



# Solano County Fire Chiefs Association GUIDELINES

<b>Guideline Name:</b>	<b>Commercial Fire</b>
<b>Number:</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Revision / Reviewed Date:</b>	<b>June 6, 2024</b>

**Purpose:** To establish an operational guideline for initial assignments for Commercial Fires. This is to serve as a “guideline” document to memorialize well established operational best practices. Any member, who in their judgement based on factors unique to the incident, may deviate from this “guideline” to affect a positive outcome.

A commercial structure fire is defined as a large non-residential structure. Examples include (not limited to) businesses, strip malls, warehouses, factories, retail establishments, schools, churches and restaurants. High rise structures are not part of this category.

**Risk Management:** The Incident Commander’s primary duty is to determine the life safety profile of the incident and apply the most appropriate level of risk to all personnel on the fire ground.

One of the most common problems on commercial structure fires is treating them like residential structure fires. Generally, the greatest life hazard at a commercial structure fire is the firefighters.

Risk management should be based on the following principles:

- Activities that present a significant risk to the safety of responders shall be limited to situations where there is a potential to save lives.
- Activities that are routinely employed to protect property shall be recognized as inherent risks to the safety of responders, and actions shall be taken to reduce or avoid these risks.
- No risk to the safety of responders shall be acceptable when there is no possibility to save lives or property.
- In situations where the risk to responders is excessive, activities shall be limited to defensive operations.
- RECON should be performed for fires of unknown location
- Identify roof construction early (open web truss, panelized, bowstring truss) and relay to Command.
- Do not over commit (no more than 100’) into a commercial building if you do not know where the fire is and have zero visibility.
- Maximum attack line length into the structure from a point of entry should be 200’. At 200’, another attack point should be considered.



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- Do not enter or work under an unsupported mansard if the area is involved in fire.
- There shall be an established water supply before operating a 2 ½" hose line interior.
- Permanent water should be established prior to making entry for a working fire
- Position apparatus out of hot zone (collapse, power lines, upwind, etc).

## First Unit on Scene:

- Conduct Initial Size Up (Reference: SCFCA Size Up and Arrival SOG)
  - Facts, Probabilities, Own Situation, Decision, Plan (FPODP)
    - Building and Fire Conditions
    - Hazard Assessment
    - Victim Profile
- Give arrival report; IOCAN
  - State Command Mode (Reference: SCFCA Command SOG)
    1. Establish Command
    2. Passing Command / Fast Attack
    3. Investigation
  - Victim Profile
- Conduct thorough size up
  - Conduct a 360 if possible, consider driving around the structure
    - Assign 360 to incoming unit if not completed by first unit on scene
  - Identify location of fire
  - Ascertain if structure is occupied / conduct evacuations
- Develop Incident Action Plan
- Give updated CAN Report conditions, action's needs
  - Verbalize changes from arrival report
  - Verbalize if 360 is not completed
  - Assign incoming units
  - Request additional resources as appropriate
  - Announce any Safety Hazards
- Two In Two Out
  - Must be established prior to IDLH Entry unless the fire is incipient or there is a reasonable belief that immediate actions would result in the rescue of a living victim.

## INCIDENT PRIORITIES



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**Incident Priorities:** All responding apparatus should anticipate the following assignments based on incident needs and incident commander direction.

- Connecting to FDC and water supply (if not completed by first arriving engine)
- Evacuation / Rescue / Search
- Two Out / RIC
- Initiate Fire Attack (consider larger attack lines)
- Division / Group Assignment
- Door Control / Flow Path
- Ventilation
- Utilities
- Back up line (hose diameter shall be equal or greater to attack lines)
- Salvage
- Overhaul

**Incident Benchmarks:** Incident Benchmarks should be announced over the radio

- IDLH Entry
- Water Supply Established
- FDC Connection
- Two Out Established / RIC Established
- Division / Group Assignment
- Primary Search Complete
- Secondary Search All Clear
- On Roof / Off Roof
- Utilities Secured
- Knockdown
- Under control
- Change of Strategy
  - Conduct PAR

**Incident Commander:**

- Assume command; give arrival report and Establish command if 1st on scene.
- Announce location of Incident Command Post
- Confirm / Announce building orientation (A Side)
- Ensure Incident Tactics are inline with Incident Priorities
- Communicate Incident Benchmarks
- Assign divisions or groups with Boundaries, Resources and Objectives.

