



GLASTONBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES



SOG NUMBER: FDO-008

ISSUED DATE: 11-15-11

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-15-11

REVISION #: 1

REVISED DATE: 01-11-16

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-11-16

CATEGORY: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS - GENERAL

SUB-CATEGORY: INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

SUBJECT: UNITY OF COMMAND - EMERGENCY

RELATED GUIDELINES: FDO-001, FDO-002, FDO-003, FDO-004, FDO-005, FDO-006, FDO-007, FDO-009

Section I – Introduction

A. Objective

To define the unity of command principle as it applies to Glastonbury Fire Department during a field incident.

B. Applicability

Department personnel shall observe the unity of command principle in respect to field incident operations.

C. References

Town of Manchester Fire-Rescue-EMS – General Operating Guideline

Section II – General

Unity of Command is the principle that a person can report to only one supervisor.

A. Unity of Command at Field Incident Operations

- Personnel functioning at a field incident shall report to *Command* unless otherwise assigned by Command.
 - If Command has not been established personnel shall report to the highest ranking Officer on scene.
 - When there are no Officers on scene, unity of command dictates that the driver of the first arriving apparatus is responsible for priority intervention and reporting.
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B. Unity of Command and the Incident Command System

OPERATIONS: An officer assigned *Operations* will be responsible for all tactical operations (specific to type of operations) at an incident. Operation is a branch that reports directly to the Incident Commander. Divisions report to Operations.

DIVISION: An Officer assigned to *Division* will be responsible for interior operations at an incident. The area of responsibility may be the entire interior or a single level of the interior. Divisions reports directly to Operations; or Command when Operations has not been established.

SECTOR: An Officer assigned to *Sector* will be responsible for exterior operations at an incident. Sector reports directly to Operations; or Command when Operations has not been established.

CREW: A crew is specific number of personnel, with or without an Officer, performing a particular function (S&R, ATTACK, and VENT). Crews report directly to Command unless Command has previously assigned that crew to Operations; a particular Division or a particular Sector. Crews report only to and take direction only from their Sector, Division, Operations or Command Officer*.

* A Safety Officer has the authority to immediately stop a crew from performing a function for the sake of a life safety concern.

Strict discipline is required on the parts of all Officers and line personnel to prevent circumventing the unity of command at an incident. Unity of Command prevents freelancing and circumvention of the Incident Commander's role.

Section III- Approval

Fire Chief



Date of Approval:

1/11/16