

**IFSTA Essentials of
Fire Fighting, 4th ed.
(pages 5-30)**

MOTIVATION:

For you to operate effectively on the fire ground, a command/organizational structure must be in use to provide the organization necessary for success.

PRESENTATION:

1. ORGANIZATION

- a. The fire department is usually a political part of the local government. The organization consists of:
 1. Governing Body, local government
 2. Fire Chief
 3. Other officers selected or appointed by the Chief or fire department members
 4. Operational Units (companies)

2. FIRE FIGHTERS' ROLES

- a. The role of entry-level fire fighter is a very important one, and it may seem as if the position is “low man on the totem-pole”. But this could not be farther from the truth.
- b. This position is one of the most crucial to the operation of the fire department.
- c. The entry level Fire Fighter is the person who, with some training will accomplish all of the goals set forth by the “Chiefs”.

APPLICATION/STUDENT ACTIVITY:

Have the group “brainstorm” to begin thinking about their roles on the fire department. Use a chalkboard or easel pad to record their answers.

Have students answer the question, what is my role as a fire fighter on this department?

(Continued on next page)

Visual 1-1

HINTS:

Perform tasks within the guidelines of the departmental standard operating procedures.

Be safe!

Attain the skills and knowledge to carry out the role

PRESENTATION:

III. MISSION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

a. The mission of the fire department can be described in 3 major areas.

1. Preservation of Life
2. Fire Prevention
3. Fire Control

Visual 1-2

APPLICATION/STUDENT ACTIVITY:

Ask the students about any other roles their fire department(s) might perform.

Possible answers:

- Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
- Community Master Planning
- Emergency Medical Services

Visual 1-3

PRESENTATION:**IV. FUNCTION OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs) or STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES (SOGs)**

- a. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or Guideline (SOG) is a predetermined plan or written policy for nearly every type of emergency incident the department can imagine occurring and their plan of how they will respond.

SUMMARY:

- Although fire departments exist in many different forms, a majority of them are a part of and governed by a local government. That agency establishes the services to be provided by that fire department.
- Day to day management of the fire department is usually done by a chief and his or her assistants. Fire ground management is usually the responsibility of the department's line officers.
- The typical mission of the fire department is to:
 - (a) Fire prevention
 - (b) Control combustibles
 - (c) Preserve life
 - (d) Others as the department sees necessary
- The Firefighters role in the organization of the fire department is to carry out the identified functions of the department, under direct supervision, safely and efficiently.

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(pgs 79-87)**

V. FIRE FIGHTER PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

MOTIVATION:

When one considers the types of dangerous environments that a fire fighter must work in; heat, smoke, hazardous materials, infectious disease, and hazardous atmospheres, there should be no question that the fire fighter require the best equipment available. Injuries can be reduced and prevented if the fire fighters have and use correctly good protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus. Just having and using the equipment is not enough, ALL equipment has limitations.

PRESENTATION:

Instructor Note: See Chapter 4 of IFSTA, Essentials of Fire Fighting, 4th. Ed. starting on page 79 for more details on the following:

- a. Helmet (with eye shield): Protects the head and face from impacts and flying debris
- b. Hoods: Provides thermal protection (heat and cold) for the head and neck.
- c. Boots: Provides abrasion and puncture protection (as well as thermal protection) for the feet.
- d. Gloves: Provides thermal, abrasion and cut protection for the hands.
- e. Protective Coat: Provides protection from water, heat, cold, and a limited amount of protection from hazardous materials and other contaminants on the fire ground.
- f. Protective Trousers: Provides protection from water, heat, cold, and a limited amount of protection from hazardous materials and other contaminants on the fire ground.

Instructor should demonstrate this skill

- g. PASS Device: Provides a measure of safety to notify others if you become unable to move from being trapped or unconscious.

APPLICATION/STUDENT ACTIVITY:

Have each student don and doff their protective clothing several times and have others check to see if all collars are buttoned up, all closures are closed and hoods are in place with their helmets securely fastened. THIS IS NOT A RACE. BE SAFE - DO IT RIGHT!

SUMMARY:

- Personal protective equipment covers everything from station wear to full turn-out protection, including hoods, SCBA and PASS devices.
- It is important that all fire fighters know and understand the limitations of the protective gear for their personal safety.
- It is important to use all the closures on the turnout gear to complete the protective envelope as much as possible.

PRESENTATION:

VI. EMERGENCY RESPONSE SAFETY

- a. Departmental SOP's or SOG's should be established and enforced regarding department members riding on apparatus.
- b. NFPA 1500 prohibits against riding on the outsides of any apparatus, even tailboards.
- c. Every passenger on the piece of apparatus must be afforded a seat belt and appropriate eye and ear protection when necessary.

