PURPOSE

The Phoenix Fire Department (PFD) holds the safety of our members as our highest priority. The purpose of this procedure is to describe the Incident Safety System that assigns the responsibility for firefighter Safety to an individual beginning with the first arriving Company Officer and the process by which this responsibility is transferred, expanded, and continued as the incident grows up to and including termination of Command. Information related to this M.P. may be found in:

- M.P. 201.01 Command Procedures
- M.P. 201.01A On Deck
- M.P. 201.04 IRIC, RIC Rescue Sector/Group
- M.P. 201.04A Rescue – Lost Firefighters - Command Responsibilities when a May-Day occurs.
- M.P. 202.03A May-Day Communications
- M.P. 202.05C Air Management
- M.P. 205.01H Welfare Sector

OVERVIEW

It is the policy of the Phoenix Fire Department that any member witnessing an unsafe act by another member that may result in injury or worse to one of our members has the authority and obligation to intervene and stop the unsafe act. The Incident Safety System is implemented any time the Phoenix Fire Department responds to an incident. This Procedure describes how an Incident Safety Officer (ISO) and/or Assistant Incident Safety Officers (AISO) are integrated into our Incident Management System, automatically, every time we respond to an incident. The language and safety system structure used in this procedure are intended to conform to NFPA standard 1561, the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and to embody the intent of NFPA 1521.

Fire departments in the Phoenix Regional Automatic Aid Consortium (the consortium) manage safety using two different but interoperable systems; the single dedicated Incident Safety Officer (ISO), and the Incident Safety Officer System (ISOS). It is the intent of this procedure to describe both systems, outline roles and responsibilities of key safety positions, and to explain the interoperability of the systems. While these two different systems exist for smaller scale incidents within the region, when incidents escalate to greater alarms and command van operations are initiated there exists only one formalized safety system. This is also described in this procedure.

This procedure in no way diminishes the responsibility of each and every member to safe work behaviors and to operate within standard operating procedures at all times. Company officers carry an additional responsibility of ensuring that all members of their crew are operating in a safe manner. Chief Officers and sector officers must also insure that operations are conducted safely.

DEFINITIONS

This section briefly describes the positions listed below. Further details and duties for positions are included in the body of this procedure.

Incident: An incident is described as "any emergency situation that threatens life, safety, or property". Timely response and effective management of EMS, rescue, hazardous material release and fire control situations represent the most immediate priorities of the fire department.

Incident Commander (IC): This refers to the position within the Incident Command System (ICS) that is in charge of incident management. The IC has overall responsibility for the safety of responders working at an emergency scene. That responsibility cannot be delegated. The SOFR/ISO assists the IC and acts as the IC's eyes and ears on matters related to safety, and has the authority to manage safety as described further in this procedure.

Support Officer: A position within ICS that supports the IC. This position functions as the Incident Safety Officer in the ISOS until command van operations are commenced and a Safety Officer is assigned.

Sector Officer: This refers to the position within ICS that is assigned to a geographical area or particular function and manages units assigned to these areas during incidents.

Field Incident Technician (FIT): A company officer assigned to work with a command officer. Often this position is assigned the Support Officer/ISO or Assistant Incident Safety Officer (AISO) role during incidents. Some cities in the Automatic Aid Consortium use a Battalion Safety Officer (BSO) to fill this position.

Safety Officer (SOFR)/ Incident Safety Officer (ISO): A member of the Command Staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety.

Assistant Incident Safety Officer (AISO): An individual appointed or assigned at an incident scene by the Incident Commander (IC) to assist the ISO in the performance of ISO functions.

Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC): Temporary two-person team assigned at the outset of a working fire to allow a two-person team to enter the structure to perform primary search and rescue when information indicates a potential life hazard situation that can be resolved by rapid search and rescue.

Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC): Four-person crew fully equipped on site, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue firefighters.

Incident Safety Plan: Hazard control strategies developed by the ISO to address the incident action plan and the type of incident encountered.

INCIDENT SAFETY SYSTEM – DEPLOYMENT MODEL
An incident safety system will be implemented every time the Phoenix Fire Department responds to an incident. The incident safety function begins with the first arriving unit, typically the company officer/IC as part of the initial size up and continues until the incident is terminated. Safety is integrated in the strategic decision making process of looking at critical fireground factors present at the incident, and applying the risk management profile to choose an appropriate strategy and develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP). This process begins implementation of the incident safety system, and identifies the initial IC as responsible for the safety function; this IC is the initial IC/ISO. The initial IC/ISO maintains this responsibility until Command is transferred or the incident is terminated.

Role and responsibility of the initial IC/ISO:
- Follow Phoenix Regional Standard Operating Procedures
- Use the Standard Risk Management Plan
- Analyze critical fire ground factors present at the incident
- Determine a strategy (Offensive or Defensive)
- Establish the Personnel Accountability System
- Provide a standard initial radio report that includes an On-Scene Report and Follow-up Report as defined in Command Procedures M.P. 201.01 08/10/R
- Establish Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC)
- Manage incoming resources until incident command is passed to another arriving company officer or command officer.
- Provide for the ongoing safety of all members involved in the incident

This initial company officer as the IC/ISO provides the beginning of the Incident Safety Officer System (ISOS) and insures that firefighter safety is a priority upon arrival of the first unit and is maintained though standard transfer of Command and ISO responsibilities until the incident is stabilized or Command is terminated.

EMS (one or two units) and Still Assignments
For incidents such as a still assignment or car fire, and one or two company response to an EMS call, the company officer maintains the role of IC and ISO. The company officer's safety responsibilities include:
- Manage task level safety concerns (driving safety, appropriate PPE, equipment use, etc.)
- Size up critical factors and apply the Risk Management Plan at all incidents
- Manage crew accountability through sight, voice, or touch
- Actively monitor air supply of crew
- Monitor crew member fatigue and need to for recycle
- Communication and mitigation of hazards
- Continue monitoring and reevaluating incident hazards and risk /benefit of actions
- Request additional resources and command components as necessary

Those filling the role of IC/ISO must be a capable of filling the role of company officer.

Structure Fire Assignments (3-1's, First Alarms)
Individual jurisdictions may customize the primary and secondary response requirements on a given Nature Code. CAD will automatically dispatch the required units per Nature Code entered for each jurisdiction. The RSPREQ command may be utilized to determine the specific primary and secondary response requirements per Nature Code for an individual jurisdiction:

Format: RSPREQ *Nature Code. Jurisdiction Code* (3 letters)
Example: RSPREQ STR1A, PHX

The first arriving company officer, following standard Command Procedures will assume Command and become IC #1. IC #1's role includes both Command and Incident Safety Officer. When information indicates a potential life hazard situation exists that can be resolved by a rapid search and rescue by the first arriving company (four person crew), the IC may establish an IRIC. A Firefighter and Engineer can fill this role while the IC and the other firefighter conduct a rapid search and rescue. One member of the IRIC must monitor the tactical radio channel and both members must be prepared to assist the interior portion of the crew if needed.

The first arriving response command officer (usually a Battalion Chief), following standard transfer of Command procedures will assume Command and becomes the IC. The FIT assigned to the IC becomes the support officer and assumes the responsibilities of the Incident Safety Officer. Company officers continue to manage the task level safety of their crews.
Note: In some departments within the consortium, responding BC's may not have a FIT. If the first arriving BC does not have a FIT, and assumes Command, he/she assumes both Command and ISO responsibilities until a support officer/ISO is assigned.

It is the Responsibility of the IC to perform the Functions of Command to achieve the Tactical Objectives.
- Assume and announce Command and establish an effective initial command position (Command Post).
- Rapidly evaluate the situation (size up)
- Initiate, maintain, and control effective incident communications.
- Provide and manage a steady, adequate, and timely stream of appropriate resources.
- Identify the incident strategy, develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP), and assign companies and personnel consistent with plans and standard operating procedures.
- Develop an effective incident organization using Sectors/Divisions/Groups to decentralize and delegate geographic and functional responsibility.
- Review, and revise (as needed) the strategy to keep the IAP current.
- Provide for the continuity, transfer, and termination of Command.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Support Officer:
- Define, evaluate, and recommend changes to the incident action plan.
- Provide direction relating to tactical priorities and specific critical fireground factors.
- Become the Incident Safety Officer
- Evaluate the need for additional resources.
- Assign logistics responsibilities.
- Assist with the tactical worksheet for control and accountability.
- Evaluate the fireground organization and span of control.
- Other duties as necessary.

