



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
TACTICAL PRIORITIES

Randy L. Beadle

Fire Chief Signature

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Purpose: To establish guidelines for life safety initiatives, stabilizing and controlling an incident, and providing for optimum property conservation.

It shall be the policy of the GFD to standardize operational procedures to stabilize an incident. The three (3) major tactical priorities of Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, and Property Conservation, must be completed in order to stabilize an incident.

The company objectives listed below are normally associated with Engine, Aerial, and Rescue units. The objectives of a company are subject to change at the discretion of the Incident Commander as dictated by the characteristics of the incident.

ENGINE COMPANY

The typical objective of the Engine Company is to locate, confine and extinguish fire.

RESCUE COMPANY

The typical objective of the Rescue Company is to supplement operations deemed necessary by Command. In addition Rescue Companies are expected to provide support activities including, but not limited to, reconnaissance, laying hose, raising ladders, and RIT.

AERIAL AND/OR TRUCK COMPANY

The typical objective of the Aerial Company is to provide rescue operations, ventilation, disabling utilities, elevation of master streams, and to gain access to upper levels of the building.

LIFE SAFETY

A primary search of all involved and exposed occupancies that can be entered shall be completed. Command must structure initial operations around the completion of the primary search. Primary search means that companies have quickly gone through all affected areas and have verified the removal or the safety of all occupants. The term "ALL CLEAR" will be given to Command when the primary search is complete.

Rescue efforts should be extended in the following order:

- The most severely threatened.
- The largest number (groups).
- The remainder of the fire area.
- The exposed area.

During rescue operations, firefighters are attempting to locate and remove threatened occupants. It is possible that all property may be written off to accomplish this objective. This approach is life-safety oriented in a compressed and sometimes desperate time frame.



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Firefighters may have to fight fire to complete the primary search, but they must realize the incident is in the 'rescue mode' until an "ALL CLEAR" is given. With the announcement of "ALL CLEAR", the search group is only reporting the completion of the primary search. This is not a guarantee that everyone is out of the danger area. Primary search operations are often done under hot, smoky, dark, rushed and sometimes desperate conditions. Although the primary search is not perfect, it offers the best chance of removing the victims from a dangerous environment. The possibility of overlooking victims always exists, and unfortunately victims may hide from the fire and thus from the firefighters.

As soon as the situation has been stabilized, a secondary search shall be completed. The secondary search shall consist of a systematic room-by-room search. Consideration should be given to assigning this function to a crew that was not involved in the primary search. Emphasis must be placed on completeness and accuracy. When the secondary search has been completed, notification shall be given with Command as follows: "SECONDARY SEARCH COMPLETED - ALL CLEAR".

INCIDENT STABILIZATION

Command shall make an aggressive, well-placed, and adequate interior attack whenever possible, and support that attack with whatever resources and actions are required to stop the fire extension and bring the fire under control. A critical command decision (both initial and on-going) relates to an Offensive or a Defensive strategy.

Operational Strategy – Modes of Attack include:

- Determining the appropriate strategy:
 - Defensive.
 - Transitional Dynamic.
 - Cautious Aggressive.
 - Aggressive Offensive.
- Establishing an overall strategic plan for the incident.
- Setting priorities.
- Obtaining and allocating resources.
- Predicting outcomes and planning.
- Assigning specific objectives to tactical level units.
- Communicating all of the above information to those responsible for tactical considerations.

Offensive Strategy (Fast Attack Mode)

An Interior attack and related support are directed toward quickly bringing the fire under control. The steps for an offensive strategy are:

- Assume Command.
- Fast Aggressive Interior Attack.
- Support Activities (Ventilation, Entry, RIT, Safety Officer, etc.).
- Primary Search.
- Back-up Initial Attack.
- Water Supply.



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- Evaluate Operation / React to Changing Conditions and Evaluate Fire Spread.
- Identify Key Tactical Positions.
- Prioritize Fire Streams.
- Water Supply.
- Evaluate Operations / React to Changing Conditions.

The Incident Commander is responsible for reporting "FIRE UNDER CONTROL", which means that the forward progress of the fire has been stopped, and that the remaining fire can be extinguished with on-scene sources. It does not mean that the fire is completely out. The term "FIRE EXTINGUISHED" will be reported by the Incident Commander when the fire is completely extinguished.

PROPERTY CONSERVATION

Command will commit the necessary resources required to keep property loss at an absolute minimum. The following four objectives shall be considered during Property Conservation operations:

- Stopping additional loss.
- Verifying that the fire is completely extinguished.
- Determining the fire cause and origin.
- Returning the occupancy to use, if possible.

In order to meet the objectives of property conservation, Command must evaluate the damage to the overall fire area, salvage any surviving property, decide what conservation operations are required, commit the necessary personnel and equipment, and continue to coordinate and manage the conservation efforts until the fire, smoke and water loss is stopped. This may also include coordinating the shuttering of the structure.

