



LR/LF

FFCC – Policy/SOG Program

Operations

SOG Philosophy and Definitions

Policy # 12-03

Life Safety Initiative: 1

Issued: 03/30/12

Subject: Standard Operating Guidelines – Philosophy and Definitions

Purpose: This policy defines the department’s philosophy towards Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) and frequently used terms.

Scope: This policy applies to all members of the Fire Department

Philosophy

Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG’s) are designed to provide guidance during emergency incidents. This guidance is aimed at ensuring that operations are safe and effective. The main purpose of a SOG is to have everyone essentially operating from the same “playbook” at an incident.

SOG’s are not intended to limit the capability or responsibility to adapt to unusual circumstances. They are intended to help provide a safe, consistent, and organized effort and to help define the expectations of our personnel. The SOG’s are to be employed whenever possible. When situations do arise that require a temporary deviation from the SOG’s, officers are expected to use their knowledge and experience, choose a course of action, and be able to explain their decision.

Definitions of Frequently Used Terms

The use of the word shall:

The use of the word **shall** indicates what must take place in order to get the maximum intended benefit from a Standard Operating Guideline.

Level 1 PPE:

Department issue fire fighting boots, bunker pants, coat, hood, helmet with chinstrap fastened and equipped with eye protection, firefighting gloves, and SCBA.

Level 2 PPE:

Department issue fire fighting boots, bunker pants, coat, hood, helmet with chinstrap fastened and equipped with eye protection and firefighting gloves.

Level 1 Staging

An area approximately one block from the emergency scene from which uncommitted apparatus can safely and effectively move to any area of the emergency scene.

Level 2 Staging

An area more remote to the emergency scene than that of Level 1 Staging. It is usually more than one block from the emergency scene in a location that has good access to the scene for personnel and equipment.

Use proper vehicle placement

The use of this phrase within a SOG simply means placing vehicles at a safe point of vantage keeping in mind access for later arriving vehicles. Safety is considered a top priority in vehicle placement and should be balanced with the need to access the scene with personnel and equipment.

The following are examples of this when responding to structure fires:

- 1st arriving Engine
Located near the front, and just past the structure or point of best vantage keeping in mind truck access and access of later arriving units. The intent is to provide a view of three (3) sides of the structure
- 1st arriving Truck
Located in the front of the structure or point of best vantage keeping in mind access of later arriving units and possibility of aerial ladder use.
- 1st arriving Ambulance
Located a short distance away from the structure and out of the path of other fire fighting units. Keep in mind exit points for possible transport from the scene.
- 1st arriving Chief
Located near the front of the structure or best point of vantage, out of the path of other fire fighting units keeping in mind best view of the emergency scene and best location for command post.
- 2nd arriving Engine
Located in the best location to support water supply, keeping in mind access for later arriving units.

By the order of: _____
Fire Chief

Date: 03/30/12

Resources *(click title to access resource):*

[USFA, Developing Effective Standard Operating Procedures for Fire and EMS Departments](#)