



ICS

Fundamentals of Command Strategy and Tactics

Objectives

- ❑ Review basic operations concepts in emergency operations.
- ❑ Understand the roles for all crew members during an incident.
- ❑ Review communication responsibilities.
- ❑ Review assignments and tactical objectives.
- ❑ Participate in initial radio reports and updates.

Command Philosophy

Ropes and Knots

- ❑ Easily Tied
- ❑ Easily Untied
- ❑ Easily Identified



Command

- ❑ Easily Expanded
- ❑ Easily Contracted
- ❑ Easily Understood



Command- What does it mean?

Being the Incident Commander means:

- ❑ 1. Determine incident objectives and strategy.
- ❑ 2. Establish the immediate priorities.
- ❑ 3. Establish an appropriate organization.
- ❑ 4. Assignment of resources to meet objectives and maintain accountability for all personnel.

Communications

Size-up

“A rapid mental evaluation of various factors related to an emergency incident”

Initial Radio Report

“An initial on-scene report by the first arriving unit that is **clear, concise and relevant**”.

Painting the picture for incoming units



Communications

Parts of an Initial Radio Report:

“Metro”

Unit at scene

Description of the scene: stories, building size, occupancy, multi-vehicle accident

Current condition: Nothing showing, light smoke, heavy fire, multiple patients, etc.

Location: What floor, which side(s) Alpha side generally address side.

Water: Secured, on a hydrant, laying a line

Safety Concerns: Wires down, poor access, hazmat release, etc.

Actions: Attacking the fire, investigating, passing command, going defensive

Establish IC: One word, based on street name or recognizable business (Vons, IKEA, 15, etc.)

*Remember: First at scene trucks and USAR companies WILL pass command when first arriving engine company or Chief Officer arrives.

Communications



Conducting a 360

- Get out of the cab and do it yourself or assign it to someone else and ensure a follow up radio report.
- **B.E.N.C.H.**
- **B-** Building Construction (split Level, cantilever, detached)
- **E-** Exposures (vegetation, homes, etc.)
- **N-** Needs (resources or equipment)
- **C-** Conditions (location and progression of the fire: back bedroom, second floor, active fire, rescues)
- **H-** Hazards (slope, wires down, access issues, etc.)

Conducting a 360°



Follow-up Radio Report



Update on conditions:

- Additional resource requests (SDPD, SDGE, HazMat, etc)
- Alarms
- Staging location and additional radio assignments (if possible, sequential and within the same zone)
- Progress of the incident (knockdown, overhaul, escalation of the incident)
- Confirmation of 360 assessment.

Modes

Nothing Showing, Investigating:

Situations that generally require investigation by the first arriving engine while holding staged companies at a distance.

Incident Command Mode:

Situations that require by virtue of the size of the emergency strong, direct, overall Incident Command from the outset.

*There is no such thing as “Rescue Mode”



Incident Command Mode Options

1. Maintain command and establish a solid ICS foundation for incident organization. Complete or assign a 360.
2. Pass command to the next arriving ENGINE when appropriate:
 - Immediate rescues
 - Short crew
 - Probationary crews
 - Any other situation where the initial IC needs to be task oriented or provide direct supervision at the beginning of an incident
 - The officer will assist their company as needed while maintaining incident command responsibilities until command is transferred.

Incident Command Mode Options

- Upon arrival of additional units, the initial IC has the option to either pass command or retreat to a traditional command role after assigning another officer to supervise activities.
- The initial actions and intent to pass command should be announced on the radio

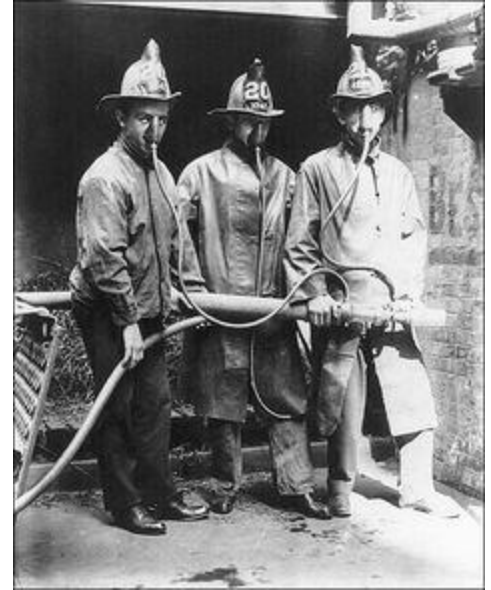
Communications- Command and Tac

Command Frequency:

