

	HIGH AND LOW ANGLE RESCUE	2014revB
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Procedure:

Size-Up Considerations

The size-up is one of the most critical components for the development of an incident action plan. The size-up essentially provides an evaluation of the situation confronted by the first arriving unit or member. The first arriving officer, unit or member shall consider the following questions when preparing for an “On Scene” radio report and ensuing Incident Action Plan:

- What has happened?
- What is happening now?
- What is likely to happen?

The first arriving officer, unit or member shall consider the following factors when preparing for an “On Scene” radio report while only committing to what can be seen from the cab:

Description of Event

The first arriving officer, unit or member shall look at the incident location, number of and access to victims and other features that help describe the conditions being faced by the first arriving officer, unit or member.

Staging Location

The first arriving engine, truck and battalion chief shall respond in to the scene. However, the first arriving officer, unit or member may recommend a different placement for apparatus based on patient location or access concerns.

All other units assigned to the incident shall stage at the last tactical option (e.g., entrance to the canyon, secondary roads that may provide better patient access).

Establishment of Command

The first arriving officer, unit or member shall assume and name command based on street address or location. The first arriving officer, unit or member can retain command or pass command to the battalion chief if determined to be a working incident.

Verbalization of passing command to the battalion chief can occur during the “On Scene” report or during the “Follow Up” radio report. The actual upgrade of command will occur when the battalion chief arrives on scene of the working incident; however, the initial incident commander still has command until the battalion chief formally accepts it upon arrival.

Action Taken

The first arriving officer, unit or member shall complete a 360 and transmit they will be conducting a 360 during the “On Scene” report. If the first arriving officer, unit or member recognizes that this cannot be accomplished upon arrival, the member shall transmit that a 360 cannot be completed or announce that a 360 was not completed during the “Follow Up” radio report.

If the first arriving officer, unit or member does not have obvious signs of smoke or fire, they shall transmit that they will be conducting a 360 and investigating during the “On Scene” report.

Resource Needs

The first arriving officer, unit or member may address any immediate resource needs based on current conditions or events. Some examples of immediate resource needs are as follows:

- Victim rescue
- EMS personnel for immediate patient care
- SOT pre-alert/response

- LC SAR (Larimer County Search and Rescue)

“On Scene” Report

As mentioned earlier, the “On Scene” report is a description of what the first arriving officer, unit or member encounters. LFRA has adopted and modified the Blue Card Certification program to establish a standard method of initiating command. Therefore, the following is an example of the standard method of transmitting an “On Scene” report:

“200, Engine 2.... Engine 2 is on scene. Have one patient visible on the rock face about 100 feet above the road. Have all units continue and stage. This will be ‘Main Street’ command, please send a SOT pre-alert.”

Incident Action Plan (IAP) Considerations

The development of the Initial Action Plan (IAP) is based on the conditions, actions and resources available to the incident commander. In reference to high or low angle rescue, it is imperative that the first arriving unit or member understand the need for established strategies and tactics to be used at the incident as they relate to victim rescue.

The development of the IAP begins with the initial dispatch information, but does not get communicated until after the first arriving officer, unit or member arrives on scene and transmits their “Follow Up” report. The “Follow Up” report shall serve as the foundation of the IAP along with the Incident Priorities.

The first arriving officer, unit or member shall consider the following factors when preparing for a “Follow Up” radio report and developing the IAP:

Actions

The actions of the first arriving officer, unit or member shall be described in simple terminology. This provides incoming resources a quick briefing on the course of action being taken by the first arriving officer, unit or member.

Assignments

The relay of emergency scene tasks to incoming units is the final step of the IAP. Incoming resources have either been assigned to staging or they have been given tasks in alignment with the IAP and Incident Priorities.

Unlike structure fires, there may not be specific assignments given out during the follow up report. Crews should be prepared to be called to the scene from staging and given assignments by face to face communication with the rescue group supervisor or IC.

The IC may assign a rescue group supervisor if needed. The rescue group supervisor will oversee the rescue portion of the incident and their responsibilities may include:

- Forecasting personnel and equipment needs
- Establishing rescue plan and continent plans
- Supervise task level activities
- Communicate the action plan to personnel assigned to their group
- Keep IC updated on a regular basis by providing CAN reports

Communication

Once assignments have been given by the incident commander, the assigned units or members shall complete the communication loop upon arrival. If arriving units fail to complete the communication loop, the incident commander shall repeat any needed information for clarification or to confirm that the message has been received.

“Follow Up” Report

The “Follow Up” report is a description of what the first arriving unit or member encounters upon completion of a scene size up. LFRA has adopted and modified the Blue Card Certification program to establish a standard method of initiating command. Therefore, the following is an example of the standard method of transmitting a “Follow Up” report:

“All incoming units... 360 not completed. Confirmed one patient stuck on the rock face about 100 feet above the road. We will be initiating a rescue operation and crews will start working on patient access, please send a

SOT response page and request a LC SAR response. All incoming units report to staging.”

During the “Follow Up” report, Command should request a SOT response or take SOT off of pre-alert if not needed. High and low angle rescue incidents have the potential to be very technical and require large amounts of personnel. If LFRA units are going to engage in a patient rescue, Command should request a LC SAR response. Upon the arrival of LC SAR, Unified Command should be established and a LC SAR representative should join IC in the command post.

Company Level Functions

First Arriving Engine

The method for how an incident will unfold is often based on the actions of the first arriving engine. The responsibilities of the first arriving engine are often based on the decisions of the first arriving unit or member and the formulation of the IAP.

The following are some of the responsibilities of the first arriving engine:

- Secure the emergency scene
- Witness interviews
- Patient access

First Arriving Support Apparatus

The first arriving support apparatus should begin making preparations for patient rescue while waiting for the “follow up” report such as:

- Gather rope rescue equipment
- Plan patient access routes (on foot or UTV access)
- Secondary access possibilities

Terrain Considerations

Class I: Walking or hiking on or off trail through terrain where no hands are needed to balance. A litter could be carried by hand through this terrain.

Class II: Off trail hiking with possible or occasional use of hands. Litter is usually still carried with no assistance from rope but may need to be passed along certain terrain features. A rope might be used to capture the uphill progress of the litter team.

Class III: Hands may often come into play as footing becomes less secure. A rope might be used to prevent injury due to slips and falls. A single line is often used on the litter while the bearers remain unattached. The line is used to capture litter progress and is not intended to prevent a fall.

Class IV: Difficult terrain where the climber uses both hands and feet to make upward progress. A rope is used to prevent and catch falls and unassisted climbing with a litter is not practical. A main line and a belay line are used on the litter with the handlers attached.

Class V: Difficult and steep (vertical or more than vertical) terrain where the climber uses both hands and feet to make upward progress. A rope is used to prevent and catch falls and unassisted climbing with a litter is not practical. A main line and a belay line are used on the litter with the handlers attached.

Benchmarks

The following benchmarks are utilized with high and low angle rescue operations to ensure that the incident priorities are being obtained as well as to determine that the appropriate risk profile is being assigned to the incident:

- Patient located
- Patient accessed
- Rescue initiated
- Rescue complete

Validation Summary:

No additional validation testing requested given the practices outlined in this document have been in use for an extended time.

Revision History:

Revision B-Updated by C. Pollema to reflect the current formatting. No change in content.

References: