

The Fire Safety Officer



Roles & Responsibilities

v1.0

Firefighters Support Foundation

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About FSF

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OVERVIEW

- ❖ Incident commander has ultimate responsibility.
 - ❖ Larger/Complex incidents
 - ❖ Safety responsibility is broad
 - ❖ Delegation is essential
 - ❖ NFPA 1521 defines the Safety Officer's role.
 - ❖ Incident Safety Officer, and
 - ❖ Health and Safety Office
 - ❖ More FF's injured and killed on scene.
 - ❖ Having a safety officer will reduce injury and death

Introduction

- ❖ Scene rehabilitation initiated/sustained
- ❖ Monitor conditions, hazards and risks
- ❖ Personnel accountability
- ❖ Ensure understanding of the IAP
- ❖ Risk assessment
- ❖ Identify safety/collapse/hot zones
- ❖ Monitor vehicle traffic
- ❖ Monitor radio communications
- ❖ Identify need for additional Safety Officers
- ❖ Evaluate aircraft operations

Duties of the SO

Special knowledge the SO should possess:

- ❖ Firefighting strategy and tactics
- ❖ Building construction
- ❖ Fire behavior and Fire loads
- ❖ Forcible entry
- ❖ Ventilation
- ❖ Evacuation procedures
- ❖ SCBA and PPE usage
- ❖ Climatic conditions
- ❖ Ladder operations
- ❖ Establishing control zones

Scene Safety Consideration

- ❖ Fire loads:
 - ❖ Maximum heat production
 - ❖ Target hazards and fire load potential
 - ❖ Knowledge aids operation
- ❖ Forcible entry:
 - ❖ Understand hazards
 - ❖ Understand techniques

Scene Considerations

Ventilation:

- ❖ Understand ventilation principals
- ❖ Effects of improper ventilation
- ❖ Understand negative and positive Ventilation
- ❖ Evacuation procedures:
 - ❖ Essential at all types of incidents
 - ❖ Understand policy:
 - ❖ Ordering an evacuation
 - ❖ Notifying and using personnel effectively
 - ❖ Establishing a relocation area

Scene Considerations (2)

- ❖ SCBA and PPE:
 - ❖ Understand standards and policy
 - ❖ Enforce use as appropriate
- ❖ Climatic conditions:
 - ❖ Weather can have an adverse effect
 - ❖ Maintain constant awareness
 - ❖ Adverse conditions include:
 - ❖ Extreme temperature and humidity
 - ❖ Freezing rain and snow
 - ❖ High wind

Scene Considerations (3)

- ❖ Ladder operations:
 - ❖ Understand ground and aerial ladders
 - ❖ Ensure sufficient ground ladders are in place
- ❖ Establishing Control zones:
 - ❖ Allow for personnel accountability
 - ❖ Collapse zone based on:
 - ❖ Building height and
 - ❖ Construction type
 - ❖ Control zones aid in scene management

Scene Considerations (4)

- ❖ Type of incidents:
 - ❖ Hazardous materials
 - ❖ Emergency medical and mass casualty
 - ❖ Technical rescues
 - ❖ Confined space
 - ❖ Structural collapse
 - ❖ High angle
 - ❖ Extrication

Special Operations

❖ Government regulations and standards:

❖ OSHA/MOSH

❖ NFPA

Requirements for SO

- ❖ Identify high hazard and risk locations
- ❖ Review and develop pre-incident plans
- ❖ Review and develop standard operating procedures
- ❖ Ensure adoption and implementation of the IMS
- ❖ Conduct research and development relating to:
 - ❖ Firefighting strategy and tactics
 - ❖ Safety best management practices
 - ❖ Other technologies

Safety Officers Roles

- ❖ Coordinate with the IC, understand the IAP
- ❖ Conduct incident safety size-up
- ❖ Report size-up information to the IC
- ❖ Establish control zones
- ❖ Establish rapid intervention teams
- ❖ Provide advice on challenging conditions
- ❖ Monitor communications
- ❖ Monitor vehicle traffic
- ❖ Continually assess risks

Roles of SO at Scene

- ❖ Recognition of how conditions change
 - ❖ Continual risk assessment at benchmark operations:
 - ❖ Primary search completed
 - ❖ Fire knocked down
 - ❖ Patient extrication complete
 - ❖ Hazardous materials spill contained
 - ❖ Manage the risk
 - ❖ Effectively use interpersonal skills
 - ❖ Enforce accountability
 - ❖ Effectively support operations
 - ❖ Plan for additional resources

Challenges of the Safety Officer

- ❖ Post incident analysis and reports
- ❖ Injury or death reports
- ❖ Identification of corrective action for future incidents:
 - ❖ Violations of department SOP's
 - ❖ Poorly defined procedures
 - ❖ Unforeseen conditions
 - ❖ Training deficiencies

Role following the incident