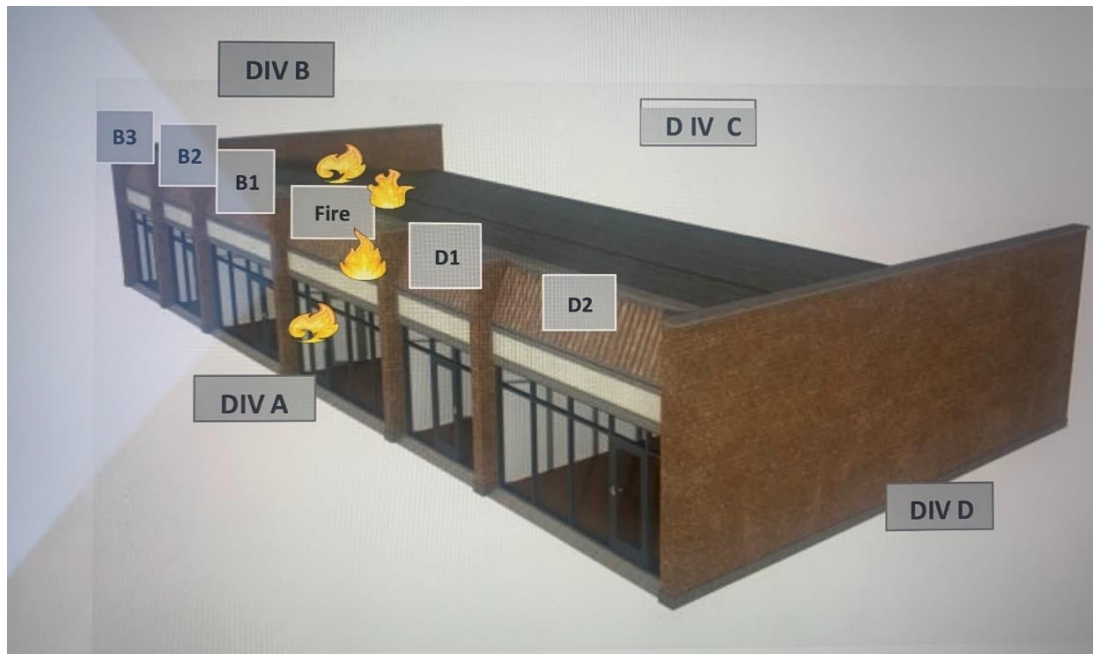


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- Divisions A/B/C/D should be used (based on entry point) over one single division due to size and complexity.
- If conditions require two or more companies to initiate tasks, then a later arriving company or second chief officer should assume the division supervisor role.
- Ensure adequate resources have been ordered
- Utilize appropriate Tac channels based on the incident
- Consider the need for PG&E, FIU, PIO, PD, and rehab.
- Conduct PARs when appropriate: (Reference: SCFCA Mayday, Tactical Retreat Evacuation SOGs)

## Strip Malls

- Fire operations on the main store involved should be designated as Division A. This may be adequate with minimal fire spread to adjacent exposures.
- For larger strip malls or heavier fire conditions, control of lateral spread in adjacent units should be designated as Divisions B/D.
- Rear operations should be designated Division C.



## Multi-Level Buildings

- Multi-level buildings should have divisions designated by floor.



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- If apartment buildings or motels have doors that face to the exterior from opposite directions, consider use of Division A/C.