



# Buxton Fire-Rescue

## Standard Operating Guideline

**Subject:** Moderate Risk – Incident Management (1)

**Section:** Command Modes (1)

**Date Approved:** March 22, 2013

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Page 1 of 2

### **PURPOSE:**

To establish guidelines to safely and effectively manage fire ground operations.

### **PROCEDURE:**

- A) The first arriving officer or senior fire fighter must establish command, complete a verbal size up and assign incoming fire companies, as the incident and/ or the conditions dictate.
- B) The incident commander (IC) must have options regarding the initial actions at a scene. Command modes or command options are selected according to the initial and continuing conditions at the emergency scene and those modes are: nothing showing, fast attack, and command mode.

### **NOTHING SHOWING MODE:**

- A) The first arriving unit gives an on-scene announcement including “nothing showing.”
- B) This mode requires investigation by the first-arriving engine or ladder company. Usually the IC will accompany investigating company(s), while using a portable radio to continue the command function, utilizing a “mobile command.”
- C) The IC may choose to place later arriving companies in Level I Staging (parked in the direction of the fire scene, possibly at a water supply closest to the scene. If a Level 1 Staging area is utilized, no companies should approach the scene, unless directed by a staging area manager or the IC.

### **FAST ATTACK MODE:**

- A) The first arriving unit gives an on-scene announcement including the term “fast attack.” This mode implies that immediate action is needed for scene stabilization. (Officer/senior fire fighter feels that his or her involvement will have a definite impact on the incident’s outcome).
- B) If a critical offensive attack is required, the officer may choose to lead the attack while utilizing a portable radio to continue the command function or may transfer the command function to the second arriving officer, before entering the structure.
- C) The second arriving officer/senior fire fighter is then tasked with establishing a formal command. It should be noted that the officer going “fast attack” is still responsible for the incident until the next-in officer establishes formal command.

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- D) The fast attack mode of command can end with one of the three following outcomes:
- First-in officer stabilizes the incident by offensive attack or deems the incident to be minor in nature and announces that the first-in unit can handle the situation.
  - First-in officer determines the scene is beyond the fast attack stage. The officer then withdraws and establishes a formal command.
  - Next -in officer establishes a formal command and command is then transferred.

**COMMAND MODE:**

- Some fire scenarios require a strong and direct command from the outset. In this case, the company officer will assume a stationary exterior command position until the scene is mitigated or until relieved of command.
- In this command mode there is a working incident and the first arriving officer/senior fire fighter has determined that it would be more beneficial to stay outside and direct other incoming units as opposed to participating in the attack.

**GREEN**