



# Fresno Fire Department High Rise Guide





# Fresno Fire Department

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish operational guidelines required to successfully combat fires in high-rise buildings.

## POLICY

It is Department policy to educate, train and equip our members for the rigors and challenges of fighting fires in high-rise buildings. Reference [Standard Operating Procedures Section 202.004, High-Rise Policy](#).

## APPLICATION

High-rise fires are low frequency, high risk events. They are personnel intensive, long duration incidents that will tax the Department's capabilities and resources.

Fighting fires in high-rise buildings require a strong ICS, good communications, clear objectives, specialized tools, and well trained, disciplined crews. The risk to firefighters cannot be overemphasized.

Strategies and tactics used to address high-rise fires should be developed based on:

- Rescue/evacuation needs
- Size of fire
- Effectiveness of fire control systems
- Available resources
- Building construction/preplan information
- Water delivery capabilities

A working high-rise fire will present many challenges for firefighters. A clear and organized plan of attack must quickly be implemented to ensure the best chance of a successful outcome. Trigger points for disengaging the fire attack team must be established. If progress is not being made, if personnel or equipment are delayed, or if water delivery problems arise, crews must consider backing out and exiting the Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH).

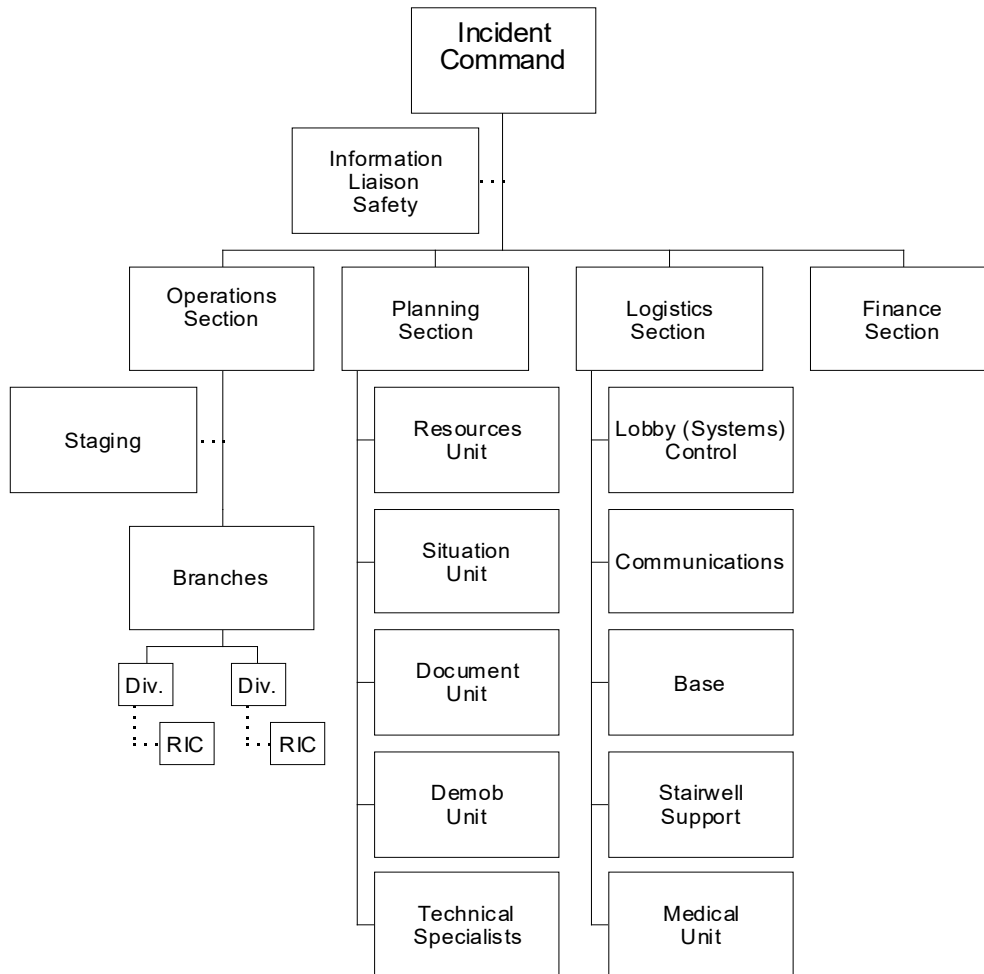


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**DO NOT TAKE A HOUSE FIRE APPROACH TO A FIRE IN A HIGH-RISE BUILDING.**

