

First-Due Decision Making

Discussion

The first arriving company on the scene of a fire must make many decisions that will ultimately affect everything from crew safety to determining the initial and on-going strategy of the incident. The first-in officer must make rapid series of decisions regarding the operation based on sound judgment, operational SOG's and proper risk assessment. As a company discuss how some of these initial decisions are made and what options are available for the first arriving units. Refer to department SOG's when assigning tasks and making your initial decisions.



As the first arriving company (assume you are the engine or quint equipped company), discuss how you will determine these incident operation factors or complete some of the many tasks that must be accomplished early into the incident. **How do you determine or complete the following:**

<p><u>Response to the Scene</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route to incident • Crew safety • Tool & position assignments 	<p><u>Size-Up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire location • Building type & use • Fire extent 	<p><u>Stage of Fire</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incipient • Free burning • Smoldering
<p><u>Hose & Nozzle Selection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of line needed • Type of nozzle • Back-up line size & location • Water supply needed for initial attack and sustained operation 	<p><u>Entry Safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flashover / backdraft precautions • Crew communications • Personal equipment • Building construction hazards 	<p><u>Primary Search</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern to be used • Escape method • Victim location profiles • What if victim is located • When is secondary completed
<p><u>Locate/Confine/Extinguish Fire</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators of location of fire • Keep the fire in check • Begin overhaul 	<p><u>Additional Response Assignments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next engine and truck • Mutual Aid • Upgrade of alarm • Reduction of alarm 	<p><u>Other Decisions & Factors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All clear on search • Fire under control • Complete a PAR at the company level •