Fire Department Operations
- What does it look like in your town?
- Standard Assignment
- House Fire, Commercial Fire, Smoke In Structure
- Incident Command System
- Arrival Reports
- Communications
- Situational Awareness
- Fireground Communications
- Mayday

Standards of Coverage
- Acme Fire Department will respond to a house fire with sufficient resources to confine the fire to the room of origin
- What does that mean?

ICS Features

ICS Organization
Common Responsibilities
Span of Control
Incident Action Plan
Incident Facilities
Chain of Command

- An orderly line of authority within the ranks of the organization, with lower levels subordinate to, and connected to, higher levels.

Unity of Command

- Every individual is accountable to only one designated supervisor to whom they report at the scene of an incident.

Five Major Management Functions

- Incident Command
- Operations Section
- Planning Section
- Logistics Section
- Financial Administration Section
ICS Span of Control

ICS Position Titles
- Provide a common standard for all users.
- Distinct titles allow for filling positions with the most qualified individuals.
- Useful when requesting personnel.

ICS Organizational Components
- Section
- Branch
- Division
- Group
Maintaining Span of Control

- **Divisions**: Divide incident geographically, led by a Supervisor.
- **Groups**: Describe functional areas of operation, led by a Supervisor.
- **Branches**: Used when the number of Divisions or Groups exceeds the span of control and can be either geographical or functional, led by a Director.

Incident Commander Responsibilities

- Overall command and control.
- Ensures incident responder safety.
- Protects health and safety of the general public and the environment.
- Provides information to internal and external stakeholders.
- Maintains liaison with other agencies.

Management by Objectives

- Management by objectives is an approach used to communicate functional actions throughout the entire ICS organization. It can be accomplished through the incident action planning process, which includes the following steps:
Incident Action Plan

- An Incident Action Plan (IAP) is an oral or written plan containing general objectives reflecting the overall strategy for managing an incident.
- An IAP includes the identification of operational resources and assignments and may include attachments that provide additional direction.

Command Structure

- First Arriving Unit is Command
- Arrival Report
  - CAN Report is the simple example
- Transfer of Command
  - When do you expect to do this?
- Additional Resources to manage the problem
Fireground Communications

- Situational Awareness
- Personnel Accountability
- Fireground Communications
- Arrival Report
- Mayday Report

It’s go time...

Situational Awareness

- Weather Conditions
- Building Construction and Occupancy
- Life Safety
- Hazards
- Who else is coming?
- Water Supply
- Radio Frequencies
- Your Assignment
- Who are you working with?
- I could go on…
Situational Awareness

- Listen to the Radio
  - Radio Ops Channels
  - Building Conditions/Fire Conditions
  - Arrival Report and Assignments
- Who is coming? Who is on scene?
- What are you assigned to do?
  - Radio, Air pack, Turn outs, your crew
  - Bring the necessary tools to do your job
  - Changes in Fire Conditions prior to completing assignment
- Understanding what is happening will save your life

Personnel Accountability

- Why personal accountability?
- Components of Accountability System
  - Passport, Helmet Shields, Command Board
  - Scene Operations
  - Using a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) during an Incident

Components of Accountability

- Your name tag is attached to the cards on the Engine
  - In the Cab Captains Side
  - On the Captains Helmet Shield
- Accountability Board
  - Located in the cab
  - Used on Fire Ground by Division/Group Officers and IC to track position of Companies
- Incident Command
- Dispatch
Scene Operations

- Company Officers are responsible and accountable for the safety of their crew
- Maintain Constant Contact
- Voice, Touch, Visual
- Radio communications may be acceptable for certain assignments
- Members will stay together as teams
- COs are responsible for members under their direct control

Where are you? Who are you with? What are you doing?

Two in Two out

- In place for any IDLH Atmosphere
- OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard, 1910.134 (g)(3) and (4) Procedures of Interior Structural Fire Fighting
- With imminent life threat, requirements may be suspended
- Command Discretion- Rescue Mode must be announced as a Strategy on the radio
- Stand By Assignment is not RIT
Personnel Accountability Report

- Incident Commander will know the location of each company within the perimeter and track them through incident (OR-OSHA)
- PAR is used to ensure all are accounted for
- Reasons for PAR
  - Mayday, Abandon, Withdraw
  - Any change from offensive to defensive strategy
  - When the fire is under control
  - Every 30 minutes

Personnel Accountability Report

- WVCC will notify IC at the first ten minute mark and every ten minutes thereafter
- IC will announce PAR on assigned Ops Channel
  - All COs account for people
  - Division or Group Supervisors and Staging Manager advise IC of the units under their control
  - If anyone is missing, use Lost Firefighter Procedures

What is an Initial Scene Size Up?

A rapid mental evaluation of various factors related to an emergency incident. This should include ALL angles.
Why is it important?

Look at the fire from this angle...

Why is it important?

...and now from this angle.

Why is it important?

This looks like a simple single-story home...
Why is it important?

...but not from the back.

What Does it Consist of?

Arrival scene establishment:
- Construction
- Occupancy
- Apparatus and Equipment
- Life Hazard
- Water Supply
- Auxiliary/Aids
- Street Conditions
- Weather
- Exposures
- Area
- Location/Extent
- Time
- Height

Arrival Reports

- Also called a report on conditions or situation report
- Establish a time of arrival and inform other responding units of what actions might be needed
Three Simple Basic Questions

- What do I have going on?
- How and where is it going?
- What do I need to control it?

- Some People call in a CAN Report...
  - Conditions
  - Actions
  - Needs

What’s in the initial transmission?

- DEFINE what you have (i.e., structure type, situation, etc.)
- Building: Construction and Occupancy
- Smoke Conditions: VVDC
- Fire Conditions
- Life Safety: Known Rescues
- Hazards: to Fireground Operations
- Command Function, location name
- Where is side A
- Initial Action Plan

Arrival Reports

- Incident Action Plan
  - Tactical Priorities
    - Offensive, Defensive, Transitional, Rescue
  - Initial Assignments
  - Don’t forget about water (to put water on the fire)
SLICERS

- S- Size Up
- L- Locate the Fire
- I- Identify and Control the Flow Path for Air
- C- Cool the space from the Safest Location
- Extinguish the Fire
- R- Rescue
- S- Salvage

It Could Be Worse

Cal Fire BC Initial Request

- 110 Engine Companies
- 20 Bulldozers
- 40 Hand Crews (that is 20 people per team)
- Tenders and Tankers
- Overhead Team
Results

Fire Contained

Losses in First 6 hours
- Sawmill
- Church
- 100 homes

Inside Command Post

Radio Communications
- SOG 1.1.12 Emergency Radio Communication Procedures
- Standard Frequencies
- Dispatch, Ops Channels, Talk Around, Mayday
- 800MHz Radios and features
  - Channel Selection
  - Tower
  - The Orange Button
  - Emergency Traffic
Standard Radio Operations

- WVCC (Dispatch) will monitor all channels when SFD units are operating them.
- WVCC will always monitor
  - A Dispatch: Dispatch Channel
  - A Ops channel 2: EMS calls
  - A Ops channel 3: Fire Calls
  - A Ops channel 6: Salem Airport Tower
  - Central 1

Standard Radio Operations

- Battalion Chief have a second radio in the Command Car which will be set to Ops 16: “Mayday” Channel
- “All Fire” Channel
- Attempts made to locate missing people
  - By IC and Dispatch on working channel
  - On Mayday Channel
  - Using “All Fire”

Emergency Radio Traffic (ERT)

- Any individual with need to transmit essential emergency message
- Do not “need” to use orange button
- WVCC will initiate ERT tones
  - Three beeps, then repeat message
  - IC will acknowledge traffic
Emergency Traffic

- Bypasses the Chain of Command
- Traffic Essential to safety of personnel
- Acknowledged by Dispatch and IC
- “Hose 8 to Command with Emergency Traffic”

Emergency Radio Traffic (ERT)

- Abandon, Abandon, Abandon
  - All crews use escape routes to exit the hazard zone to a safe place, taking equipment to facilitate exit
  - WVCC will initiate tones and repeat unit radio ID and order units to abandon, abandon, abandon
  - Apparatus Operators will sound three long continuous blasts
  - Radio Silence: await updates
  - Immediate PAR

- Cease Operations/ All Quiet
  - All non essential noise generating operations cease for the required time
- Code Zero
  - Send Police with Guns
- Evacuate
  - Removal of citizens exposed to hazard
  - Essential message
- Withdraw
  - Orderly movement to a safe location, bring your stuff
Emergency Radio Traffic (ERT)

- Mayday, Mayday, Mayday
  - Usually used by the firefighter or someone who finds them
  - All remaining units hold position

- LUNAR means:
  - Location, unit, name, air supply, resources needed
  - Let’s work on that...

Mayday Criteria

- Low Air Alarm and Disoriented or unsure of location
- SCBA Failure
- Trapped, entangled and unable to free yourself within one minute
- Finding a Firefighter in distress
- Discretion of Command

LUNAR

- Location
  - Last known location in the structure
- Unit
  - Your Assigned Position
- Name
  - Yes, specifically you
- Air Supply
- Resources
  - What you think you will need to take care of the problem
Air Management

- SOG 1.2.12 Air Management
- Members will exit the IDLH environment PRIOR to the activation of a low air alarm
- Members will maintain constant awareness of their air supply
- Command will be notified of Low Air Alarm activation

Scene Operations

- We must continually monitor our air supply
- Every five minutes...
- 10 minute PAR time notifications
- Change of work area
- Passing major landmarks
- Completion of assignment
- Notify team leader when first crewmember reaches 2000 psi
- Request relief so egress occurs prior to low air alarm activation

When low air alarm occurs...

- Immediate Action Item by individual and the team
- Notify Command specifying who you are, where you are, and unit status
- IC confirms the RIT team leader has received low air message, possible location and egress
- RIT evaluates need to assist
- RIT team will track remaining air for reporting crew
- Crew notifies RIT and IC when exit has been accomplished
Listen for Low Air Alarm and PASS Alarms

- Low Air Alarm or PASS alarm activation without notification from Command will produce a call to Command to report proximity and possible location
- Constantly monitor crew member with low air alarm
  - In low visibility, move crew member with low alarm to second position from front and remain in contact
- Safety Officer will investigate and report

In summary

- Consider the Drill Ground as a Fire Incident. As such, we require strict adherence to protocols designed to help keep you safe
- At all times on the Fire Ground or Incident Perimeter
  - Members will work as part of a team, COs are responsible for them
  - Have a radio set to the appropriate Ops channel
  - Listen to the traffic at all times
  - Use Emergency Communications as necessary
  - Be Mindful of your air supply
  - Treat a low air alarm like with concern and action