## **HIGH-RISE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM**

Review *FIRESCOPE 2015*

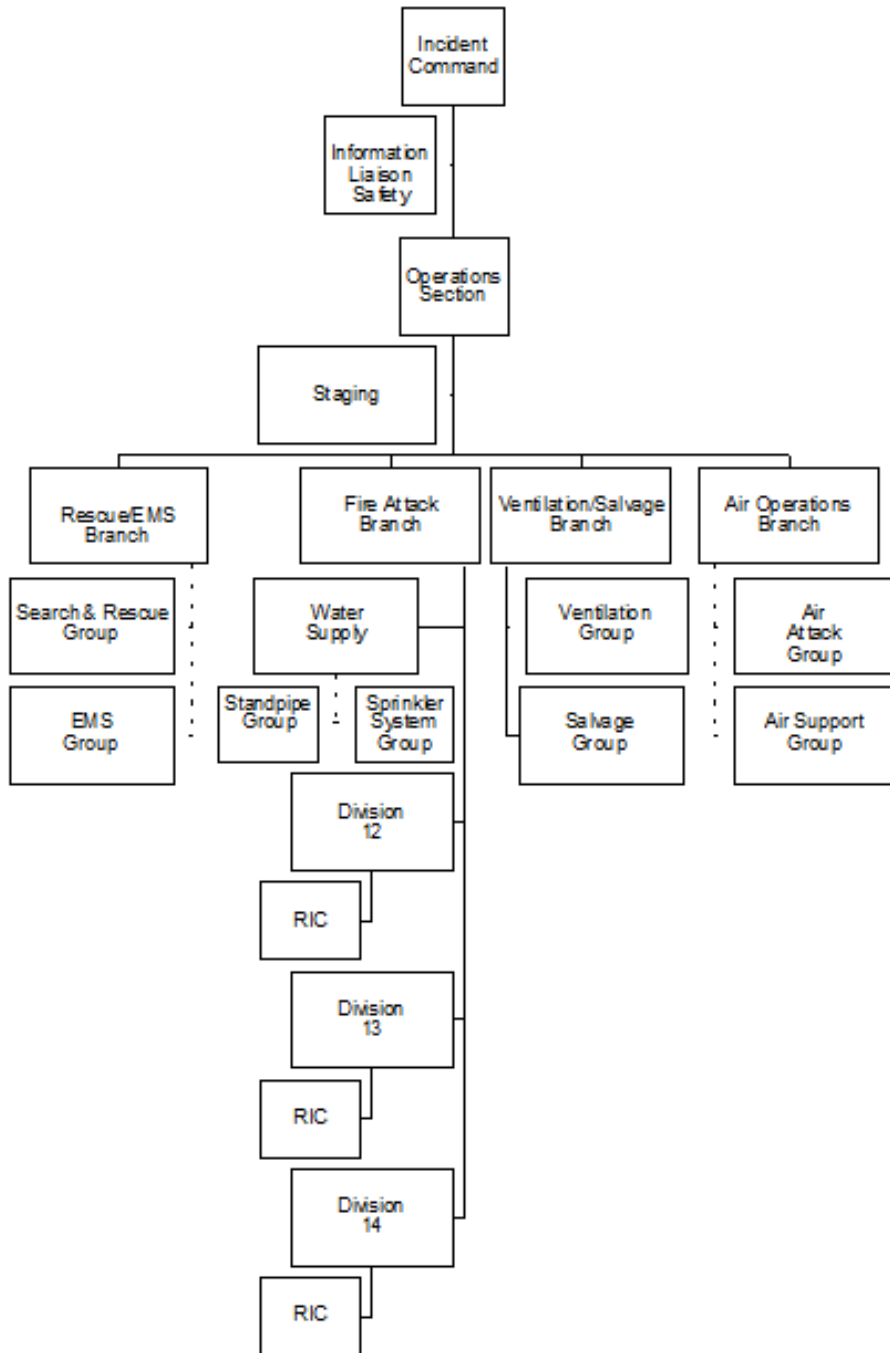




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## HIGH-RISE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

### OPERATIONS





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The following section provides a check list to assist our members when tasked with high-rise specific ICS positions.

Refer to **FOG 420-1 2017**, for information on the Incident Command System and detailed information on standard ICS functional positions.

## **TYPICAL FIRST ALARM ASSIGNMENTS**

If the initial arriving IC declares an Offensive Mode and assigns crews interior for fire attack, the IC must commit much of the first alarm assignment to directly supporting the fire attack crew. This includes providing enough personnel and equipment to get an initial attack and two-out line in service prior to the fire attack crew entering the IDLH (unless a rescue situation is present). In addition, resources should be allocated for Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) (with a hose line), standpipe and sprinkler connections.

Typical Offensive Mode assignments

1. Command - Company officer of first arriving apparatus or Battalion Chief
2. Investigation/Fire Attack - Seven people preferred, typically first two engines and first truck
3. RIC - Five people minimum, typically one truck and one engine
4. Water Supply - Standpipe addressed by first engineer (relay pumping) or first two engineers (tandem pumping), Sprinklers by next available engine
5. Lobby - Captain, followed by Firefighter, from engine assigned to sprinkler connection
6. Staging - Last arriving engine of first alarm

**NOTE:** The above allocation of resources should be used as a guideline and may be modified to fit the situation presented upon arrival.

