

Spartanburg Public Safety Department Fire Division

Standard Operating Procedure	No. 100.02
Safety Officer	Page 1 of 4
Supersedes: 12/01/2002	Effective: 12/07/2007

I. PURPOSE

It will be standard practice for the Spartanburg Public Safety Department Fire Division to put into action a Safety Officer at any multiple alarm incident, special operations rescue, confined space rescue, and hazardous materials incidents. In addition, a Safety Officer should be implemented at any incident of special hazard presenting an unusual risk to firefighters and/or the general public.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

It remains the responsibility of each and every member of the Spartanburg Public Safety Department Fire Division to commit to safe work behaviors and to operate within standard operating procedures at all times. Chief officers, sector officers, and company officers carry an additional responsibility of ensuring that all members of their crew are operating in a safe manner. The first arriving member or company will initiate command. The Incident Command System will be implemented at all incidents.

III. SAFETY OFFICER PROCEDURES

Command will be responsible for assigning a Safety Officer for:

- Multiple alarm incidents
- Special operations rescue
- Confined space rescue
- Hazardous materials incidents

The Fire Marshal will be the designated Safety Officer for the Spartanburg Public Safety Department Fire Division. The Safety Officer is on call 24 hours a day to respond to incidents. When the Safety Officer is not available, Command should assign the Safety Officer position to another officer. If there is a delay in the Safety Officer's response to the scene, the Incident Commander should assign a temporary Safety Officer to oversee the incident. If an incident requires specialized knowledge and training (i.e. – technical

rescue), the Incident Commander should assign a Safety Officer with applicable experience.

Upon his/her arrival at the incident, the Safety Officer will assume his/her incident responsibilities following the appropriate command procedures and a briefing. The Incident Commander should be notified when a change in Safety Officer has occurred for accountability and scene management purposes.

THE SAFETY OFFICER REPORTS DIRECTLY TO COMMAND AND HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE, SUSPEND, OR ALTER ANY UNSAFE CONDITION OR ACTION.

The Safety Officer intervention at scene operations involves three approaches: intervention for life threatening situations, non-life threatening situations, and the on-going incident planning process.

Intervention For Life Threatening Situations

The Safety Officer will immediately and directly correct any life threatening conditions at an incident. If time permits, command will be notified. The Safety Officer or Incident Commander will 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 Officer works for command and is accountable to command for actions taken. **UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SAFETY OFFICER MUST IMMEDIATELY ADVISE COMMAND OF ANY DIRECT INTERVENTION. EMERGENCY TRAFFIC SHOULD BE USED FOR ANY CRITICAL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS/ALERTS REQUIRED AT THE INCIDENT SCENE.** A change of strategy and/or tactics by command or sector officers may be required as a result of the Safety Officer's actions. Division officers may have to be notified of hazards, required safety corrections, or updated on the strategic plan, tactics, and objectives.

Intervention for Non-Life Threatening Situations

This situation 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 future critique of the incident.

Ongoing Incident Planning Process

Upon the implementation of the Safety Officer, command must provide the Safety Officer 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 Officer develop a proposed safety plan and recommendations for command. The Safety Division/Safety Officer must remain a part of the on-going planning process with Command and/or the Planning Section chief.

III. SAFETY OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Safety Officer should announce his/her arrival on scene and have a face-to-face conversation with a member of the command team.
2. The Safety Officer should confirm a safety plan with command.
3. The Safety Officer will don appropriate personal protective clothing and begin to observe all exterior areas of the incident and identify any structural or hazardous conditions. He/she will then give a report of these conditions to command.
4. The Safety Officer should ensure that the Rapid Intervention Team is properly positioned and that all personnel are wearing proper protective clothing and equipment.
5. The Safety Officer should ensure that all crews and personnel are operating safely and consistently within existing safety standards.
6. The Safety Officer has the authority to terminate, suspend, or alter any unsafe operations or actions. He/she can initiate emergency traffic if needed.
7. When assigned this function by command, the Safety Officer should coordinate the use of fire protection engineers, building department officials, and other technical specialists, in the continual evaluation of incident risk and provide corrective measures as needed. Many times these functions occur within the Planning Section.
8. The Safety Officer should monitor the health and welfare of all personnel and ensure that they are not over-extended, and are rehabilitated in an effective manner.
9. The Safety Officer should provide command with frequent progress reports on safety related issues.
10. On large operations, the Safety Officer may need to establish a safety branch or multiple safety divisions such as North, South, and possibly roof-top (geographically functional areas).
11. The Safety Officer will maintain communication with command or the planning section to update and review the on-going incident safety plan.
12. The Safety Officer should monitor atmospheric conditions and ventilation prior to removal of SCBA.

13. The Safety Officer should review and address accountability and rehab.