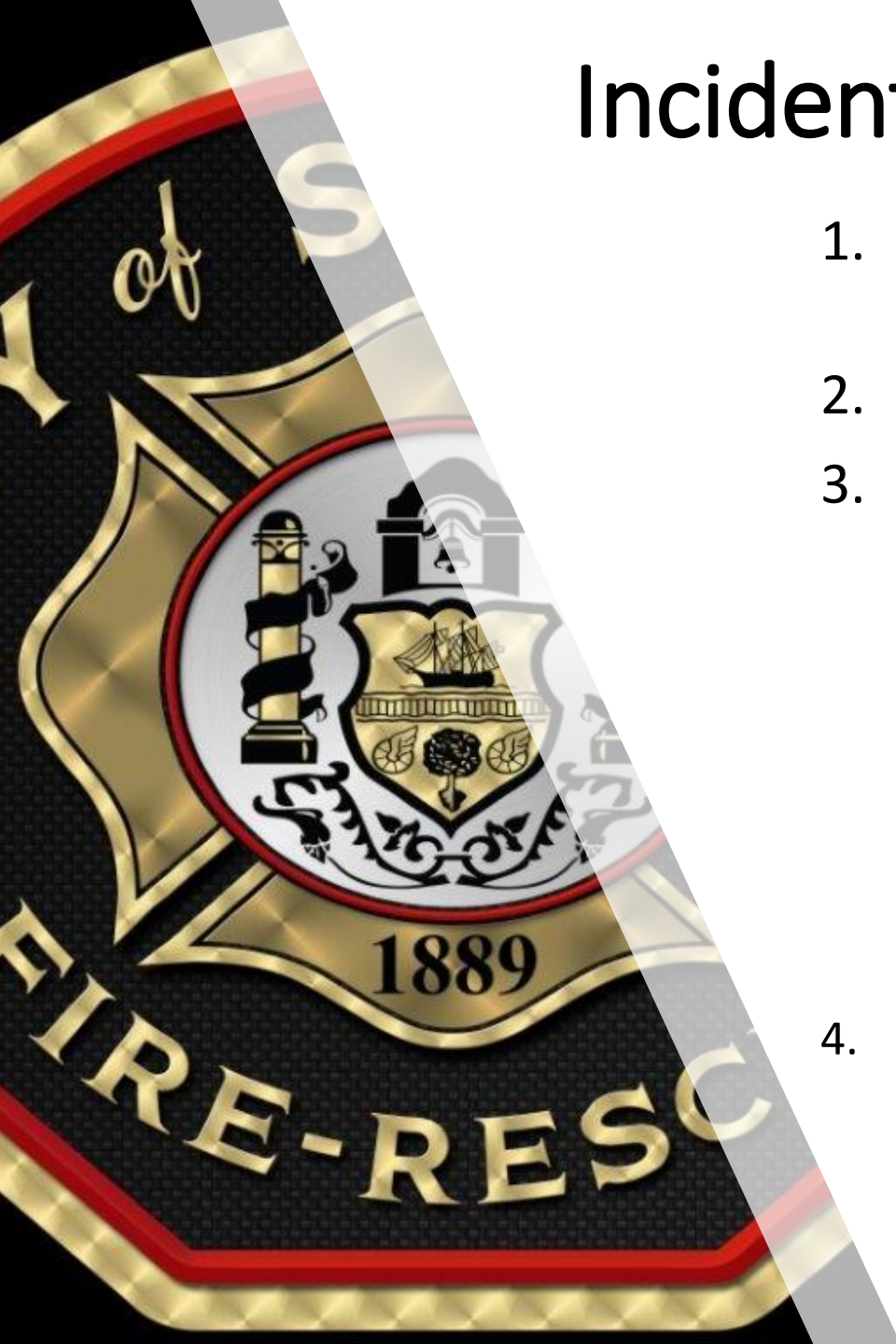


First Arriving BC Assumes Operations (OSC)

- Has the most tactical and strategic knowledge of the incident
- Has made assignments and tracked units to this point (accountability)
- Best suited to immediately assume Operations
- Already knows what tasks are incomplete, has established work assignments for the aircraft, etc.
- Has the best situational awareness and, once command is transferred, can increase their SA by viewing the incident in its entirety by remaining mobile
- Alleviates the need to go through a complete resource and assignment transfer to the new IC

Incident Commander (Second-In Chief)

1. Not burdened with learning the incident's detailed tactics/operations
2. Ensure completion of FMAG
3. Retains all remaining unfilled ICS positions
 - Information
 - Safety
 - Liaison
 - Finance
 - Logistics
 - Plans
4. Looks at the big picture, assists OSC as needed
 - Orders additional resources as requested by OSC
 - Coordinates evacuations as ordered by OSC
 - Orders logistical support as needed



