

Enchanted Circle Regional Fire Association

Model Operating Procedures

Response To Structure Fires

Purpose

Many tasks must be performed at the scene of a structure fire in order to protect life and property. Nothing is more important in determining the eventual outcome than our ability to put a lot of trained, well organized and properly equipped firefighters on the scene as quickly as possible. This procedure establishes standards for assigning adequate resources to first, second, and subsequent alarm structure fire incidents. In general, the Incident Commander (IC) should plan on assigning only one task to any resource (Engine Company or Truck Company). For example, each engine company would be expected to stretch and staff only one attack line. This procedure assumes a reliable automatic aid and mutual aid response in order to meet the resource requirements.

First Alarm

The standard ***First Alarm*** assignment includes a Chief Officer, two Engine Companies, and one Truck Company. The Truck Company function will in most cases be performed by an Engine that has been assigned Truck Company responsibility by the IC (*See Standard Company Assignments*). In areas not served by a pressure hydrant water supply, two Water Tenders and a Chief Officer to serve as water supply officer will be automatically added to the standard alarm assignment. The dispatch of first alarm resources is automatic and does not require prior authorization. The specific resources that are “first due” are designated for each area in the ***Dispatch Mobilization Guide***, and shall be updated periodically.

Second Alarm

A ***Second Alarm*** assignment will bring an additional Chief Officer, two Engine Companies and one Truck Company to the scene. If water tenders were assigned on the ***First Alarm***, then two additional water tenders will be included on the ***Second Alarm*** assignment. A second alarm must be requested by the Incident Commander, or the assigned Chief Officer. The assigned Chief Officer should consider requesting a ***Second Alarm*** prior to arriving on scene for any of the following situations:

- A report from dispatch of people in the building.
- A fire in a building with significant occupant safety concerns, such as a school, hotel or night club.
- A building with three or more floors.
- Anticipation of the need for multiple RIC companies.
- Anticipation of significant water supply problems or manpower needs.

Additional Alarms

The IC may order ***Third, Fourth, or Fifth Alarms*** as needed to control complex incidents. Each additional alarm will result in the assignment of an additional Chief Officer, two Engine Companies, and one Truck Company, plus two water tenders if any have been assigned on prior alarms.

Special Call

The IC may ***Special Call*** any type of resource needed on the incident without striking an additional alarm.