## **ACTIONS**

The following section provides recommended procedures for high-rise operations and should not limit members from adjusting strategies and/or tactics to fit real life scenarios.

Every fire scenario will present differently. Life safety should be of paramount concern when formulating a plan to deal with the emergency. The IC may be presented with



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trapped civilians who will have to be rescued immediately via aerial ladders, fire escapes or interior rescue groups. The need to commit initial resources to a rescue may trump the need for a quick-fire attack, **but often, a quick extinguishment of a developing fire will prove to be the best use of resources.**





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The mnemonic **CARLS** Base and **DATE** have been developed to assist with organizing, prioritizing, and implementing resource management at the high-rise event and will be discussed in greater detail later in this policy.

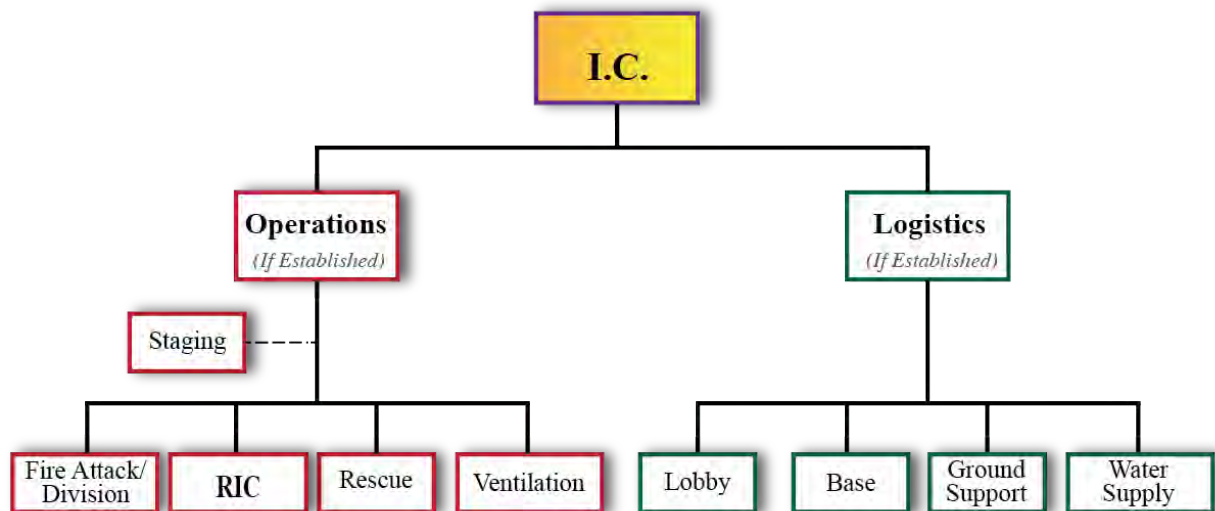
**C** – Command  
**A** – Attack  
**R** – RIC  
**L** – Lobby  
**S** – Staging  
**B** – Base

**D** – Direction  
**A** – Assignment  
**T** – TAC Channel  
**E** – Equipment

## Initial Actions of First-Arriving Company Officer

1. Reference: [Standard Operating Procedures Section, 202.023 Structure Fires Policy](#)

## Incident Commander (IC)



## Functional Location

1. Incident Command Post (ICP)

## Reports to

1. Ultimate authority on scene



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- a. Communicates with Dispatch and Operations.
  - I. When Operations has not been established the IC will also communicate with all on scene resources.

## Responsibilities

1. The Incident Commander is responsible for all incident activities including the development and implementation of strategic decisions. This responsibility also includes the results of those decisions. In addition, the IC is accountable for all functional responsibilities that have not been assigned

## Strategy and Tactics

1. Establish Command and Identify Command Post Location
  - a. Minimum 200' from incident
2. Develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP)
  - a. Determine Mode
    - i. Rescue
    - ii. Investigation
    - iii. Offensive
    - iv. Defensive
  - b. Establish clear strategic and tactical objectives.
3. Assign crews to address **CARLS Base**
4. Establish initial communications plan (TAC channels, etc.)
  - a. Expand communications plan as incident grows.
    - i. Command/ TAC channels
    - ii. Assign members to assist with communications
    - iii. Request Communications Team response



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5. Support Fire Attack Group
  - a. Water Supply Group
    - i. Set up Relay/Tandem Pumping (Reference: [Hose Practices Guide Chapter 8](#)).
    - ii. Standpipe/Sprinkler Connections (Reference: [Hose Practices Guide Chapter 11](#))
  - b. RIC
  - c. Rescue/Evacuation Group
  - d. Staging Area Manager
6. Determine a location for base and air operations
7. Fill Command Staff positions (as needed)
  - a. Liaison Officer
  - b. Safety Officer
  - c. Public Information Officer
8. Assign incoming Chief Officers
  - a. Support Fire Suppression and Rescue functions
    - i. Operations Section Chief
      1. Typically, one floor below fire floor
    - ii. Branch Directors
      1. Suppression, Medical, and/or Air Operations
    - iii. Division/Group Supervisors
      1. Identified by floor number, and/or functional assignment
    - iv. Logistics