Setting Up for Success

1. OSC is responsible for all ground and air resources assigned to the incident
2. One of the most critical responsibilities of the OSC is resource accountability
3. To be able to remain mobile as OSC, the initial attack IC must:
 - A. Document all resource assignments in a way that can be maintained while remaining mobile
 - B. Consider using:
 1. Tablet Command
 2. An ICS 201 form
 3. A pad of paper
 4. Getting an aid to drive/assist you



Division Considerations

1. Utilize BC's if possible, they have a vehicle and can remain mobile
2. Divisions communicate with OSC on command frequency
3. Utilize minimum number of divisions necessary to:
 - A. Maintain span of control (5:1)
 - B. Cover geographic area (from XX road to LL Ave is Division A)
 - Not one per street, cul-de-sac, etc.
4. Reduces communications issues
 - A. Divisions communicate on command with OSC
 - B. Divisions communicate with their assigned resources on their tactical frequency
5. Consider going straight to branches in wind driven rapidly expanding incidents
6. Consider creating task forces to maintain span of control
 - A. Combine single resources and assign a task force leader ("Task Force 1")

Division or Group Supervisor

1. Group Supervisors (DVGS) work for the OSC

- A. Group Supervisors are assigned to accomplish specific functions within the incident (HazMat, medical, structure protection)
- B. Structure Group can be moved throughout the incident area and assigned to work in any division
- C. Consider naming conventions: Structure Group 1, 2, 3 as they may move throughout the incident area (avoid using street names for this same reason)
- D. The Structure Group Supervisor will coordinate all activities with adjacent divisions/groups

2. Division Supervisors (DIVS) work for the OCS (* preferred*)

- A. Are assigned to a specific geographical area of the incident
- B. Are responsible for line construction, structure protection and all hazards in their divisions
- C. Should consider assigning strike teams or task forces
 - Are assigned to any/all tasks in the divisions including Structure Protection

3. Recommendation: For structure protection, use strike teams or task forces. This ensures the DIVS remains responsible for the entire division and all associated activities are coordinated.



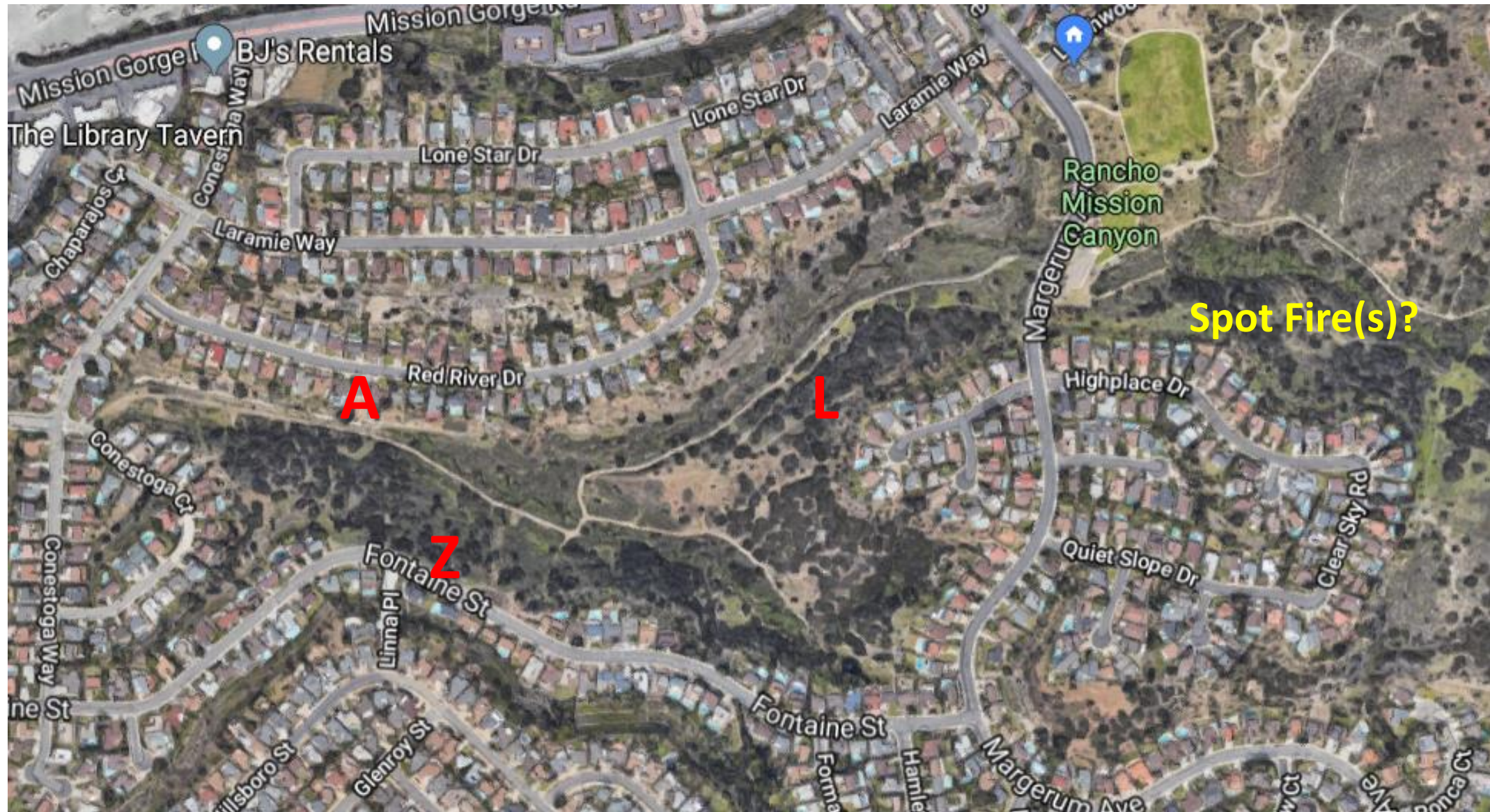
Discussion:

