



HR/MF

OPERATIONS

POLICY # 13-0324-01

SAFETY – SAFETY OFFICER

ISSUED 03/24/2013

Subject: Appropriate use of a Safety Officer (SOF).

Purpose: To assure compliance with the national standard, NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer*.

Scope: This policy applies to all New Salem Fire Department personnel.

Definition

The Safety Officer is an essential component of the Incident Command System (ICS) under which the New Salem Fire Department operates. The SOF monitors and assesses safety hazards or unsafe situations and develops measures for ensuring personnel safety.

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SAFETY OFFICER SOP

Who may be assigned as Safety Officer:

Any Officer or firefighter (non-probationary) with safety officer training in the New Salem Fire Department or any Officer or firefighter (non-probationary) with safety officer training in a mutual aid department may be designated by the Incident Commander as the Incident Safety Officer.

The primary responsibility of the SOF at every incident or training activity is to protect the safety of responders. This guideline will identify circumstances when the New Salem Fire Department will designate a safety officer. This guideline applies to all emergency service calls and training.

Enforcement:

- While ICS typically follows along the chain of command, the SOF has the authority to correct unsafe actions or to remove responders from the threat of immediate danger.
- Should the SOF take action to remove responders from the threat of danger, the IC must be advised as to the action taken and the reason for the action.
- The SOF has the authority to *alter, suspend, or terminate unsafe acts or hazardous activities*.
- The SOF is responsible for identifying and communicating existing or potential hazards that do not present an imminent threat to responder safety to assure incorporation of these potential hazards by the IC into the ongoing incident action plan.
- Every officer and firefighter bears full responsibility for adherence to this guideline.
- Employees shall adhere to all safety rules, regulations, and procedures set forth by the New Salem Fire Department.



- All Officers of the New Salem Fire Department shall be responsible for properly training and educating each employee in the safe operation and performance of firefighting duties.
- All Firefighters in the New Salem Fire department shall report all unsafe acts and conditions to an Officer.

Additional Duties and Responsibilities of the SOF:

- Assures all members wear full protective equipment as dictated by the type of incident.
- Assures all members wear SCBA under actual, imminent, potential IDLH circumstances.
- Assures all members work in teams.
- Assures a RIT (rapid intervention team) is available to react quickly with the proper equipment.
- Assures the accountability system employed by the New Salem Fire Department is activated to track all personnel on scene.
- Assures departmental and other recognized safety practices are followed.
- Assures safe practices are employed at all incidents and training exercises.

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Incident Circumstances for which an SOF position shall be designated:

- Working structure fires.
- When Mutual aid is called for a structure fire.
- Wildland and brush fires.
- Vehicle fires.
- Multi-alarm incidents.
- Hazardous Material Incidents.
- Technical Rescues.
- Multi-casualty incidents or beyond the ability of a single human resource.
- Training evolutions involving IDLH conditions.

In the event personnel are not available to be assigned as an SOF, the Incident Commander shall assume all SOF responsibilities. The first officer or firefighter arriving on scene shall assume command.

By the order of: _____
Chief, NSFD

Date:

References:

- NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer*, 2007 edition

Resources: