



FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

March 28, 2014

INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN #14-40

TO: All Fire and Rescue Personnel

FROM: Kurtis R. Wilson, Division Chief/ Operations *KRW*

RE: First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and General Alarm Policy

Purpose:

ISO requires our fire department to have a standardized response protocol for fires. Collectively this is found in SOG 401 *Communications*. We are amending the response to comply with the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) to get as much credit as possible for our fire responses and to adjust the amount of apparatus and manpower dispatch during multiple alarms.

Overview: ISO breaks the response into two parts: primary response and a back-up response.

Other departments use the term *Box 1* and *Box 2*.

Both of ours will be dispatched at the same time and have no bearing on on-scene assignments.

To simplify the response all structure fire assignments will have the same response. Maximum Full Assignments have been eliminated.

W1, W2, W3, W4 Signals

Nothing is changing with our W signals.

- W1—indicates one unit can handle the call.
- W2—indicates at least two units can handle the call.
- W3—indicates all units will be required to handle the call.
- W4—indicates an overhaul response will be required and is separate from additional alarms.



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First Alarm

The Primary response for a Full Assignment will change to:

- Two Engines
- One Service Truck (a ladder company)
- One Suppression Chief.

The Secondary response for a Full Assignment will include:

- Two engines (one assigned to RIT)
- One ladder
- Two Suppression Chiefs
- One Squad
- One Rescue Chief
- One Rescue
- One Tanker (where required)

Remember, the Primary and Secondary responses are dispatched at the same time.

The reason for the change is how ISO gives credit as it relates to the backup response. According to the FSRS, maximum credit for any response is 12, including company officers, for each existing engine and existing Ladder Company and 6 for each existing service company.

As written, the 401 SOG for a Full Assignment would require an additional 33 firefighters being assigned to the Secondary response as back-up.

Responsibility for Primary and Secondary Assignments

For Fire Communications—no change in response or alerting is required.
For the field units—no change in operating procedures.

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Second Alarm Assignments

Current Second Alarm Assignment per SOG 401 *Communications*:

A 2nd Alarm Assignment is a duplication of the Full Assignment initially dispatched with the addition of:

- 2 – Tankers
- 1 – Rescue District Chief
- Rehab Unit

New 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Alarm Assignments

All additional alarms will consist of two engines, one ladder, one rescue, and one suppression chief.

All 2nd alarms will require a W4 response. The IC will be responsible for giving the W4 signal.

The IC is will determine the need for additional Rescue Chiefs.

The IC can add to any alarm, any units as needed. (i.e. an additional engine, ladder, squad, rescue, chief, etc.)

Remember, the IC can add a special request to any additional alarm.

General Alarms

General Alarms are events of such magnitude that the IC must consider calling in off-duty firefighters and mutual aid from surrounding counties. Once the General Alarm has been sounded, call back procedures and all future equipment requests will be tailored to the event.



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Cheat Sheet

Full Assignments:

- 4—Engines
- 2—Ladders
- 3—Suppression Chiefs
- 1—Squad
- 1—Rescue Chief
- 1—Rescue
- 1—Tanker (where required)

2nd Alarm for Full Assignments

- 2—Engines
- 1—Ladder
- 1—Rescue
- 1—Suppression Chief
- Any additional units as required

3rd Alarm for Full Assignments

- 2—Engines
- 1—Ladder
- 1—Rescue
- 1—Suppression Chief
- Any additional units as required

4th Alarm for Full Assignments

- 2—Engines
- 1—Ladder
- 1—Rescue
- 1—Suppression Chief
- Any additional units as required

5th Alarm for Full Assignments

- 2—Engines
- 1—Ladder
- 1—Rescue
- 1—Suppression Chief
- Any additional units as required

General Alarm

- As needed