



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

	<h1>GENERAL ORDER</h1> <h2>310.01</h2>	
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Originating From	Issue Date	Revision Date	Attachments
Operations	9/02/2002	1/17/2006	N/A

SUBJECT: Initial Company Operations at Structure Fires

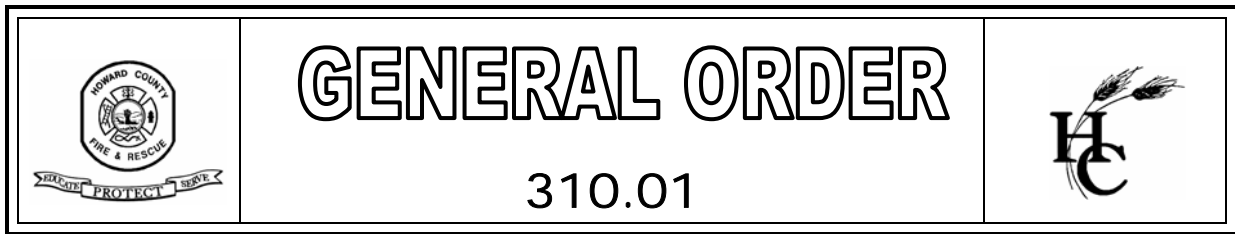
APPLICABILITY: All Personnel

POLICY:

Company Officers are responsible for the safety, welfare and accountability of the personnel assigned to them. Personnel will strictly follow the DFRS General Orders on Accountability, Incident Command, Communications, High Rise Operations, Rural Water Supply Operations and Firefighter Rescue Operations.

- 1 The initial arriving Company Officer is permitted enough flexibility to successfully accomplish the assigned mission. When the initial arriving Company Officer must deviate from this order, other responding Units must be advised through radio communications.
- 2 The Company Officer is responsible for maintaining crew integrity and accountability for their personnel at all times.
- 3 Personnel assigned to areas where Immediate Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) conditions are present will be in appropriate protective equipment at all times.
- 4 COMMUNICATIONS
 - 4.1 Responding apparatus will adhere to the Communications General Order.
 - 4.2 Radio transmissions are limited to:
 - 4.2.1 Responding with unit (Engine 82), and staffing number (With 3).
 - 4.2.2 Location responding from if out of position or not from quarters.
 - 4.2.3 Use caution approaching intersections that other companies will cross.
 - 4.2.4 Any emergency that occurs during response.
 - 4.2.5 1st arriving unit at scene with size up report's from front and rear.

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- 4.3 Radio communication on the Incident Scene will be limited to Company Officers to their Group or Division Supervisor, company members to their company officer (if not able to do face to face), Safety Officer, emergency radio traffic or other Incident officers assigned by Incident Command. Primary radio communications will at all times be maintained between command and incident officers.
- 4.4 Radio traffic to Communications should be limited to Incident Command or Command Post only.
- 4.5 The Incident Commander will determine the need for use of multiple fire ground talk groups.

5 UNIT STAGING LEVELS

- 5.1 Level 1 Staging: Units will stage in line of approach in order to assume their assigned function, personnel will remain on the apparatus and monitor the assigned incident talk group.
- 5.2 Level 2 Staging: The Incident Commander will designate an area away from the incident and assign a staging officer. Channel 6 of the appropriate zone will be used for staging.

6 THE STRUCTURE/AREA WILL BE IDENTIFIED AS FOLLOWS (REFER TO ILLUSTRATION #1):



6.1 Side Identification:

- 6.1.1 Alpha - Front, Street side front
- 6.1.2 Bravo - Left, when facing Side Alpha
- 6.1.3 Charlie - Rear, opposite Side Alpha
- 6.1.4 Delta - Right, when facing Side Alpha

