



# Solano County Fire Chiefs Association GUIDELINES

<b>Guideline Name:</b>	<b>Command</b>
<b>Number:</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Revision / Reviewed Date:</b>	<b>November 30, 2022</b>

## **Purpose:**

To establish Incident Command Procedures for All Risk Incident Response. Such incidents may involve: structure fires, vehicle accidents, vegetation fires, technical rescues, etc. Safe, effective, and efficient operations at fires and other emergency incidents relies on a consistently applied incident command system (ICS) methodology throughout the county.

## **Responsibility:**

Personnel from all Solano County fire agencies are responsible for understanding and following this guideline.

## **TERMINOLOGY**

**Task Level:** The level of operation on the fireground occurring at the individual or company level. Companies/individuals operating at the task level should be identified on the radio by their unit number or position name. The individual/company sphere of awareness at the task level is limited and is focused on the now.

**Tactical Level:** The level of operation on the fireground occurring at the division or group level and should be called on the radio by phonetic I.D. (“Division Alpha”, “Roof Division”, “Rescue Group”). The sphere of awareness at the tactical level (division/group supervisor) is broader than the task level and is focused on the next.

**Strategic Level:** The level of operation on the fireground occurring at the command level. The main strategies are Offensive, Defensive, and Combination. The sphere of awareness of the incident commander is the entire incident and is focused on the “then/what if” phase of the incident.

**Division/Group Supervisor:** The individual at the tactical level who is responsible for a geographic or functional area of an incident with several companies/resources reporting to him/her. The goal of the division/group supervisor is to provide supervision to and maintain accountability of the task level crews based on tactical objectives.

**Initiate:** The term “initiate” is used for task level assignments and not assuming a division/group supervisor role.



# Solano County Fire Chiefs Association GUIDELINES

**Assume:** The term “assume” is used for tactical and strategic level assignments. This denotes the resource has assumed or been assigned a specific ICS Position.

**CAN Report:** A brief radio transmission comprised of Conditions, Actions, and Needs.

**On Deck:** The status of a company between staged and assigned. This typically will be utilized for structure fires. Crews should be fully equipped at the ICP or another designated area to facilitate their immediate assignment into the incident.

**Level 1 Staging:** Companies are staged in order of arrival, ready for assignment or repositioning.

**Level 2 Staging:** A separate and formalized staging area where greater alarm resources locate under the supervision of one staging area manager.

**Working Command:** An initial incident commander who is mobile and involved with task level operations. First arriving company officers, when passing command, are assumed to be in a Working Command mode.

**Transfer of Command:** Process of transferring command from one IC to another. The objective is to maintain accountability of resources, confirm the incident action plan, and determine if additional resources are required.

## COMMAND MODES

First Arriving Unit shall be in one of three modes:

1. **Establish Command** – Default mode for working incidents. The priority of establishing command is to maintain accountability and coordinate resources. Establishing command is the appropriate mode for rapidly expanding incidents.
2. **Passing Command/Fast Attack** – Command can be passed from a first arriving officer to the next arriving officer who is on the scene. This is indicated when, due to critical incident needs, the initial commitment of the first arriving company requires a full crew or when the company officer becomes task saturated.

Should a situation occur where the second arriving Company or Chief Officer cannot locate or communicate with the IC engaged in the Fast Attack mode (after several attempts), they should assume command, announce their assumption of command, and initiate whatever actions are necessary to confirm the safety of the missing crew.



# Solano County Fire Chiefs Association GUIDELINES

3. **Investigation** – Situations that require investigation by the initial arriving company while other units stage.

## **Communications**

Critical incident information such as ICP location, incident strategy, objectives, Transfer of Command and incident radio frequencies should be announced on the radio as soon as possible by the incident commander.

Use of ICS and division/group supervisors should reduce radio traffic significantly through more face-to-face communications between supervisors and company officers. When a division or group is established, those companies working under the respective supervisor should not contact command directly, but go through their supervisor.

## **Incident Commander Responsibilities**

- Incident size up and risk assessment
- Develop Incident Action Plan
  - a. Establish the incident priority (Life / Property / Environment / Incident Stabilization)
  - b. Identify incident strategy such as: Offensive, Defensive, or Combination
  - c. Identify incident objectives (tactics)
  - d. Develop communication plan
  - e. Develop safety plan
  - f. Identify or develop incident organization
  - g. Identify / address needs for additional resources

## **Division and Group Supervisors Responsibilities**

- Maintain situational awareness through ongoing size up, risk assessment, and coordination with adjoining divisions and tactical groups
- Safety officer for their assigned area or function
- Maintain accountability of all assigned resources
- Develop and implement a tactical plan based on incident strategy and objectives
- Communication bridge between the task level crews and strategic level incident commander



# **Solano County Fire Chiefs Association GUIDELINES**