



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Standard Operating Guideline

**SCENE SIZE-UP**

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**Purpose:** To establish a standard procedure providing guidance for Incident Command or the first arriving Officer on scene. Scene Size-up is a process of information and evaluation that begins when the call is received. It is a wealth of information for determining the appropriate strategy and tactics for each individual emergency situation. The Incident Commander or the first arriving Officer on scene weighs gain against risk.

### Procedures

The following procedure will be followed at all emergency incidents.

- 1) The Incident Command or first arriving Officer on scene will make an evaluation of the situation that determines a course of action. Focused, uninterrupted thinking is necessary. This can only be accomplished in a relatively quiet and enclosed environment such a vehicle designed to serve as a Command Center.
- 2) When enroute, an Officer should begin to formulate the answers to these questions:
  - What do I have?
  - What apparatus is coming and with how many people?
  - Where is it located?
  - How much time do I have?
  - How can I handle it?
  - What type of hazards are possible?
  - Could there be a rescue involved?
  - How can the weather affect this operation?
  - What is my water supply in this area?
- 3) The initial evaluation of the scene should include:
  - A rapid description of the emergency situation.
  - A determination on whether the scene is safe.
  - Evidence of occupants in immediate danger.
  - A 360° walk around the structure.
  - A determination of the location of all utilities and associated shut-offs.
  - Life Hazards and IDLH environment.
  - Whether additional resources are necessary.
  - The establishment of a RIT.
  - Whether Mutual Aid is necessary.
  - Obvious exposures that need to be protected.
  - Possible explosion or chemical hazards that would weaken the structure and endanger life.
  - Smoke/Flame color and direction of the wind, smoke and fire.
  - Back-up salvage and overhaul crews.
  - Potential safety hazards. Example: (HVAC units on the roof, basic structure design).
  - Access on all sides, upper levels, and roof area.



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- 4) Scene Size-up is a continuous process and can constantly change. It is not a once-per-incident duty. Be prepared and comfortable in making decisions based on your findings. Once made, communicate your decisions to those that are accountable in carrying out these decisions.
- 5) As the scene size-up evolves, and more information becomes available, consider documenting the following:
- A plan of action including, but not limited to, safety, crew locations, structural integrity, utilities (including the location of LP Tank), ventilation (type and location), staging update, wind direction and speed, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, and Fire Investigation Team.
  - Type of Occupancy and Building Information (size, height, construction type).
  - Water supply sufficiency.
  - Smoke and Fire Conditions and any changes since arrival.
  - Life Safety of occupants, firefighters, and others on scene.
  - Firefighter Rehabilitation status.
  - Exterior Building Information (size, height, construction type, roof trusses, surrounding area and fire load).
  - Interior Building Information (Stairs, walls, openings, fire protection systems (sprinklers, FDC, and standpipes).
  - Exposure coverage.
- 6) Always remember to document the following general information:
- Location
  - Time of emergency.
  - Personnel on scene, including mutual aid personnel.
  - Vehicles on scene, including those in staging.
  - Nature of the emergency.
  - Any additional life hazards.
  - Monitor the exposures (Structures, vehicles, equipment, etc.).
  - Consider any weather changes.
  - Always do a repeat complete walk-around.