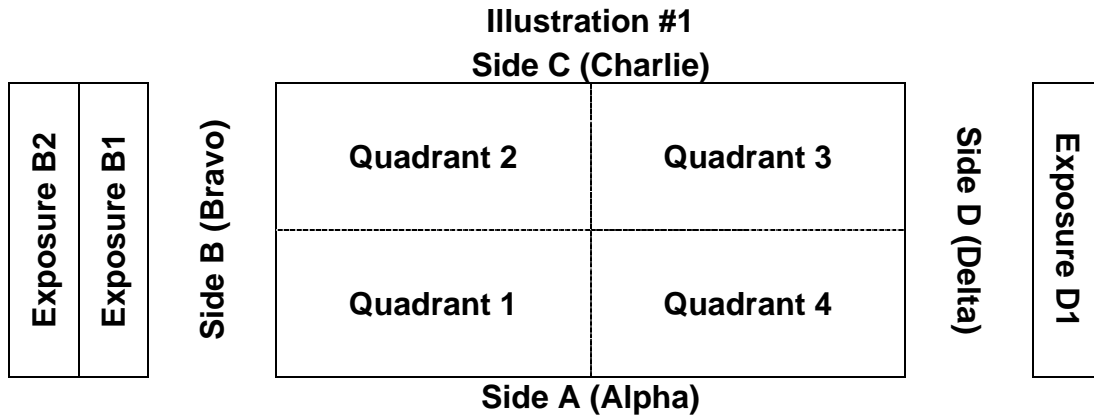
6.2 Interior of the structure will be divided into QUADRANTS moving clockwise from the LEFT FRONT.

- 6.2.1 The floor number will be used to identify the building level: Example "Second floor, Quadrant 2"
- 6.2.2 Exposures: "What is not involved in fire yet"
 - 6.2.2.1 Exposure identification will coincide with the structure/area identification. Example: Exposure closest to Side Bravo is Bravo1 etc. and give the address of the exposure.

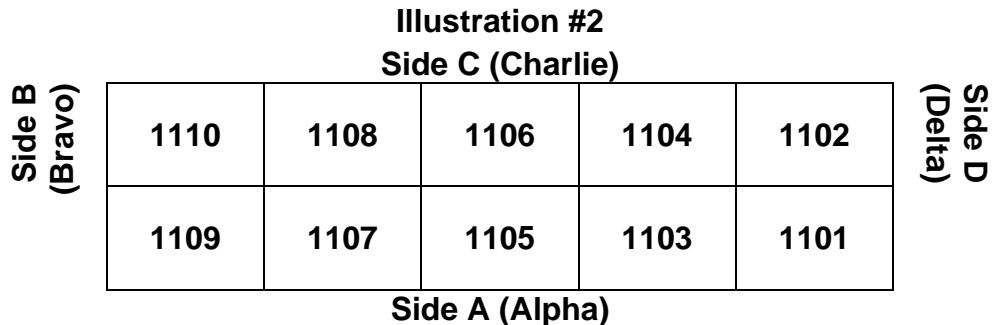
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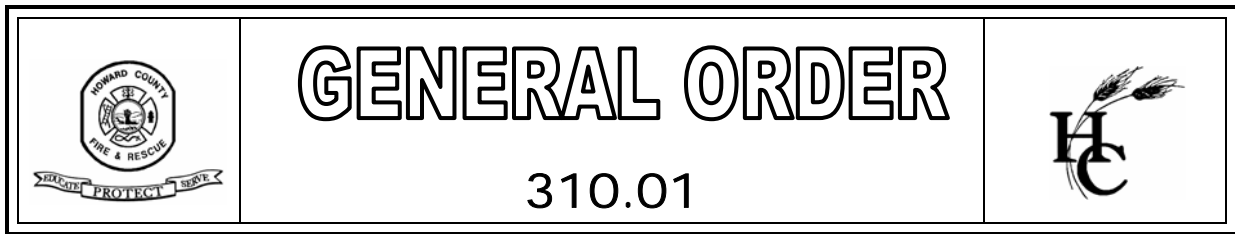
6.2.2.2 Additional Exposures on side Bravo will be identified as Bravo2, Bravo3 etc. and give the address of the exposure.



6.2.2.3 If the building is of odd shape or the units are attached back to back, the structure area/identification will be the same as above in illustration #1, EXCEPT give the side of the exposure and the address only do not label them as #1, #2, Exposure etc. Example: 1105 on side Alpha is the original fire building. Engine 11 to Command we are on side Charlie with a 2 story town home and unit number 1106 is becoming involved in fire. Units 1104 and 1108 on side Charlie will need hose lines inside to cut off the fire (Refer to Illustration #2).



