



Massena Fire Department

The Fire Safety Officer

Roles & Responsibilities

v1.0



Terminal Objective

After a period of instruction the student shall be able to describe, with 100% accuracy, the duties and responsibilities of a Safety Officer in accordance with the Massena Fire Training Program and applicable SOG's



Accompanying Video

This PowerPoint presentation accompanies the video presentation of the same title.



OVERVIEW

- Introduction
- Scene Safety considerations
- Special operations
- Role prior to the incident
- Role during the incident
- Challenges for the Safety Officer
- Role following the incident



Introduction

Incident commander has ultimate responsibility.

- Larger/Complex incidents
 - Safety responsibility is broad
 - Delegation is essential
- NFPA 1521 defines the Safety Officer's role.
 - Incident Safety Officer, and
 - Health and Safety Office
- More FF's injured and killed on scene.
 - Having a safety officer will reduce injury and death



Duties of the SO

- Scene rehabilitation initiated/sustained
- Monitor conditions, hazards and risks
- Personnel accountability
- Ensure understanding of the IAP
- Risk assessment
- Identify safety/collapse/hot zones
- Monitor vehicle traffic
- Monitor radio communications
- Identify need for additional Safety Officers
- Evaluate aircraft operations



Scene Safety Consideration

Special knowledge the SO should possess:

- Firefighting strategy and tactics
- Building construction
- Fire behavior and Fire loads
- Forcible entry
- Ventilation
- Evacuation procedures
- SCBA and PPE usage
- Climatic conditions
- Ladder operations
- Establishing control zones



Scene Considerations

- Fire loads:
 - Maximum heat production
 - Target hazards and fire load potential
 - Knowledge aids operation
- Forcible entry:
 - Understand techniques
 - Understand hazards



Scene Considerations (2)

Ventilation:

- Understand ventilation principals
- Effects of improper ventilation
- Understand negative and positive Ventilation
- Evacuation procedures:
 - Essential at all types of incidents
 - Understand policy:
 - Ordering an evacuation
 - Notifying and using personnel effectively
 - Establishing a relocation area



Scene Considerations (3)

- SCBA and PPE:
 - Understand standards and policy
 - Enforce use as appropriate
- Climatic conditions:
 - Weather can have an adverse effect
 - Maintain constant awareness
 - Adverse conditions include:
 - » Extreme temperature and humidity
 - » Freezing rain and snow
 - » High wind



Scene Considerations (4)

- Ladder operations:
 - Understand ground and aerial ladders
 - Ensure sufficient ground ladders are in place
- Establishing Control zones:
 - Allow for personnel accountability
 - Collapse zone based on:
 - » Building height and
 - » Construction type
 - Control zones aid in scene management



Special Operations

Type of incidents:

- Hazardous materials
- Emergency medical and mass casualty
- Technical rescues
 - Confined space
 - Structural collapse
 - High angle
 - Extrication



Requirement for SO

Government regulations and standards:

- OSHA/MOSH
- NFPA



Safety Officers Roles

- Identify high hazard and risk locations
- Review and develop pre-incident plans
- Review and develop standard operating procedures
- Ensure adoption and implementation of the IMS
- Conduct research and development relating to:
 - firefighting strategy and tactics
 - Safety best management practices
 - Other technologies



Roles of SO at Scene

- Coordinate with the IC, understand the IAP
- Conduct incident safety size-up
- Report size-up information to the IC
- Establish control zones
- Establish rapid intervention teams
- Provide advice on challenging conditions
- Monitor communications
- Monitor vehicle traffic
- Continually assess risks



Challenges for the Safety Officer

Recognition of how conditions change

- Continual risk assessment at benchmark operations:
 - Primary search completed
 - Fire knocked down
 - Patient extrication complete
 - Hazardous materials spill contained
- Manage the risk
- Effectively use interpersonal skills
- Enforce accountability
- Effectively support operations
- Plan for additional resources



Role following the incident

- Post incident analysis and reports
- Injury or death reports
- Identification of corrective action for future incidents:
 - Violations of department SOP's
 - Poorly defined procedures
 - Unforeseen conditions
 - Training deficiencies