The next arriving BC can be assigned Recon when appropriate or assigned to the most critical Sector/Division or Group. **Note:** Sectors Divisions and Groups are addressed in M.P. 201.01 Command Procedures. For the remainder of this M.P. we will refer to Sectors with the understanding that some departments will substitute divisions and/or groups where appropriate.

Once assigned to a sector, the BC assumes the responsibilities' of a Sector Officer as described in Command procedures. The BC's FIT becomes the Sector Safety Officer and an AISO for the incident.

Role of the FIT as a Sector Safety Officer (AISO) partnered with a BC
- Perform Sector Safety Officer (AISO) function/role
- Assess and address safety concerns within the sector
- Assist the BC with managing the sector (stay together)
- Manage accountability within the sector (hose tags too)
- Provide air management within the sector
- Manage work/rest cycles within the sector
- Manage the sector's On-Deck crews recycle and rehab

- Establish communications with the ISO (you will call them 'Command') once the IC has assigned a Safety Channel
- Coordinate with other Sector Safety Officers (AISOs)

On-Deck Companies

"On Deck" is defined as; a forward staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone, safely distanced from the entrance of a tactical position/Sector. On Deck crews will be supervised either by the Sector Officer or Company Officer and they will remain On Deck until assigned by the IC or Sector Officer. The most likely assignments for On Deck companies are:

- Reinforce a position within an assigned sector
- Crew relief within an assigned sector
- Any other tactical position assigned by the IC
- Rapid Intervention Crew

On Deck provides the IC with the ability to move companies from Level I or Level II staging to a forward position providing a tactical reserve on the fire ground., On-Deck also allows the IC to maintain a continuous work cycle in a sector and provide a back-up crew with immediate intervention capability in any given sector (RIC).

Examples:

Garden apartment complexes, large commercial assignments and high rise fires are all examples of where 'On-Deck' would be used to provide a tactical reserve and a RIC in forward sectors. House fires are another situation where the use of On-Deck helps the IC function more efficiently. Rather than piling additional companies into a small structure, the IC can place them On-Deck and wait for reports from interior crews as to their manpower and resource needs. This placement also eliminates the need to tie up personnel occupying a RIC (rescue) position.

On-Deck Company Use to Assist with a Rescue

The ability to respond quickly to a May-Day situation is one of the most important reasons to assign companies to On-Deck positions. Assignment to the task of firefighter rescue requires a level-headed, coordinated and quick approach. Companies assigned to On-Deck must prepare themselves to function as rescue crews by performing the following tasks/actions:

- Monitor tactical radio channel;
- Retrieve RIC Bag and confirm contents;
- Confirm TIC is in a ready state;
- Determine which line each interior company is on—(hose tags);
- Coordinate the opening of doors and windows;
- Illuminate entrance/exits;
- Develop and discuss a possible search and rescue plan.

On-Deck Company Actions for Rescue include:

- Confirm May-Day information;
- Determine resource and equipment needs based upon May-Day report;
- Determine last known location of firefighter/crew in trouble;
- Communicate plan with crew;
- Implement Plan;
- Utilize information and technology (radio reports, TIC, flashlights, etc.);
- Monitor air supply;
- Provide C.A.N. report to Command.

C957 North and South

On all first alarm or greater incidents cars 957 north and south or BC152 will be dispatched and will fill the role of a mobile AISO when assigned by the IC to provide an additional layer of safety. If C957 or BC152 feels there is a need to enter the hot zone he/she must team up with the second C957 and communicate with Command to describe conditions, the reason to enter the hot zone, and their plan. The C957/BC152 team will not enter the hot zone until the IC approves their plan.

In addition to being company officers, C957 personnel are cross trained in Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue. This makes them a valuable resource at all Special Operations calls and may be paired up to perform recon and mobile incident safety for the IC.

