

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
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# BASIC TACTICS and STRATEGY

# The importance of Tactics and Strategy

## Education vs Training

30% classroom

70% hands-on

Passion and Courage

Two things a fellow Firefighter, Paramedic,  
Company Officer, Chief Officer or Instructor  
CAN NOT GIVE YOU!

**Passion** to be the very best you can be every  
day you come to work.

**Courage** to do the right thing..... They must  
come from within

Where does great culture for the Fire Service all  
start?

**It starts from the top down.**

Chief Officers  
Company Officers  
The Troops

# The Safety of the Troops is #1 Priority!

What is your departments Culture?  
Whether your full-time, POC, or Volunteer, all  
members must be educated and trained on  
their roles and responsibilities and department  
S.O.G.'s

Does your neighboring departments culture  
and S.O.G.s effect your operations??

**THEY DO!!!!!!!!!!**

**FIRE GROUND SUCCESS**

Leadership

Training/ Education

S.O.G.'s

1. Roll Call

2. Riding positions/disciplines (Fire/EMS)

3. Expectations through training

**SOGs**

Standard

Operating

Guidelines

Where it all

starts...

...Its about the

Troops

## SIZE UP

### Upon Receipt of Alarm

#### Radio Report

❖ Upon arrival to the address you must transmit the following information to the fire alarm office:

- ◆ Identify your company.
- ◆ Your location.
- ◆ Whether smoke or fire is showing,
  - if fire and smoke is showing, give the height and construction type for incoming companies.
- ◆ Most importantly, your direction of travel.

#### Radio Report

❖ **Example:**

- ◆ Engine 126 is on the scene at 7323 Kingston, 2 story ordinary, fire on the second floor. We are southbound on a one-way street.

**First-in Officer  
Considerations  
360 is critical**

SIZE UP

Arrival

SIZE UP

SIZE UP

Smoke is Fuel

Volume

Velocity

Most important key to status of  
fire

Density

Color

Take the time to “Read” the  
building

SIZE UP

SIZE UP

**SIZE UP**

**First-in Officer Considerations**

❖ **Going to Work**

❖ **Probabilities**

❖ **Possibility**

❖ **Utilities**

❖ Action Plan

**SIZE UP**

**Later Arriving Company Officers**

Engine SOG

**TACTICAL MISSION OF AN ENGINE  
COMPANY.**

The main tactical mission of the Engine Company operation is to put into operation a hose line(s) for an immediate coordinated (Vent & Enter) fire attack to confine and extinguish fire.

Engine SOG

Immediate interior attack vs quick exterior knock down then entry.



# Involved vs Uninvolved

## You have Options USE THEM!!!

### IMS & SOG's

Defines our mission of the Engine Company  
Defines the riding, tool, and job responsibilities  
of each member.

Establishes company responsibilities and  
accountability.

Defines what the officer or acting officers' role  
is during the incident.

Fire travel and movement:

Heat and smoke follow the path (s) of least  
resistance.

The first arriving company must determine if  
they are arriving before or after the point of  
FLASHOVER.

### Offensive/Interior Fire Attack

Once the decision has been made to launch an  
Offensive/Interior Fire attack, the Engine

Companies first tactic (priority) is to create and protect the primary means of egress.

Engine Company Operations:

Basic equipment found on an Engine Company.

Hose lays used by a one-piece (single pumper)

Engine Company.

## Basic duties of an Engine Company:

Initial size up of the incident

Forcible Entry when there is not a Truck or

Support unit available.

Search and rescue

Water Supply

Initial attack line

Back up lines

Exposure protection

Master Streams

Supplying standpipe and sprinkler systems.

# Basic Engine Company Operations

## *Key Points:*

Get the first line between the  
fire and the victims.

Protect the stairwell!

Conduct a primary search of  
the hallway toward the fire  
area.

1st Due Engine Positioning

1st Due Engine positioning

When to and to not to use the  
(Pre-connect)

Do just rely of the pre-connect  
don't be a one-dimensional  
engine company.

HINT: Once hose lines are  
pulled onto the street, it is  
important to move them to the  
curb or onto the parkway to not  
block other vehicles entering  
the fire scene.

2nd Due Engine Positioning  
Truck SOG's

## MAIN TACTICAL MISSION OF A TRUCK COMPANY

The tactical mission of the  
Truck Company operation is

to support the Engine  
Company for.  
Entry-Vent- Search and  
Rescue-Support  
Truck Assignments  
1st Due Truck

1st Due Truck. Upon arrival,  
position the Truck according the  
best vantage point to raise the  
aerial and also accompany the  
1st Due Engine Company  
regardless of the occupancy or  
size of the structure.