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v. Planning

vi. Additional positions as needed

9. Investigation

10. Demobilization



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## Operations

### Functional Location

1. Normally inside the building one floor below the fire floor

### Reports to

1. Incident Commander
  - a. Monitors Command channel and TAC channels used by suppression crews

### Responsibilities

1. Manages suppression, rescue and EMS operations, and air operations.
  - a. Utilizes branch / division / group supervisors
2. Consults with the IC regarding the overall strategy and tactics to be employed

### Strategy and Tactics

1. Establishes operational command
  - a. Consider additional personnel to assist with managing resources (Deputy Operations Chief)
2. Consult with IC
3. Develop action plan
4. Communicate strategy, tactics, and action plan to subordinate officers
  - a. Implement action plan
5. Assign companies / members (including)
  - a. Divisions/groups
  - b. RIC
  - c. Lobby
  - d. Staging



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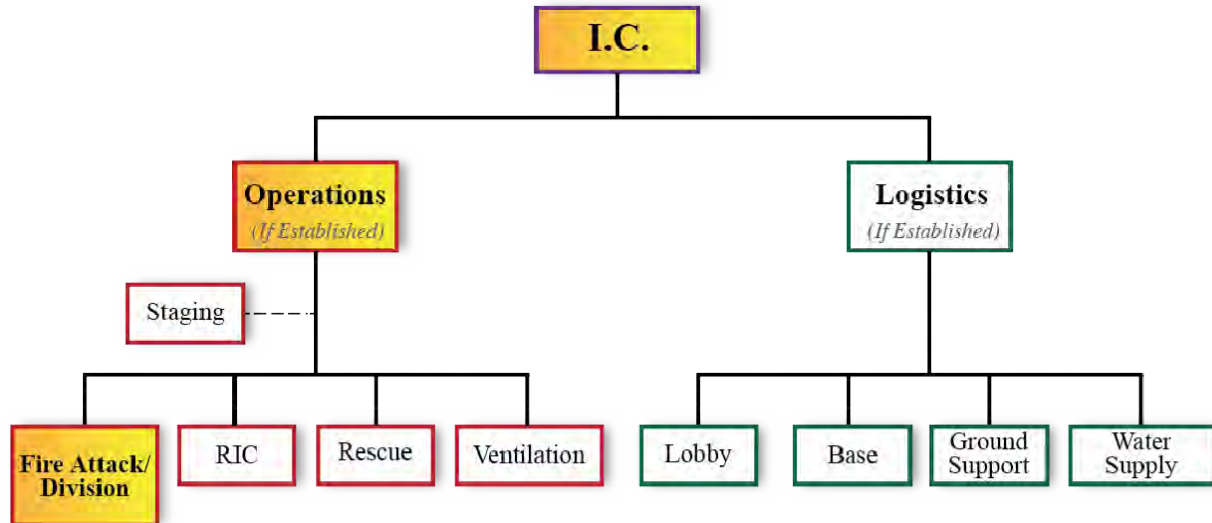
- e. Rehab
  - f. Base
6. Determine and maintain adequate resources
    - a. Water supply
    - b. Equipment
    - c. Members, including relief
  7. Communicate with logistics officer
    - a. Communications needs
    - b. Present and future needs (members and equipment)
  8. Conduct a PAR (Personnel Accountability Report) every 30 minutes and following significant changes in the incident
  9. Record activities



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## Fire Attack/Investigation



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### Functional Location

1. Fire floors

### Reports to

1. Incident Commander or Operations if established
2. May communicate directly with:
  - a. Water supply group or Standpipe firefighter
  - b. Ventilation
  - c. Other functional positions as needed

### Responsibilities

1. Establish a safe route to the emergency, assess the scope of the emergency, provide the IC with a CAN (conditions, actions, needs) report, and take measures to mitigate the emergency



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## Strategy and Tactics

1. Typically, three crews
  - a. One member assigned as Fire Attack Group Leader
2. Determine appropriate radio designator and TAC channel
3. Gather necessary initial high-rise equipment, including but not limited to:
  - a. Keys (as needed) from lock box
  - b. High Rise Hose Packs and 2 ½" supply hose
  - c. High Rise Equipment Bag
  - d. TIC
  - e. Rope Bag(s)
  - f. Irons
  - g. Pike Pole / hook
4. Enter lobby/fire control room:
  - a. Access building keys from lock box
  - b. Verify location and type of alarm on fire annunciator panel
  - c. Review surveillance cameras
  - d. Speak with staff/building maintenance to gain additional information
5. Proceed to emergency location to investigate
  - a. Use safe route (stairs, split bank elevator)
    - i. Clear each floor and provide a CAN report to the IC
6. Assess situation and provide report on conditions to IC
  - a. Assess status of elevators for future use





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- i. Confirm elevator shaft is clear of smoke/fire
- b. Designate Attack/Evacuation stairwells
  - i. Typically, stairwell with roof access used for Fire Attack
- c. Assess life hazard, firefighting, and ventilation needs
  - i. Visualize floor above for fire conditions / rescue needs
  - ii. Visualize floor below for possible building layout
  - iii. Request additional resources
7. Develop action plan (report to IC)
8. Begin suppression efforts
  - a. Reference [“FFD Hose Practices Guide-High Rise Hose Operations”](#) for hose deployment options.