- d. Hand rails are provided to assist in mounting and dismounting of fire apparatus.
- e. They should always be used to eliminate the possibility of slipping and falling from the apparatus. The fire fighter may become injured and not be of any use on the fire scene.
- f. The only exception to this would be if an aerial apparatus has extended to close to overhead electrical lines.
 - 1. In this case, jumping clear of the apparatus is recommended so that the fire fighter does not come in contact with the apparatus and the ground at the same time, should the apparatus become energized.
- g. Full protective clothing should be worn while on the apparatus to prevent injury.
- h. No piece of apparatus should be in motion unless everyone is seated and seat belts fastened.

The Instructor may include a “safety related” video as a part of this discussion.

Instructor Note: Begin by asking if there were any questions about the material. Use this section of the presentation as a summary section by asking if they have done anything that the fire department may be/have been doing that is unsafe.

The use of the Incident Command System (ICS) is now a requirement of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

PRESENTATION:

VII. THE NEED FOR INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- a. A very effective method of helping ensure emergency scene safety is to use an Incident Management System.
 1. An incident management system is an organized plan of roles, responsibilities, and standard operating procedures used to direct and control an emergency incident.
 2. An incident management system identifies the roles and responsibilities of all members involved in emergency operations. (See NFPA 1561, *Standard on Fire Department Incident Management System*.)
- b. The purpose of an Incident Management system is to provide a command structure for emergency incidents.
 1. Emergency management may involve an emergency incident vary in complexity and in scale.
 2. To control these incidents every fire department needs to have a well planned, systematic approach to these incidents to ensure fire ground safety and organization.
 3. Although there are differences in specific methods used by fire departments around the country, the essential operational objectives stay the same.

Visual 1-4

4. The command structure used in every system concentrates on breaking operations into manageable segments and assigning specific tasks to each segment or level of operations.
5. NFPA 1500, OSHA regulations and EPA regulations require an incident management system be used at all emergency operations.
6. If your department does not use an incident management system at incidents, you should seek training and begin to use one...

Training is available from FSTB

VIII. EMERGENCY SCENE SAFETY**a. Key safety behaviors****Visual 1-5****1. Lighting Equipment****a. In the Fire Station:**

1. Safety begins in the fire station with maintenance and servicing of the lighting equipment.
2. Check fluid level weekly and after every use. Inspect electrical cords for damage. Run power plants at least once a week. Test all electrical appliances for operating status.

Visual 1-6**b. On the Fire ground:**

1. Hearing protection should be worn when operating a generator.

2. Wear gloves when moving portable lighting equipment because portable lighting becomes very hot when in use and burns could result.
3. Tripping hazards exist when cords are used on the fire ground, be careful in placement.

SUMMARY:

- All fire departments need an organization that helps manage the day to day operations as well as operations on an emergency scene.
- These organizational structures are not necessarily the same. Chiefs, company officers and fire fighters make up a typical rank structure that works well for routine, day to day operations.
- Having SOPs and using ICS (incident command) provide the best structure for managing emergency incidents.
- Personal Protective Equipment is designed to protect fire fighters. It is not a suit of armor, but it will provide excellent protection.
- Wear you protective equipment and ride fire department apparatus with care.
- Fire ground safety is critical. Fire fighters should exercise extreme caution when on the fire ground. Be safety conscious when operating on the fire ground.

Introduction to Firefighting

Lesson 1: Fire Fighter Safety

Materials Needed: Instructional Materials Personal Protective Equipment
Chalkboard (or equivalent) Overhead Projector -or-
Computer with Projector

Text Reference: IFSTA Essentials of Fire Fighting, 4th edition. (Chapter 1)
Audio/Visual: Visuals: 1-1 through 1-6

Lesson Objectives:

Describe the organization of the fire department.

Demonstrate the donning and doffing of personal protective equipment.

Explain the Fire Fighter 1's role as a member of the organization.

Demonstrate safety procedures when using fire service lighting equipment, given the following:

Explain the mission of the fire service and of the local fire department.

a. Power supply (portable or mounted)

Explain the function of a standard operating procedure.

b. Lights

c. Cords

Identify the function of the following articles of personal protective equipment:

d. Connectors

e. Ground-fault interrupter (GFI)

a. Helmet (with eye shield)

b. Hood

c. Boots

d. Gloves

e. Protective coat

f. Protective trousers

g. Self-contained breathing apparatus

h. Personal alert safety system (PASS)

i. Eye protection