

Command Corner: Incident response safety

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The number of injuries and fatalities among emergency responders who are responding to incidents is increasing at an increasing rate. Below is a checklist of considerations that should be utilised when responding to fires and other incidents:

Checklist of considerations

- Emergency responder and public safety will always be the number one priority
- Utilise LCES (lookouts, awareness, communications, escape routes, safety zones) in all incident activities
- Personal protective equipment will be used on all incidents.
- Upon arrival at the scene size up incident:
 - What has happened?
 - What is happening?
 - What will or could happen?
 - Is this a HazMat situation?
 - Decision point, go - no go.
- Anytime traffic flow is affected by the incident, contact the jurisdictional law enforcement agency for assistance.
- Conduct all operations as far from traffic lanes as possible to provide for crew and public safety.
 - Park units on the same side of the roadway whenever possible to avoid traffic congestion.
 - Personnel do not exit the emergency vehicle until instructed to do so by the leader.
 - Exit the emergency vehicle away from the roadway or where hazard exposure is minimised.
 - Exit the emergency vehicle with full personal protective equipment.
 - Post a lookout to watch for and control oncoming traffic.
 - Utilise forward and rear spotters when visibility is impaired or road conditions warrant.
 - Utilise and place road traffic warning signs whenever possible.
 - If equipment needs to be removed from the traffic side of the apparatus, one person will retrieve the equipment and a lookout will watch for oncoming traffic.
 - Fire engine operators will operate pumps from the non-traffic side or from the cab of the apparatus when possible. Keep all hose, fire tools and equipment out of traffic lanes when possible.

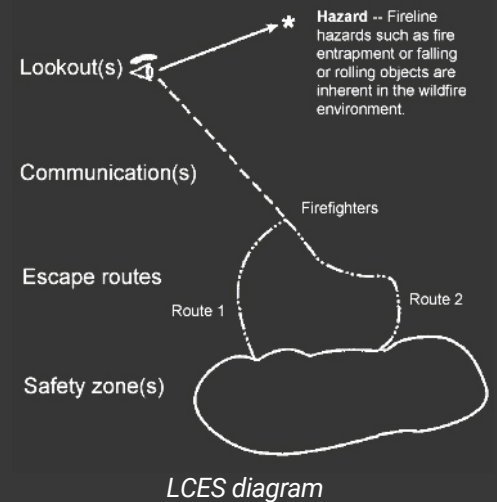
To ease this feeling, they should remember that the jurisdiction always remains in charge and that the IMT works for the agency administrator that provides the IMT with a delegation of authority outlining the expectations, clear mission and assignment and outcomes to the incident management team incident commander and staff and that all incident documentation stays the property of the relevant jurisdiction.

Think of this when building an effective team!

- Must have a qualified incident commander and staff members
- Must have clear objectives
- Requires balanced skills, roles and responsibilities to achieve overall objectives
- Implement effective ICS processes, effective information systems and coordination of resources
- Provide good communication across the team and for the community
- Follow appropriate trusted leadership
- Pledge support and trust by listening and giving support
- Conduct openness and conflict management professionally
- Always insist on mutual cooperation
- Ensure individual development
- Work towards sound inter-group relations and respect for each other
- Seek regular performance and goals review as a team member

Now, ask the question again: do you have an effective team?

If no, we do! Contact us for our team assistance or for training your own team. 🔥



- During night operations utilise reflective clothing, vests and other safety equipment as necessary.
- All emergency responses on roadways will be concluded as quickly as possible to reduce personnel exposure.
- Cancel or demobilisation unnecessary apparatus as soon as possible.

Each agency emergency vehicle operator will follow their particular laws and agency policies governing the operations of emergency vehicles. 🔥