

City of Madison Fire Department
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
Subject: INCIDENT OPERATIONS, GENERAL
Effective Date Expiration Date Original Number Revision Number Revision Date

Approved by

Date

409.0.0.0 GENERAL FIREGROUND OPERATIONS.

409.1.0.0 PURPOSE.

409.1.1.0 The purpose of this SOP is to discuss general fire ground activities. There are additional Standard Operating Procedures that address specific actions at fire and other emergency incidents.

409.2.0.0 SCOPE.

409.2.1.0 The requirements of this SOP shall apply to all fire companies, fire officers and firefighters. The words “shall” or “will” indicate a mandatory requirement. The words “should” or “may” indicate a suggested course of action.

409.3.0.0 SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA).

409.3.1.0 The following items are for general purposes only. Detailed requirements are found in the MFD Respiratory Protection Program, SOP 405.0.0.0.

409.3.2.0 The use of SCBA is mandatory at all fires, including dumpster fires, hazardous materials incidents, and heavy smoke conditions without fire, except as noted in Section 409.3.3.0.

409.3.3.0 The use of SCBA is optional, with the final decision left to the individual firefighters, at the following types of fires:

- a. Open fires.
- b. Small trash fires.
- c. Field and brush fires.

409.3.4.0 When the use of SCBA is required, its use shall not be discontinued until approved by Command. Testing equipment should be utilized in enclosed areas to verify there are no excessive hazardous gases before discontinuing SCBA use.

409.3.5.0 If there is any doubt about the need for SCBA, then its use shall be continued.

409.3.6.0 Firefighters arriving at the incident scene on apparatus shall have their SCBA in place and ready for operation, as well as the other required Personnel Protective Equipment. Personnel need not be breathing from the SCBA air supply until ready to enter the hazardous area.

409.3.7.0 When the SCBA low air warning activates, both the firefighter and his/her partner shall immediately exit the hazardous environment (“Buddy System”) and report their status to the Accountability Officer. If their physical conditions permit, they may obtain full cylinders and return to their function after reporting to the Accountability Officer. Exception: If they are in the process of removing a victim when the SCBA low air warning activates, they may continue with the removal, if in their judgment, they have sufficient remaining breathing air to do so.

409.3.8.0 Firefighters shall not take unnecessary or unreasonable risks to effect a rescue. The safety of firefighters is paramount.

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409.3.9.0 **If it becomes necessary for a firefighter to exit a hazardous area, then his/her partner shall also exit. No personnel shall be left alone.**

409.0.0.0 **HOSE LINES.**

409.4.1.0 All interior fire suppression actions, involving fires beyond the incipient stage, shall be made with a hose line no smaller than 1.5" in diameter. It is better to have too much flow than too little.

409.4.2.0 When personnel have entered a hazardous environment, the RIT procedures shall be initialized. (See MFD SOP 408.0.0.0. Rapid Intervention)

409.4.3.0 When interior fire suppression actions have begun, a continuous water supply shall be assured unless Command permits otherwise. This may consist of a hydrant connection or water from another apparatus. A sufficient water supply is of the utmost priority and shall be established when the apparatus tank water level falls to one half. Exception: Hose lines supporting a human life rescue effort. In this event a water supply shall be established as soon as possible.

409.5.0.0 **NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS IN THE INTERIOR OF A STRUCTURE.**

409.5.1.0 While it is recognized that all firefighters want to assist in controlling an emergency, too many personnel inside a hazardous area can be counter-productive and even dangerous. No firefighters shall enter a hazardous area unless performing an assigned task.

409.5.2.0 The following is a general guideline as to the number of firefighters assigned to the following tasks:

a. Operating hose lines:	1.5" – 1.75"	Two personnel
	2.0" - 3.00"	Three personnel
b. Search & Rescue	Per Team	Two personnel
c. Ventilation	Per Team	Two personnel
d. Salvage & Overhaul	Per Team	Two personnel

409.5.3.0 **No firefighter shall fail to exit a structure when directed to do so.**

409.5.4.0 Search and fire suppression entry teams shall ensure that they have a working portable light and portable radio transceiver prior to beginning their tasks.

409.6.0.0 **VENTILATION.**

409.6.1.0 Positive pressure ventilation shall begin as soon as possible whenever an interior fire attack has begun unless it is determined that, following a consideration of other factors, the use of PPV would intensify the fire.

409.7.0.0 **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.**

409.7.1.0 No structure fire rescue operation should begin without a simultaneous fire attack.

409.7.2.0 The Incident Commander shall not hesitate to call for additional resources if there is any question of the need.

409.7.3.0 Should firefighters become trapped, the Incident Commander shall request additional assistance immediately, including additional alarms as determined.

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- 409.7.4.0 If a firefighter is issued an order which conflicts with a previous order, the firefighter shall advise the second officer of the first officer's order. The second officer is then to decide which of the two orders that the firefighter is to execute. If the decision is made to countermand the first order, the second officer shall so advise the first officer. This is to prevent the first officer from assuming that his/her order has been executed.
- 409.7.5.0 All firefighters shall remain aboard or in close proximity to their apparatus upon arrival at the incident scene unless a task has been assigned.
- 409.7.6.0 Crews shall remain together unless assigned otherwise as permitted by other SOPs. The senior company officer present is responsible for knowing the identities of his/her crew, their location, and what function they are performing. This task is to be coordinated with the Accountability Officer. (See MFD SOP: Accountability, 400.0.0.0.)
- 409.7.7.0 Personnel shall not remove any personal property, which is not his/her own, from an incident scene unless approved to do so by the Incident Commander or the Fire Investigator.
- 409.7.8.0 Personnel shall promptly report any suspicious person(s), vehicles, or situations to the Incident Commander.
- 409.7.9.0 Personnel shall not make any statements concerning the incident to either civilians or media representatives without approval of the Incident Commander and the Fire Investigator. This is to avoid any inaccurate or premature information from being disseminated or possibly compromising a criminal investigation.
- 409.7.10.0 Personnel shall not conduct any conversations concerning the incident that may be overheard by civilians.
- 409.7.11.0 If the incident involves a fatality, the victim shall not be moved except under the following circumstances:
 a. To verify the absence of life.
 b. To prevent additional damage to the victim's body.
 c. At the direction of the coroner or a deputy coroner.
- 409.7.12.0 Personnel shall not take any actions that result in unnecessary damage to property.
- 409.7.13.0 Civilians and media representatives shall not be allowed to enter into the designated incident perimeter unless authorized to do so by the Incident Commander or the Public Information Officer.
- 409.7.14.0 When civilians or media representatives have been authorized to enter within the incident perimeter, they shall be escorted at all times by designated fire department personnel. Further, they may not move or remove any item from the incident scene unless permitted to do so by the Incident Commander or the Fire Investigator.
- 409.7.15.0 At rescue incidents, the medical personnel in charge of patient care shall be consulted for extrication recommendations.
- 409.7.16.0 Unless extraordinary reasons exist, no debris or vehicular fluids shall be removed or otherwise mitigated at the scene of a motor vehicle crash unless the

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- 409.7.17.0 action is approved by the investigating police officer. The original location of these items may be crucial in determining the cause of the crash.
- 409.7.17.0 If an apparent fire code violation is noted at a fire scene, the Incident Commander shall be notified.
- 409.7.18.0 Smoking by personnel is only permitted in designated areas.
- 409.7.19.0 As noted elsewhere in this procedure, there are other SOPs that provide more specific information concerning many of the topics referenced herein.
- 409.7.20.0 Should there be conflict between two or more SOPs, or between sections of an SOP, that section containing the most stringent requirements shall apply.