

	<h1>COMMERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT</h1> <h2>Standard Operating Guidelines</h2>
	Subject: Incident Safety Officer
	Reference Number: 3.02
	Effective Date: 6/5/2014 Last Date Revised: 8/6/2015
	Approved By: Chief Kevin Dean

Purpose: The purpose of this guideline is to increase the safety of emergency response personnel while operating on emergency incidents.

Policy: These guidelines shall conform to *NFPA 1521 Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications*.

Scope: This guideline applies to all emergency response personnel operating at emergency incidents.

Responsibilities: It shall be the responsibility of all members of the agency, while on duty to comply with this system.

Guideline:

An Incident Safety Officer shall be appointed at all “working” structure fires, and at the following incidents:

Special operations:

- Hazardous Materials Response
- Technical Rescue Operations
- Bomb Threat, Scare, and/or Detonation
- Multi-casualty incidents
- Firefighter death at an incident
- Firefighter injury: Serious injury that requires EMS transport; Multiple Firefighter injuries.
- Any incident that becomes so large, complex, or dangerous that responder safety is imminently threatened.

Once appointed, the Incident Safety Officer’s only job will be safety. The Incident Safety Officer shall not be given any additional assignments. Upon appointing an Incident Safety Officer, the Incident Commander shall notify all on-scene personnel and Dispatch of who holds the position of Safety Officer.

Qualifications:

The Incident Commander is responsible for appointing a qualified individual to fulfill the role of Safety Officer. The Incident Commander must ensure that the person appointed as Safety Officer has a working knowledge of safety concerns in typical incidents, which include:

1. Fire behavior knowledge
2. Building construction knowledge
3. Medical emergency knowledge
4. Special operations knowledge (technical experts should be used to assist the Safety Officer if needed).

Authority:

The Incident Safety Officer works as a support officer for the Incident Commander and shall have the following authority:

1. Safety Officers shall have the responsibility to identify and cause correction of safety and health hazards.
2. Safety Officers shall have the authority to cause immediate correction of situations that create an imminent hazard to personnel.
3. At an emergency incident, where activities are judged by the Incident Safety Officer to be unsafe and to involve an imminent hazard to personnel, the Safety Officer shall have the authority to alter, suspend, or terminate those activities. The Safety Officer shall immediately inform the Incident Commander of any actions taken to correct imminent hazards at an emergency scene.
4. At an emergency incident where a Safety Officer identifies unsafe conditions that do not present an imminent danger, the Safety Officer shall take appropriate action through the Incident Commander to mitigate or eliminate the unsafe condition, operation, or hazard.
5. Should a conflict arise between the strategic and tactical goals of the Incident Commander and the safety concerns of the Incident Safety Officer, the Incident Commander should defer to the Safety Officer until all concerns have been addressed. Personnel safety is the number one priority!
6. After an emergency incident, where a Safety Officer was appointed, the Safety Officer shall document both safe and unsafe acts, corrective actions taken on scene, accidents or injuries, and ways to improve safety on future incidents. This information shall be completed within two shifts of the incident.