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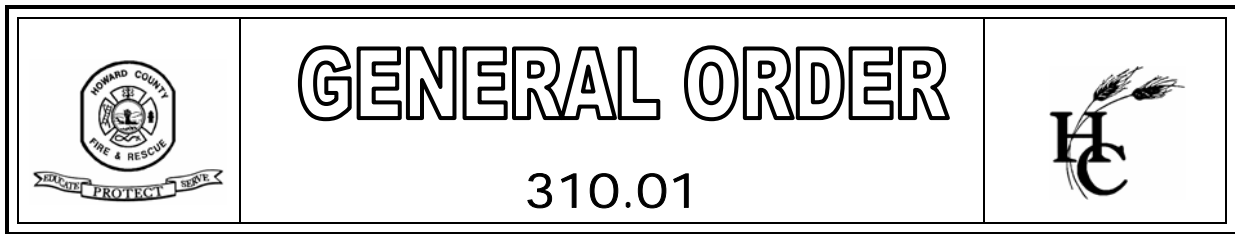
7 INCIDENT COMMAND

- 7.1 While Companies are en route to an emergency, the Highest Ranking Officer responding will make operational decisions related to the incident.
- 7.2 The first arriving Officer will establish command. Passing command to the next arriving officer is acceptable when conditions warrant.
 - 7.2.1 If mutual aid units are first arriving, the first arriving Howard County DFRS officer will assume or establish Command.
- 7.3 The first arriving Chief Officer will assume command, establish a command post and designate the incident name.
 - 7.3.1 It will not be necessary for Chief Officers to assume command when the first arriving engine and/or special service is able to mitigate the incident.
- 7.4 The Incident Commander will develop the Incident Action Plan along with the Incident Command Chart for documentation purposes. The Plan will be based on priorities dictated by RECEO: Rescue, Exposures, Confinement, Extinguish and Overhaul. Ventilation and Salvage will be incorporated in the Action Plan. The Incident Action Plan should be communicated by the Incident Commander to the units on the Incident.

8 REPORTS

- 8.1 Initial on-scene
 - 8.1.1 The first arriving officer or unit will transmit an initial size-up report to include:
 - 8.1.1.1 Unit position and water supply information (“Engine 71 on side Alpha and we have laid out from number 1 First Street”).
 - 8.1.1.2 Type and construction of occupancy (“2 story single family wood frame dwelling or home”). There are no ½ half stories.
 - 8.1.1.3 Conditions observed (“smoke showing from the first floor Quadrant 2”).
 - 8.1.1.4 If deviating from this General Order, provide preliminary instructions for other responding units.
 - 8.1.1.5 Assure a 360 degree survey of the structure is complete or assigned.

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8.2 Initial report from the rear

- 8.2.1 Unit position (“Engine 41 on side Charlie”).
- 8.2.2 Number of floors. There are no ½ half stories. If the basement walls are visible from ground level in the rear count it as a floor. This information will assist special services with lengths of ladders they will bring to the rear.
- 8.2.3 Is there access to the basement from the exterior (slider, standard door, or hatch)?
- 8.2.4 Conditions observed (“Engine 41 on side Charlie with 2 stories and smoke showing from the basement. We do have access to the basement from the exterior on side Charlie”).
- 8.2.5 If the basement is on fire or smoke showing, coordinate with first arriving company and Incident Command before attacking the fire. Make sure companies are in a safe position before flowing any water.

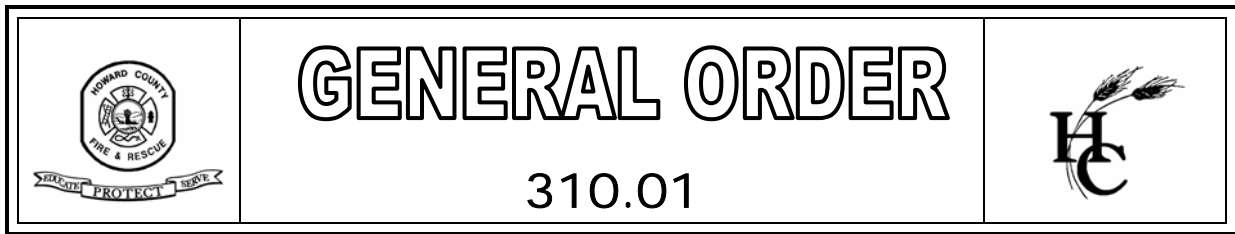
8.3 On-going progress reports

- 8.3.1 The Incident Commander will provide an updated status of the incident after a 3 to 5 minute period after the first report or size-up. The report will include a description of the address, property involved, status of the incident (working fire, units investigating, etc), injuries and/or fatalities, Tactical Operating Mode (Offensive/Defensive) and any pertinent information about the Incident.
- 8.3.2 Incident Command will give a status report and a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) every 15 minutes after the 3 to 5 minute report to communications on the operating channel.
- 8.3.3 A PAR of your assigned crew will be communicated to the I.C., Division, or Group Leader after any task you are assigned is completed.

