



Section: Operations

Page: **1 of 4**

Section No: 2.17

Date: 5-13-2022

Title: Incident Safety Officer

Authorized By:

## I. Purpose

The Prince George County Fire and EMS Department holds the safety of our members to the highest priority. The purpose of this policy is to describe the Incident Safety System within our department and its responsibilities. This responsibility begins with the first arriving firefighter on the scene and may be transferred to higher qualified personnel as the incident expands and more resources arrive.

## II. Definitions

- Incident Commander (IC) - The position within the Incident Command System (ICS) that is in charge of incident management. The IC has the overall responsibility for the incident decision making and the safety of all first responders and citizens.
- Incident Command System (ICS) – Standard approach to the command, control and coordination of emergency response providing a common hierarchy for responders.
- Incident Safety Officer (ISO) – A position within the Incident Command Structure whose responsibility is primarily incident safety related. This position reports directly to the IC.
- Incident Safety System – A term used to describe a departments overall safety plan. This refers to the implementation of an IC utilizing ICS and deploying an ISO on incidents.
- Incident Action Plan (IAP) – Formal documents that outlines the incident goals, operational period objectives and the response strategy defined by incident command.
- Assistant Incident Safety Officer (AISO) – a position appointed by the IC to assist the ISO with assigned functions.
- Incident Safety Plan – Strategies developed by the ISO to address hazards identified within the Incident Action Plan (IAP).

This replaces page \_\_\_\_\_, Section \_\_\_\_\_, Dated \_\_\_\_\_

This is a new page



Section: Operations

Page: **2 of 4**

Section No: 2.17

Date: 5-13-2022

Title: Incident Safety Officer

Authorized By:

- Working Incident – Incidents where units will be working for an extended period of time to mitigate the hazards. These incidents normally require additional resources from the initial dispatch.
- Conditions, Progress, Resources (CPR) – Report utilized by the IC to assist in the development of the incident IAP and used as a tool to monitor the incidents progress.

### III. Procedure / Deployment Model

- The Incident Safety System will be implemented during each response from PGFEMS.
- This function begins with the first arriving officer/ unit who assumes the initial command and begins to assess the scene during their size up.
- Safety shall be the forefront of all critical and tactical decision making during the duration of the incident.
- These decisions shall not only take into consideration our personnel but also citizens, Police Department, Utilities, etc.
- For incidents requiring limited resources (Car Fire, Fire Alarm, EMS Call) the company officer or AIC shall assume the role of ISO.
- For incidents declared a working incident the Emergency Communications Center will notify the Fire Command Staff. During this alert, the PGFEMS Training Officer (or their designee) will respond, if necessary, and assume the ISO roll until the incident has been marked under control or determined to be no longer needed by the IC.
- On the arrival of the ISO to the scene they shall report to the command post and have a face to face with the IC. They shall receive a brief CPR report from IC and an overview of the accountability for the incident.
- The ISO shall then work in conjunction with IC to ensure the safety of all working on that incident scene.

- This replaces page \_\_\_\_\_, Section \_\_\_\_\_, Dated \_\_\_\_\_
- This is a new page



# PRINCE GEORGE FIRE AND EMS

Section: Operations

Page: **3 of 4**

Section No: 2.17

Date: 5-13-2022

Title: Incident Safety Officer

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- This position may need to be versatile and shall not be limited to the command post. This may require the position to enter an IDLH environment as needed.

#### IV. Authority

- The ISO reports directly to the IC and shall have the full authority to correct unsafe actions by anyone on scene.
- During situations where the ISO determined the personnel to be in imminent danger, the ISO has the authority to stop that action from taking place without the approval of the IC. These actions shall then be reported to the IC as soon as possible to assist in future incident planning.
- During other situations, the ISO shall notify the IC and have the IC take the appropriate actions to mitigate the issue.

#### V. Qualifications

- The ISO must be knowledgeable of fire behavior, building construction, departmental and county safety guidelines along with state and federal rules, laws and regulations.
- ISO must have the following minimum requires: ICS 100, 200, 700, 800, VDFP Firefighter 1 and 2, and a Department approved Incident Safety Officer Class (NFA ISO or VDFP ISO).
- Must be familiar with the following standards:
  - i. NFPA 1500- Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program
  - ii. NFPA 1521- Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer
  - iii. NFPA 1581- Standard on Fire Department Infection Control Program

- This replaces page \_\_\_\_\_, Section \_\_\_\_\_, Dated \_\_\_\_\_
- This is a new page



Section: Operations

Page: **4 of 4**

Section No: 2.17

Date: 5-13-2022

Title: Incident Safety Officer

Authorized By:

- During a Hazardous Material Incident, the ISO must be certified as a minimum of Hazmat Technician when possible.
- During a Technical Rescue, the ISO must be certified in the area of the rescue (EX: High Angle, Trench Rescue) when possible.

## VI. Roles and Responsibilities

- The roles and responsibilities of the Incident Safety Officer should include but are not limited to the following:
  - i. Monitor and establish scene safety, including scene access points while maintaining scene protection from crowds and traffic.
  - ii. Analyze critical fire ground factors present at the incident.
  - iii. Assist with the Personnel Accountability System.
  - iv. Review and ensure apparatus placement does not pose additional harm to personnel or equipment.
  - v. Ensure the proper usage of Personal Protective Equipment.
  - vi. Review the Incident Action Plan (IAP) with the IC to ensure all applicable safety measures and policies are being applied.
  - vii. Ensure proper resource management is being utilized which should include verifying/ confirming the capabilities of apparatus, equipment and personnel.
  - viii. Monitor incident progress, structural integrity, and other relatable conditions.
  - ix. Review and consider potential weather impacts both present and future.
  - x. Ensure proper incident rehabilitation has been established.

- This replaces page \_\_\_\_\_, Section \_\_\_\_\_, Dated \_\_\_\_\_
- This is a new page