

Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines

SUBJECT: COMMAND POST

SOG 701

PURPOSE: To have in place a guideline that meets Comm 30.14.

SCOPE: This guideline identifies the process to set up command and operate a Command Post. It fixes responsibility for the command function and its duties on one individual at any time during the operation. This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

1. ESTABLISHING COMMAND: The first fire department unit to arrive at the scene of a multiple unit response SHALL assume command. This unit remains in command until relieved by a ranking officer, or until the incident is terminated.

A. Radio Designation: The officer in charge of the scene is designated as “Egg Harbor Command”.

B. Initial Report: The person assuming command shall transmit a brief radio size-up.

2. COMMAND POST: When the Command Post has been established the location shall be announced over the radio.

3. RESPONSIBILITY: The Incident Commander is responsible for the command functions at all times.

A. Command is responsible for four basic incident goals:

1. Provide for the safety and welfare of fire and emergency personnel.
2. Remove endangered occupants.
3. Stabilize the incident.
4. Conserve property.

4. **COMMAND MODES:** When command is initially assumed by an officer, that officer must decide on the proper commitment for his/her company. This assignment will fall into one of the three general modes.

A. Nothing showing mode: These situations require investigation by the first arriving unit while holding other units in a staged position. Normally the officer should go check while using a portable radio to command the incident.

B. Fast attack mode: Situations which require action to stabilize the incident. Examples include interior fires in residences, apartments, or small commercial occupancies. These situations require that the officer quickly decide how to commit personnel. Where a fast interior attack is critical, use of a portable radio will permit involvement in the attack without neglecting command responsibilities. This mode should not last more than a few moments and will end with one of the following:

1. Situation stabilized.
2. Command passed to the next arriving officer.
3. Situation is not stabilized and the officer must withdraw to the exterior to set up a command post.

C. Command mode: Situations that require strong, visible command from the outside. Examples include large complex fire and rescue operations, or strong chance of fire extension.

5. **PASSING COMMAND:** In certain situations it may be better for the first arriving officer to “Pass Command” to the next arriving officer. When passing command it shall be announced over the radio.