

Operating Guideline # 708

Incident Size Up

December 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline is to outline the requirement for an Incident Commander to conduct an incident size-up before developing an Incident Action Plan.

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

A thorough size-up of the incident by the incident commander is necessary to identify safety issues and develop a strategy to mitigate the incident. The size-up should consider all environmental and situational factors that could affect the tactics being considered.

GUIDELINE:

1. While the size-up for any incident normally with the dispatch process (all firefighters should begin this process considering the time of day, weather conditions, reported emergency, knowledge of the situation, dispatch information etc.) the responsibility for completing a size-up lies with the Incident Commander (IC). The IC should continue the process during the response and immediately after arriving on scene where upon a 360 degree assessment of the situation should be accomplished.

2. Incident scene management should reflect overall incident priorities including, in order of priority AKA "LIP":
 - a) life safety
 - b) incident stabilization
 - c) property conservation

3. The first arriving officer should evaluate the situation and gather as much information as possible including answers to the following guiding questions:
 - a) What has happened?
 - b) What is happening?
 - c) What is likely to happen?
 - d) What resources are available?
 - e) What actions are necessary to safely affect control of the situation?
 - f) What additional resources will be necessary to mitigate the incident?

4. For structural fire situations, the IC must also specifically consider the impact of fire dynamics (i.e. – flow paths, ventilation etc. and the potential for hostile fire events), the survivability profile, weather conditions (i.e. – temperature extremes, wind etc.) and building construction (legacy vs modern construction methods) that are present.

5. The use of a size-up tool (i.e. – SLICE-RS, the Rule of 8 etc.) and a tactical worksheet are strongly recommended.

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RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG and particularly that Company Officers (supervisors) and firefighters (workers) ensure that they adhere to their duties in accordance with the provisions of this document and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)
- MLFD OG 701 Role and Responsibilities of the Incident Commander
- “Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer, Fifth Edition”, IFSTA