

Operating Guideline # 710

Unified Command

December 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to outline the option of operating under a “unified” command structure at a major incident.

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

Unified Command is used primarily when working with multiple agencies on a large event that requires multiple emergency services, ie. wildfire, multi casualty incidents, tornado, active shooter, bomb threat, bus collision, boat collision.

GUIDELINE:

1. When operating at a multi-jurisdictional emergency incident with overlapping area's/elements of responsibility such as a severe weather event (i.e. – tornado touch down) or other major event, the fire department Incident Commander may elect to operate under a “Unified” command structure where other agency leads share in the command and control responsibilities for the safe mitigation of the incident. Typically, first responders (fire, police and paramedic services) make up those in a command and control role at such an incident and it is important that each share information and action plans so that a coordinated response effort can follow.

2. Where it is decided that first responders will operate under a “unified” command structure, the fire department I/C should communicate with his/her counterpart in the allied agencies and decide on a regular meeting cycle and command post location where they can meet to coordinate emergency information and intended actions.

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