In addition to the above duties, C957 may be assigned the following duties:
- Secure Utilities
- Work with the responsible party at commercial or apartment fires
- Isolate known hazards
- Follow up with defined hazards such as lines down etc.
- Work with utility companies

Greater Alarms and Command Van (CV) operations
When transitioning to the CV the IC and support officer/FIT retain their positions as the IC and the Support Officer/ISO. The IC and Support Officer now join the Senior Advisor and the three of them become the Command Team. When an ISO qualified person arrives at the Command Post (CV), the Senior Advisor may assign him/her to the position of ISO. The Support Officer (FIT) can now focus on supporting the IC and the ISO can focus on Incident Safety.

The Incident Safety Officer (ISO) function operating in the Command Van (CV) works under the direction of the Senior Advisor (SA) and provides the incident commander with a second set of eyes and ears for fire ground operations. The presence of an ISO enables Command to set up a tactical safety channel that can communicate location, accountability, resource needs, and sector safety concerns to the command team without using valuable radio time from the tactical channel.

The tactical safety channel also provides for an additional communication tool for sector officers to communicate with the command team in the event of a significant incident situation ("May Day" building collapse, explosion, etc) that dominates radio traffic on the assigned incident channel. The channel should not be used for tactical reports or resource requests unless contact on the tactical channel is unavailable and the report or need is critical in nature.

STRATEGIC INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES
- Identify the Safety Channel assigned by the dispatch center.
- Obtain a briefing from the Command Team that includes the incident action plan (IAP).
  - The ISO monitors the IAP, conditions, activities and operations to determine whether they fall within the criteria as defined in the department's risk management plan. The ISO shall take necessary action, through the IC, if activities do not fall within the risk management plan.
- Using a tactical worksheet, identify the existing organizational structure.
  - This can be accomplished by working with the CV staging officer by using the resource list function of the staging officer's computer.

- Once Command has advised the tactical level (Sector) Safety Officers (AISO's) to go to the Safety Channel, contact each sector safety officer and assure that the department's personnel accountability system is being used and confirm resources assigned.
  - o Provide the SA with any differences between the organizational assignments Command has and what is reported by the sector safety officers.
- Provide the SA with any resource requests from sector safety officers.
- Offer judgment to the SA on establishing control zones and no-entry zones and ensures that established zones are communicated to all members present on the scene.
- Ensure that the IC establishes the incident scene rehabilitation tactical level management component during the emergency operation.
  - o Critical incident stress interventions should be recognized and the IC should be notified if such circumstances require response.
- The ISO shall communicate to the IC the need for additional safety officers and/or tactical specialists due to the need, size, complexity or duration of the incident.

TACTICAL INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES
- Identify the Safety Channel assigned by Command.
- Size up the sector of responsibility–
  - o Monitor the Sector Action Plan, conditions, activities and operations to determine whether they fall within the criteria as defined in the department's risk management plan.
  - o Alter, suspend, or terminate activities that are unsafe or involve an imminent hazard.
  - o Survey the sector – identify hazards and potential hazards
  - o Communicate the building size, layout, construction type,
- Assure that the department's personnel accountability system is being used within the sector and confirm resources assigned.
  - o Wear full protective clothing and SCBA and operate just outside the "hot zone"
  - o Confirm sector assignments and companies assigned to sector
  - o Utilize accountability tools provided at the task level (passports, hose line tags, accountability boards, etc)
  - o Develop a rescue plan – revise the plan as conditions change
- Offer judgment to the ISO on establishing control zones and no-entry zones and ensure that established zones are communicated to all members present in the sector.
  - o Ensure the safety of crews – make sure the proper equipment is being utilized and that personnel are operating in a safe position
  - o Fire line tape (yellow) helps to control bystanders and the scene
  - o Hazard tape (white/red) helps to control firefighters
  - o No Access tape (red/black) identifies exclusion zones for all personnel
- Communicate the need for additional safety officers and/or tactical specialists in the Sector due to size, complexity or duration of the incident to the ISO.
- Establish RIC team deployments in each hazard zone area.
  - o Assure that the RIC Bag (air and tools) have been deployed in the sector
- Advise the IC of hazards, fire extension and collapse potential.
  - o Forecast needs
- Evaluate visible smoke (color, volume, density, velocity, location)and fire conditions (location and size) and advise Command on the potential for flashover, back draft, blow up, or other events that could pose a threat to operating crews.