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## **RIC Group Supervisor**

### Functional Location

1. Should remain mobile on the incident.

### Reports to

1. Operations

### Responsibilities

1. Management of Rapid Intervention Crews.
2. Evaluate tactical operations in progress.
3. Evaluate floor plans above and below emergency operations.
4. Assign and brief Rapid Intervention Crew(s) based on number of stairwells and floors used for emergency operations.
5. Notify Operations or IC when RIC is operational and/or deployed.
6. Develop Rapid Intervention Crew(s) contingency plans.

\*For additional information reference "[Fresno Operational Area Rapid Intervention Standard Operating Guidelines](#)".



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## Logistics

### Functional Location

1. Primary location at the command post but should be mobile.
  - a. Able to move between
    - i. Base
    - ii. Lobby
    - iii. Staging

### Reports to

1. Incident Commander

### Responsibilities

1. Establish logistics command and confirm function organization.
2. Manage all logistical activities.
  - a. Base
  - b. Lobby control.
  - c. Stairwell support
  - d. Communications
  - e. EMS for incident members
3. Effectively utilize all incident communications equipment and facilities, including distribution, maintenance, and repair.
4. Provide medical-aid and transportation for injured and ill incident members.
5. Provide food and refreshments at all incidents.
6. Coordinate members and equipment resources
7. Provide support facilities and supplies.



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- a. Air bottles/refill
  - b. Supply 1/Utility 1
  - c. Public utilities
  - d. Specialized equipment/members
5. Monitor and assess communications.
- a. Determine needs
  - b. Radio frequencies
  - c. Building telephone system
  - d. Messengers
  - e. Cellular telephones

## Strategy and Tactics

1. Consult with the incident commander and determine resource levels.
  - a. Operation activities
  - b. Logistical activities
  - c. Reserves
2. Communicate with Operations
  - a. Coordinate the movement of members and equipment between Base, Lobby Control, Stairwell Support, and Staging.
  - b. Monitor and assess effectiveness of communications.
3. Logistics may establish the following units:
  - a. Supply Unit: The Supply Unit orders equipment and supplies, receives, and stores all supplies, and services nonexpendable supplies and equipment.



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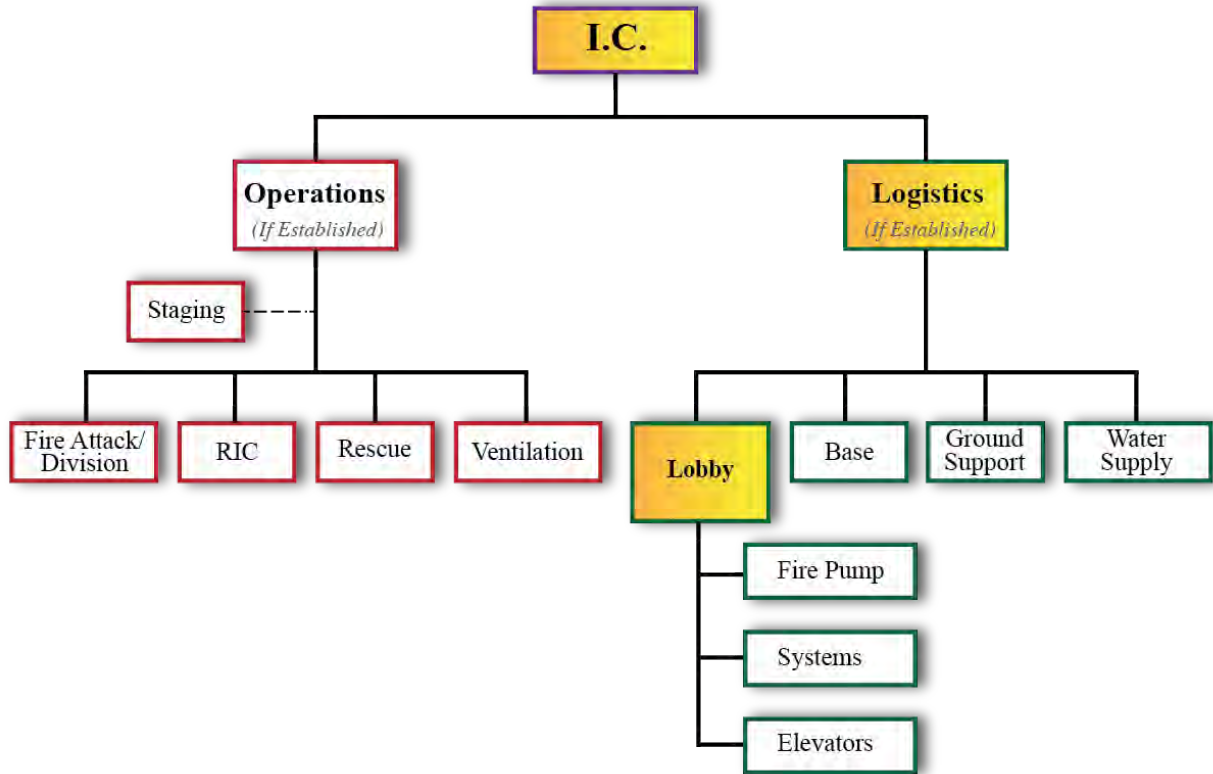
- b. Facilities Unit: The Facilities Unit provides the layout and activation of fixed facilities for an incident. Such facilities might be the command post, sanitation facilities, and/or staging areas for supplies.
- c. Ground Support Unit: The Ground Support unit handles the fueling of vehicles, the transportation of members and supplies, and the maintenance and repair of vehicles and equipment.