Structure Group vs. Strike Teams/Task Forces

1. 'Structure Group' has one responsibility: to protect structures
 - A. They are not responsible for line suppression
2. Adding 'Structure Groups' adds to OSC's workload (consider span of control)
3. OSC must supervise groups and divisions who are working in the same area
 - A. If assigning 'Structure Groups', assign the group to the same tactical frequency as the division they are assigned (enhances situational awareness of DIVS and DVGS)
4. Use of Strike Teams or Task Forces
 - A. Task forces can be preassembled OR assembled on the incident to capture several single resources (perhaps initial attack resources)
 - B. Task forces or strike teams come with a leader who can manage the assignment given by DIVS (optimal for coordination and span of control)
5. Divisions and groups communicate with OSC on command frequency
 - A. All tactical communications between DIVS or DVGS and their assigned resources are on the assigned tactical frequency



Assigning Resources



Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD)

1. When is an AOBD needed?
 - A. When significant amount of air resources assigned to incident
 - B. To assist the OSC with span of control
 - All assignments made by AOBD are at the direction of the OSC
2. In the city, AOBD should only be assigned to SND Air Ops 1 or another qualified AOBD. What they can do at initial attack:
 - A. Assist OSC with establishing work objectives for aircraft
 - B. Assist with coordination of aircraft fuel cycles, water sources, setting up for night operations, etc.
3. AOBD works for OSC
4. OSC provides the aircraft objectives, strategy, and tactics
5. For initial attack fires, an AOBD is not usually needed operationally



Benefits of a 'mobile ready' OSC

1. Able to focus on operations only, not drawn into the ICP "vortex"
2. Not tied to the ICP/wagon wheel
3. Ability to meet with DIVS directly
4. Ability to see any part of the incident to assist in making personal evaluations of the threats and risks on all divisions
5. Able to make well informed decisions to address the incident



Incident Command Responsibilities

1. No longer directly responsible for operations
2. Responsible for all unstaffed command and general staff positions

A. Command Staff

- *Information:* Update ECDC, SND PIO, address media, update Fire 1
- *Safety:* Overall incident safety
- *Liaison:* Coordinate with law enforcement, other unified command agencies, and cooperating agencies (SDGE, Red Cross, animal control, etc.)

B. General Staff

- *Finance:* Ensure resources are ordered through the proper agreement
- *Logistics:* Order food, water, any support resources (communications unit, food truck, repair services, etc.)
- *Plans:* With OSC, develop a plan for the next operational period and order appropriate resources



Incident Command Responsibilities (continued)

1. Order additional resources as requested by OSC
2. Keep track of outstanding orders
3. If OSC provides IC with assignments, IC briefs arriving resources of assignments
4. Confirm communications with incoming resources (fire crews, dozers, etc.)
5. Coordinate evacuations, road closures
6. Ensure FMAG is coordinated and completed, when applicable



Leader's Intent

- Utilizing the OSC position is not required
- Put the SDFD in-line with statewide ICS intent and practice
- Allow the OSC to engage directly with divisions, branches, and aircraft
- Ensure one plan is being executed by one OSC
- Allow IC to focus on all other incident issues
- BCs are encouraged to utilize the OSC position on smaller vegetation fires to gain experience and familiarity