- Monitor the accessibility of entry and egress of structures and its effect on the safety of members conducting interior operations
  - Track personnel accountability closer to building
  - Air management – manage time on air/working time and work/rest cycles
  - Manage on deck crews – share information, including rescue plan
  - Manage the cycling of crews to rehab
  - Progress reports
  - Constantly monitor crews and building conditions
- Develop an overhaul plan for the Sector that falls within the IAP

The additional layers of safety provided at this level of organization are:
- Provides a critical secondary means of communication during a Mayday
- Reconciling accountability (a cross check to make sure people are where command thinks they are)
- Eliciting safety concerns from the Sector Safety Officers
- Completion of safety worksheet to include identification of safety issues and plan to mitigate
- Second means of strategic/tactical/safety communication with the command team

Transition to multi operation period events and a Type I or III Incident Management Team (IMT).

When the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) has decided that the scale, complexity, and duration of an incident warrant the use of an IMT the ISO will participate with the Command Team in an interagency briefing. The ISO will provide current safety issues during the briefing when appropriate. The IMT Command Staff including the Safety Officer are the recipients of this briefing. Following the formal briefing, the ISO will meet with the IMT Safety Officer and provide the current safety worksheet, and if possible assist in the safety planning process for the upcoming operational period. More about transitioning to an IMT appears in M.P. 201.01 Command Procedures.

SINGLE ISO – DEPLOYMENT MODEL
Departments in the consortium using the single ISO model either dispatch an ISO or assigns the ISO position to a qualified Command or Company Officer during incidents. Command should only assign units qualified and familiar with the ISO. Once the IC assigns an ISO they will be identified as SAFETY on the tactical channel. Single ISO's shall remain out of the hot zone unless they are paired up. Single ISO's should provide the following functions:
- Incident Recon
- Assess the risk/benefit of operations
- Communicate and report safety issues to command
- Intervene as necessary to provide for safety using one of the three methods described below

SAFETY INTERVENTION
Intervention at scene operations involves three approaches. First is for life threatening situations, the second is for non-life threatening situations; the third approach occurs in the on-going incident planning process.

First Approach- life threatening conditions:

Any LIFE THREATENING conditions will be corrected immediately and directly. Where time permits, Command must be notified. Corrective action will be initiated by Command immediately. In obvious life threatening situations that do not allow time for Command's intervention, the Safety Sector/Section shall immediately stop any action, or countermand any order, under these circumstances by DIRECT and IMMEDIATE intervention (i.e., order crews out of a building, countermand an order for crews to go to the roof etc.). Such action may be taken with the understanding that the Safety Sector/group works for Command and is accountable to Command for actions taken. COMMAND MUST BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED OF ANY DIRECT INTERVENTION BY THE SAFETY SECTOR/SECTION UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

A change of strategy and/or tactics by Command or Sector officers may be required as a result of the Safety officer's actions. Sector officers must be notified of hazards, required safety corrections, or updated on the strategic plan, tactics, and objectives.

EMERGENCY TRAFFIC SHOULD BE USED FOR ANY CRITICAL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS/ ALERTS REQUIRED AT THE INCIDENT SCENE!

Second approach- non life threatening conditions:
The second approach is for non-life threatening situations and involves a more "one on one" correction of safety problems with individual firefighters, company officers, and/or sector officers (i.e. require SCBA, correct ladder position) and often does not affect incident strategy. This approach is the most frequent type of interaction. Where corrective action does not affect Command's strategy; Command may not need to be notified. Corrected items should, however, be noted for discussion at a critique of the incident.

Third approach- on going incident planning:
The third approach occurs in the on-going incident planning process. Upon the implementation of the Safety Sector/Section, Command must provide the Safety Sector/Section an overview of the incident action plan and specific details of the safety plan. The Safety officer, upon his/her arrival, will confirm that a safety plan is in effect, review it, and provide recommendations as needed. In some cases Command may request that the Safety Sector/Section officer develop a proposed safety plan and recommendations for Command.

Command must be kept aware of any adjustments that affect overall site operations, or the strategic plan, via frequent and timely progress reports.

The Safety Sector/group/ AISOs must remain a part of the on-going planning process with Command and/or the Safety Officer.

The officer, assuming Safety Sector/group responsibilities, may utilize any previous Safety Sector Officers to his/her best advantage, coordinating resources and incident assignments as approved by Command.