9 COMPANY ASSIGNMENTS

- 9.1 Arriving companies must communicate their arrival on the scene. Communicate what position you have arrived and the duties that your company is going to perform. This communication must be acknowledged by Incident Command, prior to the action being taken. This will help units perform more effectively and safely. If you are not the first due Company and arrive first, communicate over the radio that you are the first arriving engine company and are assuming the first arriving engine responsibilities.
- 9.2 The following tasks will be completed unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.

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9.3 First Arriving Engine Company:

- 9.3.1 Position/Assignment: Take a position to best accomplish Incident Objectives. Normally, this will be on Side Alpha (street side front).
- 9.3.2 The first arriving Company is responsible for initial size up.
- 9.3.3 Assure the 360 degree survey of the structure is complete or assigned.
- 9.3.4 Make provisions for water supply.
 - 9.3.4.1 Hydrant Area – lay supply line and give the address of the layout or split lay etc.
 - 9.3.4.2 Rural Area – Lay supply line and designate Water Supply responsibility for remaining engine companies responding.
- 9.3.5 Initiate fire confinement and attack from a position that best protects occupants. Normally, protection of occupants is best accomplished by proper placement of hose lines.
- 9.3.6 **If there is a possibility that the fire is in the basement and you cannot visibly see the basement floor down the stairs from the first floor, due to smoke conditions, DO NOT advance down the stairs. If necessary, protect the first floor by closing the basement stair door and using an attack line; open the hose line to change the thermal dynamics of the smoke and heat conditions on the first floor. Communicate your findings over the radio. Command will assign companies accordingly.**
- 9.3.7 Assure access for aerial apparatus and other units as much as possible.

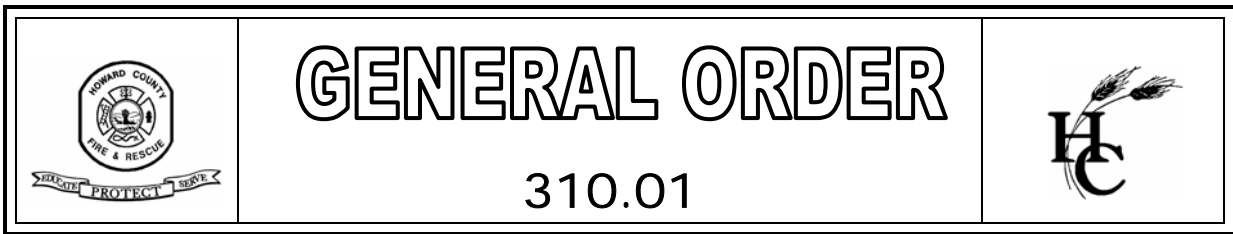
9.4 Second Arriving Engine Company

- 9.4.1 Communicate that you are the 2nd arriving engine
- 9.4.2 The Company is initially responsible to ensure the water supply for the first engine company.
 - 9.4.2.1 If necessary, initiate or complete supply line for first engine.
 - 9.4.2.2 Position to supply water to the first engine.
 - 9.4.2.2.1 Hydrant area, connect to hydrant and charge if necessary.
 - 9.4.2.2.2 Rural area, cover supply line of first engine and prepare to develop a water supply system.
- 9.4.3 Advance a hose line, the same size or larger, to back up the first engine company.
- 9.4.4 Assure access for aerial apparatus and other units as much as possible.

9.5 Third Arriving Engine Company

- 9.5.1 Communicate that you are the 3rd arriving engine.
- 9.5.2 Position/Assignment: Company is responsible to secure a secondary water supply, lay supply lines and select proper attack line to accommodate the tasks

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necessary in hydrant areas and give address of layout.

9.5.2.1 In rural areas get direction from Incident Command.

9.5.3 Company is to immediately check conditions and advance an attack hose line from your engine company if possible to the opposite side of the first engine, usually side Charlie and make an exterior check of the basement. Report conditions found and give building size-up of side Charlie to Incident Command over the radio. If the basement is on fire or smoke showing, coordinate with first arriving company and Incident command before attacking the fire. Make sure companies are in a safe position before flowing any water. If possible secure the utilities from the rear or basement and communicate results over the radio.