The 1st Due Truck is charged  
with responsible for the initial

tactics of confinement and  
extinguishment of fire.

Basic Duties:

Whoever is assigned Truck Ops.

Search

Laddering

Venting

All three can save lives...

which comes first?

The six (6) objectives of a

Truck Company:

Rescue

Confinement

Recon and containment

Extinguishment

Property conservation

Overhaul and salvage

# The Ten Basic Skills of Truck Companies:

- Conduct a primary search
  - Rescue victims
  - Ventilate the building
  - Ladder the building
  - Force entry/exit
  - Check for extension
  - Control utilities
- Property conservation
  - Overhaul & Salvage
- Operate elevated Master streams

## Most importantly...

TRUCK COMPANIES SHOULD  
BE WELL TRAINED AND  
WELL STAFFED (Supported)!

## Discuss Manning

1<sup>st</sup> Due Truck

1<sup>st</sup> Due Truck

For strategically defensive fires, the 1st Due Truck must request support from the 1st Due Engine for water supply for master stream tower operations. Positioning out of the calculated collapse zone, and at a building corner when possible is essential. Aerials operating master streams should attempt to work off the back of the apparatus, thereby



requiring the apparatus to back into position.

2nd Due Truck

The 2nd Due Truck apparatus typically will position for the best vantage point to raise the aerial opposite of the 1st Due Truck to provide a second means of egress from a roof operation. In the event the 1st Due Truck could not position correctly to raise the aerial, it will be the responsibility of the 2nd Due Truck to do so.

2nd Due Truck

Daily Shift Commander Duties

## Command Structure for

❖ Single-Family,

- ❖ Townhome,
  - ❖ Small Industrial and
  - ❖ Commercial Offensive Tactical Fires.
- Command Structure

## While en-route:

*SC (IC)* needs to carefully listen for radio transmissions from responding command officers.

One the most important initial actions of an *SC* is to assign the *Command Officer Staff* as soon as possible for a working incident before and upon arrival.

If necessary, the *SC (IC)* should request a 'run down' from DU-COMM of responding command officers for assignments.

Incident Command

If the first company has arrived before the SC (IC), an informal transfer of command will take place from the company *Officer* to the SC.

Depending upon the type or severity of the incident, a higher-ranking command officer may assume the Incident Commander position and reassign the SC.

*Radio designation: "COMMAND"*

Interior Chief

To be implemented for an Offensive mode fire.

The command *Interior* position assignment is a priority

assess tactical conditions

further coordinate the fire attack with multiple companies

control interior communications

account for all company operations  
and companies  
assess risk with the command *Safety*  
position.

*(Status of fire / Status of searches)*

Operations

### Offensive mode fires

A command *Operations* position is  
not typically assigned unless the  
incident is escalating to multiple  
alarms which could also change to a  
Defensive mode operation.

The *Operations* position shall typically  
position in Division A.

The *Operations* position shall set up a  
portable command board and be  
assigned a command *Plans* position

RIT Chief

## Offensive mode fire

the command *RIT* position shall integrate the OSHA 2-Out personnel with the assigned RIT company.

The *RIT* position will then coordinate and equip the 'RIT' team and create IAP's for potential Mayday incidents immediately.

### Plans Chief

The *Plans* position assignment is consistently important for any working emergency incident.

The Plans position will:

- Set up the formal *Command Post*,
- Operate communications as needed
- Coordinate efforts with all command support services.

In addition, when an Operations position is used, it is important to add an Operations *Plans* position.

### Safety

The Safety position assignment is a mandatory position that must be assigned as soon as possible.

The *Safety* position should concur with the Incident Safety Officer certification level.

### RIT/Safety

Additional Considerations

Communications Van

Incident Management Team (IMT)

Salvation Army.

Red Cross.  
Rehabilitation Unit.  
Chaplaincy and Social Services.

Offensive Tactics

Upon arrival, the SC shall attempt to oversee the positioning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine to affect a hose lead-out while also providing room for the 1<sup>st</sup> Due Truck company when possible.

Offensive Tactics

The placement of the initial two Engines (tenders) and Truck will

determine all other positioning  
of apparatus and possibly  
determine the success of the  
firefight.

Water Supply

The SC must tactically  
secure a positive or  
adequate alternate  
supply of water as soon  
as possible.

Coordinated Fire Attack

The SC is responsible for  
coordinating and assuring that



the Offensive tactics are coordinated between the Engine and Truck operations with ventilation and adequate water.

It must be noted that the coordinated fire attack is considered to be a life-saving act for the primary search.