



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
SAFETY OFFICER

Randy L. Beadle
Fire Chief Signature

January 1, 2021

SOG: 016

Effective: 01Apr13
Revised: 01Dec15
Revised: 01Jan2021
Page: 1 of 2

Purpose

The Incident Commander is responsible for overall incident scene safety. The Safety Officer's sole function is to develop and recommend measures for assuring personnel safety and to monitor and/or anticipate hazards and unsafe conditions, in direct communication with the Incident Commander during training activities and during operational emergencies, in accordance to the GFD Incident Command Procedure Manual.

Command will utilize all available resources to provide for the safety of firefighters operating at an incident. All firefighters, Company Officers, and Sector Officers must maintain a constant awareness of safety when working at an incident.

The Safety Officer will function within the Incident Command structure in an advisory capacity. In cases of imminent danger, the Safety Officer has the authority to suspend, or terminate activities or evacuate personnel from a hazardous area. If these actions are taken, they must be immediately reported to Command.

Activation

The Safety Officer is non-designated until needed, and activated by the Incident Commander, based on the circumstances and complexity of the training activities and during operational emergencies.

The Safety Officer will be in full PPE with a command designation as "safety".

The Incident Commander should consider activating the Safety Officer for all working structure fires or any other incident of significant size, duration, or complexity.

The safety Officer will function in this capacity until relieved by Command.

Procedure

Upon activation, the Safety Officer shall obtain a briefing from the Incident Commander.

Upon completion of the briefing, the Safety Officer will do a 360° walk-around of the incident.

The following are examples of typical unsafe conditions encountered on a fire scene:

- Back draft.
- Flashover.
- Collapse of structure.
- Need for personnel rehabilitation.
- Opposing fire streams.
- Inadequate lighting.
- Utilities secured or unknown.
- Barricading of dangerous areas.
- Lock-out / Tag-out needed.
- Decontamination issues.
- Personnel not wearing turn-out gear and SCBA.



SAFETY OFFICER

- Fuel or other combustibles on site.
- Unstable vehicles and equipment.

The Safety Officer will ensure that the following are completed:

- The Rapid Intervention Team is available and ready.
- Safety zones, collapse zones, hot zones, and other hazard areas are established.
- A Rehabilitation Division/Group/Branch is established, if necessary.
- The Safety Officer will continuously monitor the following and report the information to Incident Command:
 - Fire status and egress routes for interior operations or into hot zones.
 - Radio traffic for missed, unclear, or incomplete information.
 - Recommendations relative to safety or concerning strategy and/or tactics may be made to the Incident Commander, as deemed appropriate.

After an incident, the Safety Officer shall file a report on unsafe acts, corrective actions taken on the scene, accidents, or injuries, and any 'near-misses' that occurred, as well as be present at any critiques on the call.. Methods to improve safety on future incidents will also be included. This report shall be submitted to the Fire Chief and to the Training Coordinator for evaluation and intervention.