9.5.4 Assure access for aerial apparatus and other units as much as possible.

9.5.5 Be prepared to support Aerial Apparatus ladder water supply if necessary.

9.6 Fourth Arriving Engine Company

9.6.1 Communicate that you are the 4th arriving engine.

9.6.2 Position/Assignment: Company is responsible to ensure the water supply for the 3rd arriving engine company.

9.6.3 Company is responsible to advance a hose line the same size or larger to backup the 3rd arriving Engine company.

9.6.4 Be prepared to support Aerial Apparatus water supply if necessary.

9.6.5 Be prepared to supplement rural water supply if required.

9.7 First arriving aerial device

9.7.1 Communicate that you are 1st arriving aerial.

9.7.2 Position/Assignment: Apparatus will take a position on the same side as the First Engine Company, normally Side Alpha.

9.7.3 Work in minimum two-person teams.

9.7.4 The company's primary responsibility is ventilation and ladders.

9.7.4.1 Secondary responsibilities, in conjunction with the Incident Commander are search/rescue, ladders, forcible entry, salvage and overhaul.

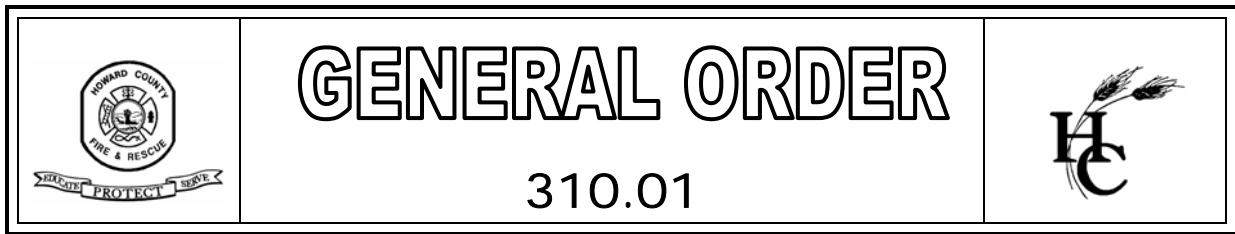
9.8 Second Truck/First Squad

9.8.1 Communicate that you are Second arriving truck or First squad.

9.8.2 Position/Assignment: Apparatus will be located close enough to the scene to provide RIT responsibility and team up with the 2 out crew. Unless otherwise directed.

9.8.3 Crew is to bring proper tools needed for the size of the structure to provide rescue if needed. Crew will do a 360 degree survey of the fire building to

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become familiar with and to observe any possible problems (eg., ladders not put in position to the fire floor or the floor above the fire, bars on windows, locked doors, etc...) for rescue of a downed firefighter.

9.9 Third arriving special service

9.9.1 Communicate that you are 3rd arriving special service.

9.9.2 Position/Assignment: If accessible apparatus is to position on the opposite side of 1st. arriving Truck, usually side Charlie. If there is no apparatus access, the crew is to report to the opposite side to support operations, in coordination with Incident Command.

9.10 Tankers (when dispatched)-rural area

9.10.1 Position/Assign: Confer with Incident Command for positioning. Company is responsible for ensuring adequate water supply for rural operations. This may be accomplished using folding tanks, shuttle or relay operations.

9.10.2 Advise when water supply is accomplished.

9.10.3 When assigned to Water Supply Group, the channel 5 position of the appropriate Incident Zone is used.

9.11 First Arriving Ambulance/Medic

9.11.1 Position/Assignment: Position apparatus close to scene without blocking access for other units and allowing for possible extended operations.



9.11.2 Crew will report in full gear and assume the 2 out responsibility for 2 in 2 out, if necessary.

9.11.2.1 If members are not certified as fire fighters, they are to report to Incident Command for assignment.

9.12 Additional arriving apparatus

9.12.1 Report to Level 2 Staging as defined by Incident Command.

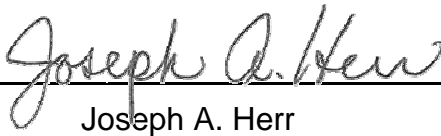
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9.13 Subsequent Command Officers and Staff Personnel

9.13.1 Report to Command Post for an assignment.

Approved:



Joseph A. Herr
Fire Chief