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## Lobby Control



## Functional Location

1. Lobby of Fire Building
  - a. Elevator lobby
  - b. Stairwell access

## Reports to

1. Logistics
  - a. May communicate directly with Staging, Base and/or Stairwell Support.

## Responsibilities

1. Begins accountability monitoring of members (passports).
2. Controls vertical access of members to known safe routes.



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3. Controls and operates elevators.
4. Coordinates movement of supplies between Base and Staging.
5. May assume the functions of the Systems Control Unit during the initial period of the incident, or in a less complex building which may include the following responsibilities:
  - a. Monitor fire alarm control panel and fire pump.
  - b. Control air handling systems.

## Strategy and Tactics

1. Provide a safe exit for building occupants.
2. Maintain control of all entries and exits.
  - a. Utilize the passport/accountability system.
    - i. Verify companies have passports, but do not collect.
    - ii. Shall be utilized by all members when making entry into the building.
3. Coordinate the movement of members and equipment through the lobby between base and staging.
4. Provide information to members entering the building utilizing pneumatic **DATE** (Direction, Assignment, TAC Channel, Equipment).
  - a. Reported location of fire
  - b. Safety of elevators
  - c. Method to ascend (stairway or elevator)
    - i. Maintain records of all members and equipment entering and exiting the building utilizing Department tracking logs.
5. Maintain control of elevators and stairways.
  - a. Recall elevators to lobby and determine if safe.



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- b. Locate stairway ground floor openings.
  - c. Designate stairways for specific use.
6. Control building utilities
- a. Shut down air-handling system if fire is present.
    - i. Consult building engineer
  - b. Control power to building
    - i. Provide support for maintaining fuel levels in building's emergency generators.
  - c. Assign members to the fire-alarm control room.
  - d. Assign members to the fire pump.
  - e. Initial pressurization of stairwell
  - f. Establish medical triage area.





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## Stairwell Support

### Functional Location

1. Designated stairwell

### Reports to

1. Logistics
  - a. May communicate directly with Lobby
  - b. Communicates with members in stairwell

### Responsibilities

1. Coordinate movement of equipment via stairway.
  - a. From entrance (ground level) to staging
  - b. From roof (helicopter delivery) to staging
2. Coordinate deployment of auxiliary water supply, if needed.
3. Coordinate air pressurization of stairwells, if needed.
4. Coordinate RIC location and access.
5. Supervise evacuation via the stairwells.

### Strategies and Tactics

1. Determine stairwell to be used; confirm with Logistics and Lobby Control.
  - a. Advise IC of stairwell location.
2. Calculate members needed
  - a. One member per two floors
  - b. One company officer per five members
3. Members should be equipped with appropriate personal safety equipment, SCBAs, and lighting.



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- a. Coats and SCBA need to be available but not necessarily worn.
4. Arrange for relief during extended periods.



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## Systems Control Unit Leader

### Functional Location

1. Primary location at the command post but should be mobile.

### Reports to

1. Logistics
  - a. Will report to the Support Branch Director (if established).

### Responsibilities

1. Obtain a briefing form Lobby Control Unit Leader to include the type and performance of built-in systems.
2. Establish communication with the following representatives:
  - a. Building Engineer
  - b. Utility company
  - c. Elevator service personnel
  - d. Security personnel
3. Assign personnel to monitor all building fire protection/life safety systems.
4. Evaluate the status and operation of the following systems:
  - a. Fire and domestic water pumps and water supply.
  - b. HVAC, smoke removal, and stairwell protection systems.
  - c. Electrical, emergency power, and security systems.
  - d. Telephone, emergency phone, and other building communications systems
5. Secure operations and release personnel as determined by the Demobilization Plan.



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## Ground Support

### Functional Location

1. Primary location at the Base but should be mobile.

### Reports to

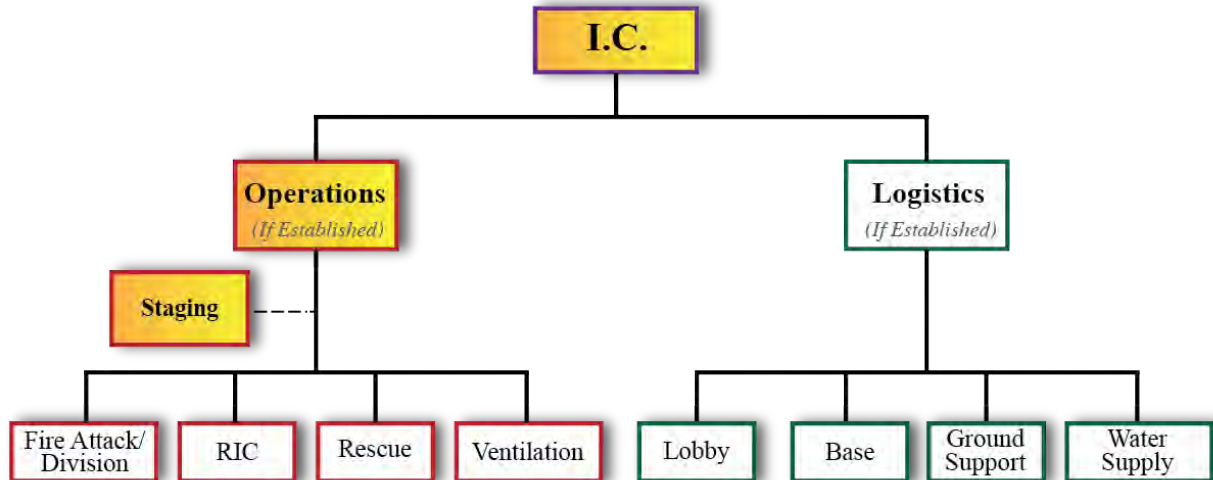
1. Logistics
  - a. Will report to the Support Branch Director (if established).

### Responsibilities

1. Facilitate the movement of personnel, equipment, and supplies from Base to Staging.
2. Participates in Support Branch/Logistics Section planning activities.
3. Identify, establish, and implement safe access routes as identified in the Traffic and Personnel Movement Plans.
4. Assign personnel to the following tasks:
  - a. Transport services to include stairwell, ground level, and general motor transport.
  - b. Equipment fueling, maintenance, and support of apparatus and portable power equipment.
  - c. SCBA air cylinder refilling, maintenance, and support.
5. Maintain inventory of support and transportation vehicles and maintenance, and fuel supplies.



## Staging



## Functional Location

1. Normally located two floors below the fire floor
  - a. Large, uncongested area
  - b. Adjacent to designated stairway and/or elevator

## Reports to

1. Operations
2. May communicate directly with Base and Rehab

## Responsibilities

1. Maintains reserve force of personnel
  - a. Ready for immediate deployment
  - b. Staffed at a level specified by the Incident Commander
2. Maintains supplies of reserve equipment



## Strategy and Tactics

1. Verify location of staging with IC or Operations.
2. Plan layout of staging area and identify with signs taped to wall.
  - a. Check-in
  - b. Reserve members
  - c. Air station (unused/used)
  - d. Equipment station
3. Consult IC or Operations to determine resource levels to be maintained in staging.
4. Develop equipment inventory needed and order specific quantities from base, consider:
  - a. Air bottles and spare SCBAs
  - b. Fire hose and nozzles
  - c. Radios, chargers, and spare batteries
  - d. Thermal Imaging Cameras
  - e. Forcible entry tools
  - f. Chainsaws / Circular Saws/ Reciprocating Saws
  - g. Hydraulic Tools and generator
  - h. Exhaust fans
  - i. Lighting
  - j. Ladders
  - k. Pike poles
  - l. Salvage equipment



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- m. Air monitoring equipment
- n. EMS equipment
- 5. Designate a Staging Area Manager to maintain records of all resources entering and leaving staging
  - a. As members enter Staging, obtain passports.
    - i. Companies should remain intact and not depart from staging until deployed by the staging officer
  - b. Log all personnel and equipment entering and leaving Staging.
    - i. Utilize Department tracking logs.
  - c. Return passports as members leave Staging.
    - i. Ensure they have a **DATE**.
      - 1) **Direction:** Which stairwell or floor to report to
      - 2) **Assignment:** Who and where to report (Division 5, ventilation group.)
      - 3) **TAC channel**
      - 4) **Equipment:** Ensure proper PPE and equipment needs.
- 6. Any time reserves fall below specified levels, additional resources should be requested from Base.
- 7. Control stairway access to prevent members from bypassing Staging.