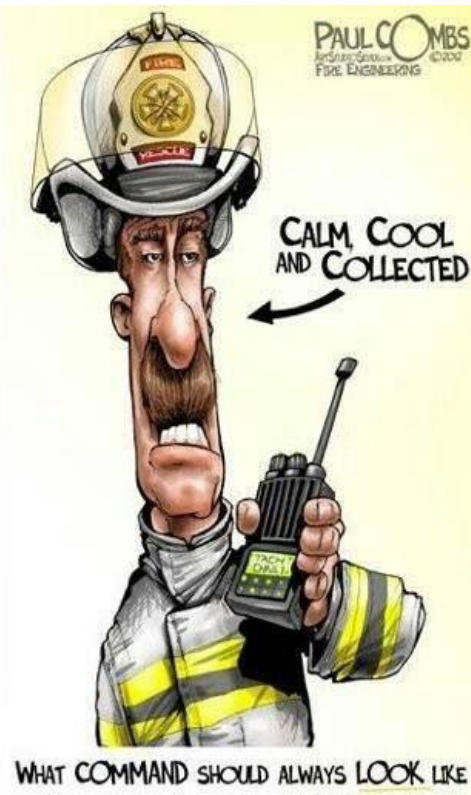
On most incidents units will receive assignment and switch to tac. If Operations is established, division and group supervisors will communicate with Ops on command. On all vegetation fires, division supervisors will communicate on command.

Tactical Frequency:

If assigned **TO** a division, group or branch, you will be communicating to your assigned leader on the tactical channel. “Division 2, Engine 14 Firefighter on tac”



Command Presence



- Take a breath
- PTT- Push To Talk, *not* Push To Think!
- Make clear, relevant assignments everyone can understand.
- If face-to-face assignment given, relay over the radio.
- For ease of understanding, don't use slang terms
- No personal names.

Status Reports in the PPN format

Position- Where are you assigned or currently located
(2nd floor, making our way to the roof, etc.)

Progress- Status of assignment. (knockdown, fire increasing,
haven't reached the fire)

Needs- What resources do you need to complete your
objectives. (Ventilation, additional hose lines, companies,
no additional resources needed)

Roof Report

Roof Reports are a “PPN” for companies assigned to the roof.

- Roof size and shape (it is always assumed to be square unless otherwise reported)
- Construction (flat roof, panelized, concrete, etc.)
- Integrity (soft, partial collapse, vented)
- Dead loads (A/C units, mechanical rooms, etc.)
- Fire conditions
- Smoke conditions
- Actions
- Needs



Roof Report



RIC

RIC/IRIC is established for firefighter safety!

If in the IDLH, RIC must be established.

Exception- If immediate civilian rescue is needed, RIC may be reassigned to a rescue function as a last resort.

If deployed, RIC must be immediately back filled.

If assigned RIC, remain outside the IDLH until deployed, reassigned or disbanded.



RIC Reinforcement Considerations

MAYDAY

Firefighter rescue

Building configurations

Multiple entry points

Hoarding conditions

Difficult to access/locate

Rescue profile dictates



Staging



Primary Staging: Residential or Commercial

On a corner.

On a hydrant.

Do not bypass staging unless specifically assigned.

Once acknowledged at scene, relax!

Make room for the truck!

Base: Hi Rise

Designated location from IC.

Designated channel from IC.

1st Engine Company from 2nd alarm will be Base.

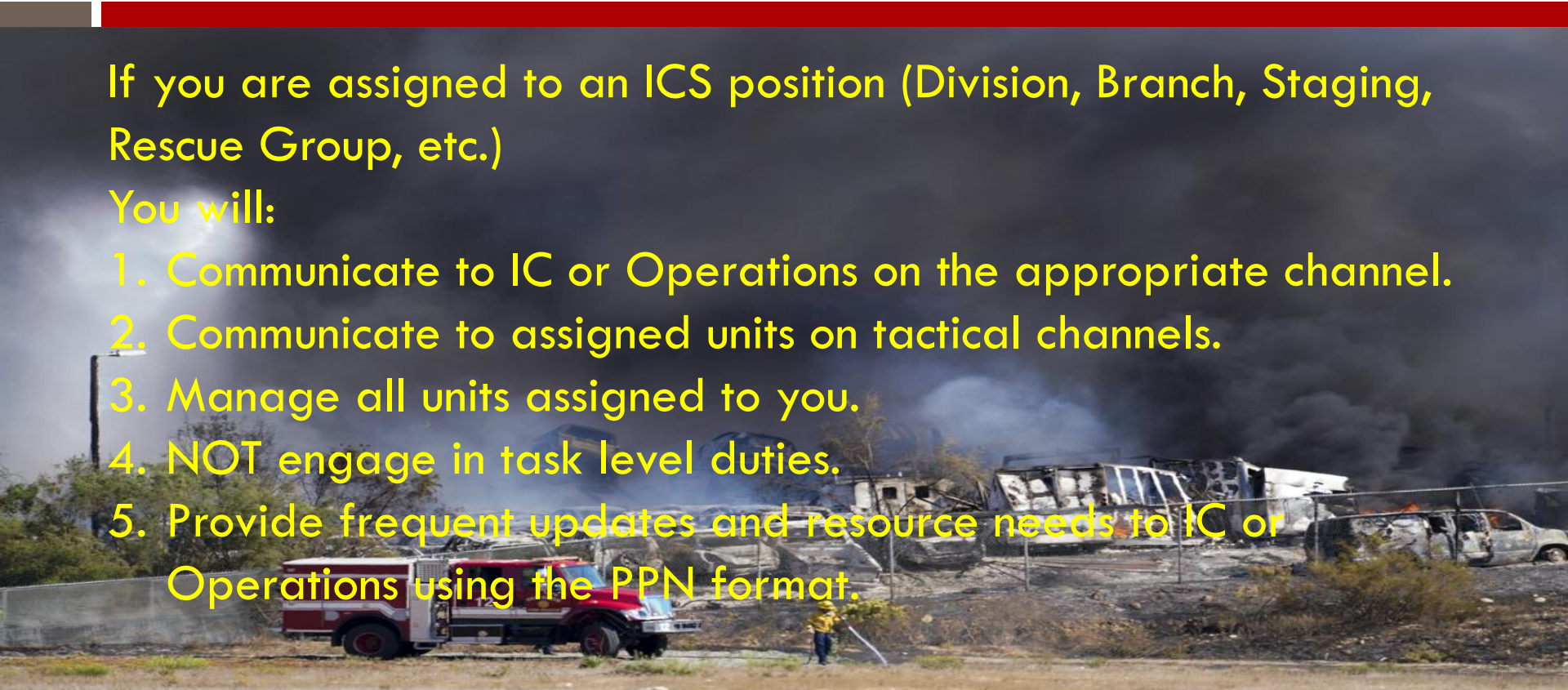
Hi Rise staging two to three floors below fire floor.

ICS Assignments

If you are assigned to an ICS position (Division, Branch, Staging, Rescue Group, etc.)

You will:

1. Communicate to IC or Operations on the appropriate channel.
2. Communicate to assigned units on tactical channels.
3. Manage all units assigned to you.
4. NOT engage in task level duties.
5. Provide frequent updates and resource needs to IC or Operations using the PPN format.



Water Supply

- Residential vs Commercial
- Place Trucks for possible defensive fires
- Anticipate supplying trucks with water.
- Consider reverse lays for supplying trucks
- Engineers are referred to as “Engineer”, not “Apparatus”. Ex: IC, Engine 17 Engineer.



Additional Considerations

- Primary and Secondary Searches-
“All Clear”, NOT “Negative” or “Complete”
- Firefighters do not cancel units without a captain verifying.
- Do not feel pressured to cancel units unless confirmation of hazard mitigation. (NG leaks, unattended food)
- If crews are in an IDLH, an Accountability Officer **will be** assigned.

