

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.223	Effective Date:	3/8/2005
Title:	Basic Company Functions	# of pages:	3
Category:	Fire Ground Operations	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To define and describe the basic functions of apparatus and assigned personnel of the South Portland Fire Department. Apparatus may have advanced capabilities not included in this SOG.

2. **PROCEDURES:**

Company Types

Unit types are identified by their radio designation which determines the routine functions performed by that unit. Any unit may be assigned by Command to perform the functions of another type of unit within the limitations of the apparatus & personnel.

Engine Companies

Engine companies are the primary responder to all non-ems incidents including fire, hazmat, technical rescue, WMD and others. Engines are also utilized as EMS first responders or supplemental personnel for EMS responses.

Engines are equipped with a water pump, hose, water tank and limited portable ladders. Engines are also equipped with at least Basic Life Support EMS equipment and full time engines have Advanced Life Support EMS capabilities.

At fire incidents, engine companies are responsible for search, rescue and fire control operations. Fire control includes those tasks to provide effective fire streams and water supply for offensive and defensive operations.

At non-fire incidents, engine companies are responsible for life safety and hazard mitigation.

Ladder Companies

Ladder companies are responsible for support activities at incidents. They may also be used as EMS first responders and supplemental personnel for EMS responses.

Ladders are equipped with a mechanically operated extension ladder, large quantities of portable ladders, forcible entry equipment and property conservation supplies.

At fire incidents, ladder companies are responsible for search, rescue and support activities. Support activities include ventilation, forcible entry, lighting, salvage and overhaul.

At non-fire incidents, ladders companies are responsible for life safety and support activities.

Rescue Companies

Rescue companies are the primary EMS response, treatment and transport units. Rescues are also utilized as additional personnel to augment other companies, frequently ladder companies.

Rescues are equipped with Advanced Life Support EMS equipment and have the responsibility and capability to treat and then transport injured and sick patients to hospitals. Rescue units are also equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE), including SCBA, and basic hand tools for fireground operations.

At non-EMS incidents, Rescues are utilized for EMS standby or as personnel to augment other companies.

Special Companies

Two special type units exist in the South Portland Fire Dept.

SQUAD 4 is a unit which for most responses is treated as an engine company. Under normal conditions it may be assigned and function as an engine company. It also has advanced capabilities for vehicle and technical rescue.

ENGINE 5 is a unit which has the capabilities and responsibilities of both an engine company and a ladder company. Under normal conditions this unit may be assigned and function as an engine company for Still Alarms. On Box Alarms this unit may be assigned and function as either an engine or ladder depending on alarm location. Predetermined response assignments dictate whether the unit is running as an engine or ladder. Regardless of the assignment the unit retains the radio designation as Engine 5.

Support units

Various other units exist primarily as personnel transport vehicles with some operational capabilities. These include:

CAR 1, CAR 2, CAR 3, CAR 4: Command vehicles for Chief Officers. These provide emergency response capability for these personnel as well as Command equipment including communication and reference material.

CAR 9 is a transport vehicle for the EMS Coordinator. This provides emergency response capability for the EMS Coordinator as well as Advanced Life Support EMS equipment allowing this unit to be used for EMS first response or additional EMS personnel.

SERVICE TRUCKS are vehicles provide occasional transport for personnel as well as the capability to transport bulk equipment and tow trailers.

PRIME MOVER is similar to a Service Truck in that it provides transport for personnel and the ability to tow the larger department trailers (HM-2 or Foam). It also has the large generator for HM-2 or other large electrical needs.

Flexible assignment & Progress Reports

Regardless of the transport vehicle utilized or the standard functions of a company, any company or personnel may be assigned to perform any task. This assignment will be determined by Command based on the needs of the incident and the capabilities of the company and personnel. When a company is assigned a task or function they will operate under the IMS system as per SOG 341.1. When assigned a task they will give appropriate progress reports and a final report of the status of the assignment including the success or failure of the assignment. These reports may be face to face or by radio as appropriate. Due to the highly important nature of some assignments, more detailed information is provided below.

Progress reports should be given to your direct supervisor and at regular intervals; they should be concise, to the point. Using the CAN acronym will help when giving progress reports.

- Conditions
- Actions
- Needs

Benchmark Progress Reports:

These progress reports are utilized by Command to determine the status of operations and influence future planning. As such, their timely arrival and appropriate language is very important.

Primary Search

Units completing the primary search shall report “All Clear (floor)” to Command. Command will notify dispatch of an “All Clear (floor)”.

When the entire structure is clear, Command shall notify dispatch of “Primary Search Completed”. The dispatcher shall note the time.

Units who are experiencing a delay or are unable to complete a Primary Search shall expeditiously notify Command of the same.

Fire Control

Each Division/Sector will report “Fire Control” to Command.

Command shall notify the dispatcher of “Fire Control”.

Loss Stopped

Command will notify dispatch of loss stopped, estimated time for overhaul and units available.

Some additional Benchmarks that should be announced for general fire ground information are:

- Assumption/transfer of command
- Assignments (Engine 8 will be taking an 1 ¾ to the second floor and will be Division 2)

- Power/utilities secured
- RIT location
- Manpower pool/staging location(s)
- Rehab/EMS location

3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

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