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## Rehab

### Functional Location

1. Preferably one floor below Staging
2. Large area near stairwell

### Reports to

1. Logistics
  - a. May communicate directly with Staging

### Responsibilities

1. Provide food, fluids and medical monitoring to members involved in Incident

### Strategy and Tactics

1. Verify location of Rehab with IC, Logistics and/or Staging
2. Request one or more medical units to monitor and treat firefighters (American Ambulance).
3. Request supplies to support Rehab functions as needed
4. Maintain records of firefighters reporting to and reassigned from Rehab.
  - a. Utilize the passport/accountability system
5. Release firefighters who have adequately rehabbed back to Staging.
6. Control stairway access to prevent members from bypassing Rehab.

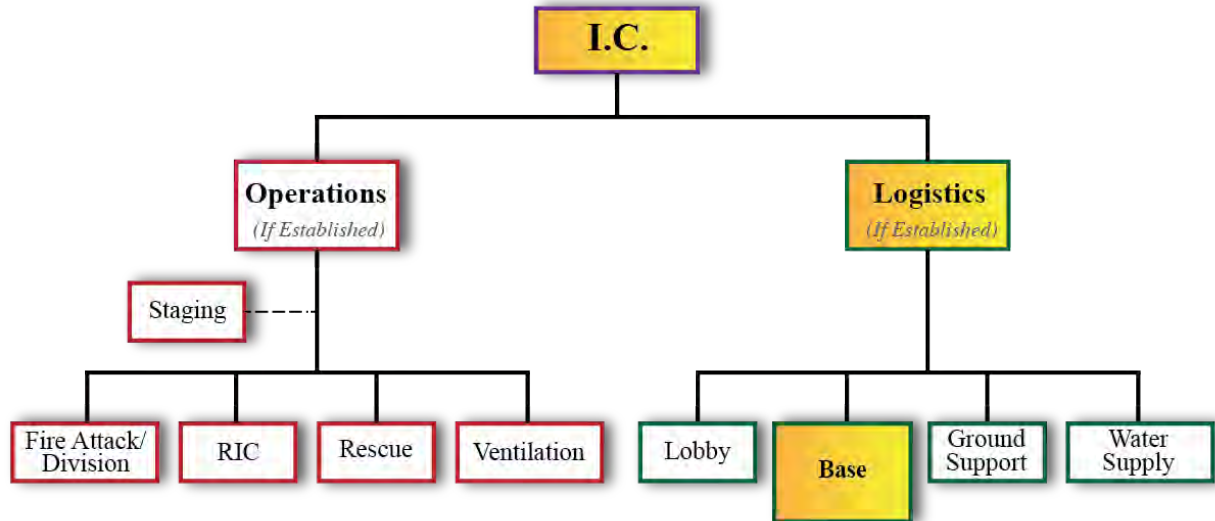




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## Base



## Functional Location

1. Safely away from building, at least 200 feet away
  - a. Parking lot preferred to street parking

## Reports to

1. Logistics
  - a. May communicate directly with Lobby with IC's approval

## Responsibilities

1. Maintain and manage reserve force of apparatus with personnel
  - a. Ready for immediate deployment

## Strategy and Tactics

1. Verifies location of Base with IC or Logistics
  - a. Notify Dispatch of Base location
2. Consult with IC or Logistics to determine resource levels to be maintained



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3. Control all companies assigned to Base.
  - a. Companies assigned to base shall:
    - i. Report to the Base officer.
    - ii. Keep crew intact near apparatus.
    - iii. Assist the Base officer as requested.
  - b. Establish a security perimeter, block streets, control traffic, use law enforcement.
  - c. Provide a safe corridor from Base to fire building.
  - d. Maintain records of apparatus and members assigned using passport/accountability system.
4. Coordinate with Lobby the movement of resources from Base into fire building.
  - a. Maintain communications with Lobby and Logistics.
  - b. Prioritize equipment and members to be deployed.
  - c. Communicate instructions to members utilizing pneumatic **DATE**.
    - i. **Direction:** Safe route to building
    - ii. **Assignment:** To Whom and where to report, with or without apparatus
    - iii. **TAC channel**
    - iv. **Equipment:** Specific equipment may have been requested.



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## ELEVATORS

### Operation and Design

FFD Reference Guide – [Elevator Operations Rescue Guide](#)

### Elevator Firefighting Operations

Reference: [Standard Operating Procedures Section, 202.005a Elevator Operations and Design.](#)

### Elevator Rescue Operations and Procedures

Reference: [Standard Operating Procedures Section, 202.005b Elevator Rescue Operations and Procedures](#)

## FORMS

1. [ICS-214 - Activity Log](#)
2. [FD-66 - Rapid Intervention Crew Checklist](#)
3. [FD-67 - Firefighter Mayday Command Checklist](#)