ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU

# FACEBOOK FORUM

FIVE COMBAT POSITIONS OF COMMAND



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#### FIVE POSITIONS AND WHY WE DO IT

- Provides for firefighter safety
- Provides accountability for all fire companies operating
- Maintains status of fire and searches

#### **INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC)**

- If the first company has arrived before the SC (IC), an informal transfer of command will take place from the company Officer to the SC.
- Depending upon the type or severity of the incident, a higher-ranking command officer may assume the Incident Commander position and reassign the *SC*.

Radio designation: "COMMAND"

#### **INTERIOR CHIEF**

- To be implemented for an offensive mode fire
- The command *Interior* position assignment is a *priority* 
  - Must be announced on fireground radio channel
  - Assess tactical conditions
  - Further coordinates the fire attack with multiple companies
  - Controls interior communications
  - Accounts for all company operations and companies
  - Assesses risk with the command Safety position

Key Takeaways: Status of fire / Status of searches

#### PLANS CHIEF

- The *Plans* position assignment is consistently important for any working emergency incident
  - Sets up the formal *Command Post*
  - Operates communications as needed
  - Coordinates efforts with all command support services

In addition, when an Operations position is used, it is important to add an Operations *Plans* position.

### **Command Board for Plans Chief**

The Left Wing

- The top of the board will list all companies due
- All Companies working will be circled and should be found on the main center board
- Un-circled companies are on stand-by at the scene or in staging
- The Command Staff assignment are to the left in the middle of the board and are also circled when working on the scene
- Next to that will be the box and 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm assignments. It is best to pre- draw this area, so you will not fall behind when companies are dispatched
- Companies will be circled and un-circled as their assignments change during the incident

The Right Wing

- The top of the board will display all units in REHAB assigned to function as the REHAB team
- Companies sent to REHAB for observation will be listed below the Units assigned
- The middle of the board is to keep track of the progress reports that will be used to inform Dispatch
- The bottom of the board is to display utilities and other functions that have been requested and/or on the scene. This includes the Building Dept, Task Force and Water Dept

Center Ice

- This is where the down and dirty stuff is displayed. Place the letter designation of the Sectors around the side view diagram of the structure
- What companies are working where, rig positioning, ground ladder placement, company assignments, plans location, and other pertinent information regarding interior and exterior operations
- The upper Left corner is where the Fire Building information should be placed. Number of stories, type, occupied or vacant, size, and the physical address
- The upper Right area is for keeping track of the Searches. Primary, Secondary, and Final with the company that performed the search
- The lower Right in a circled frame is where the RIT Companies are displayed
- Draw "ladders" to what side they have been raised, and to what story of the building
- Draw in any information pertaining to utilities that may be important to the call

The Press Box

- This is where any other pertinent information is recorded
- Medical Transports, Hazardous Materials on scene, etc.
- Good place to stick the magnetic lights

Additional Considerations

- Communications Van
- Salvation Army
- Red Cross.
- Rehabilitation Unit
- Chaplaincy and Social Services

### **RIT CHIEF**

Offensive mode fire

- The command *RIT* Chief shall integrate the OSHA 2-Out personnel with the assigned RIT company
- The *RIT* Chief will then coordinate and equip the 'RIT' team and create IAP's for potential Mayday incidents immediately

In the event of a "Mayday" incident:

- The command *RIT* Chief will take command of the interior or hot zone operations with RIT companies immediately.
- The exterior *RIT command* position shall be replaced with a <u>Rescue</u> <u>position</u> immediately.
- Normally Safety moves to Rescue

## **OPERATIONS CHIEF**

Defensive mode fire

- A command *Operations* position is not typically assigned unless the incident is escalating to multiple alarms which could also change to a defensive mode operation.
- The *Operations* position shall typically position in Division A.
- The *Operations* position shall set up a portable command board and be assigned a command *Plans* position

## SAFETY

- The Safety position assignment is a mandatory position that must be assigned as soon as possible.
- The *Safety* position should concur with the Incident Safety Officer certification level.
- RIT/Safety