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|  | OUTDOOR NATURAL GAS LEAKS | | 2014revA |
| | AUTHORED BY: Lt. Randy Stuart | FESSAM# 5F.4 | EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/02/2014 |
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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 officer, 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 provide information such as location of leak on the property, any excavation equipment on scene, if a Reporting/Responsible Party (R.P.) is on scene or not, wind direction and any other pertinent information to 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 wind direction or location of the leak.

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.

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 resources needs are as follows:

- Request for Xcel response to scene
- Victim rescue
- EMS personnel for immediate patient care
- Upgrade to 2nd alarm due to leak being on fire

“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 5.... Engine 5 is on scene of a medium, two-story house with no fire signs. Have a (light/medium/heavy) piece of excavation equipment with a 10’ x 10’ hole in the front yard. There is an R.P. on scene. There is a southwest wind @ 5-10 m.p.h. Have all units continue. This will be ‘Main Street Command’. I’ll be completing a 360.”

Incident Action Plan (IAP) Considerations

The development of the Incident Action Plan (IAP) is based on the conditions, actions and resources available to the incident commander. In reference to outdoor gas leaks, it is imperative that the first arriving officer, unit or member understand the need for established strategies and tactics to be used at the incident as they relate to the Incident Priorities.

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 completes their 360 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.

360 Complete

The 360 shall be completed by first arriving officer, unit or member if conditions, size of the incident area and terrain permit. This also serves as a benchmark and indicates that an Incident Action Plan is about to follow.

Location and Description of Leak

The first arriving officer, unit or member shall provide greater detail on the location of the leak and relay that information to incoming units during the “Follow Up” report.

Detailed information about the hole size, depth and configuration should be given. Detailed information about the gas line size, construction and orientation within the hole should be given.

Special Considerations

Some special circumstances may have an impact on development of the IAP as it will assist with the tactics to be used for the first arriving unit as well as incoming resources.

Some things that may be encountered might be; number of homes in the area that are downwind that might be affected by the leaking gas, excavation equipment that might be in proximity of the leak, potential ignition sources in proximity of the leak or bystanders in the area.

Strategy and Risk Profile

During the “Follow Up” report, the first arriving officer, unit or member shall transmit what the risk profile of the incident is (i.e., Very High, High, Medium, or Low). A description of the risk profiles is listed under “Benchmarks” of this guideline.

The first arriving officer, unit or member shall also transmit the strategy they will be deploying for the situation they face. Members shall select “Offensive” or “Defensive” strategy based on factors for mitigation of the leak, as well as the risk versus benefit analysis.

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.

For example, the first arriving unit may state, *“E5 will be deploying the bumper line for fire protection. We’ll be evacuating people from three houses downwind of the leak.” Or, “We’ll be starting a clamping operation of the gas line.”*

Assignments

The relay of on 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.

It has been determined that the tasks for second arriving companies are generally to support the first due's positions (usually fire protection, evacuations and clamp operations.)

The first arriving unit or member shall have the ability to deviate from these predetermined functions based on special circumstances, victims or other potential hazards.

Communications

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 360. 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 complete. There is a 3 foot wide by 4 feet deep trench in the front yard. The gas line size appears to be 1 ½" and is Polyethylene. E5 will be deploying the bumper line for fire protection, and entering the hole for a clamp operation. This will be an offensive strategy, high risk profile. Next due company, assign your firefighter to assist with fire protection, and evacuate the three houses downwind of the leak."

Company Level Functions

First Arriving Engine

The method for how an incident will unfold is often based on the actions and positioning 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:

- Position in manner for the best tactical advantage in accordance with the Incident Priorities as well as consideration for future anticipated needs.
- Position with consideration for weather conditions, specifically wind direction.
- Development of initial “Incident Action Plan” and modes of operations (i.e., offensive or defensive) with Incident Priorities as the main focus.
- Provide and secure an adequate water supply (if within reasonable distance for the engineer to obtain on his/her own).

Second Arriving Company

The second arriving company’s responsibilities will be determined by the initial incident commander. These responsibilities may include the following:

- Provide and secure an adequate water supply
- Assist with the fire protection line.
- Evacuation of residents.
- Air monitor homes in the area.

Benchmarks

The following benchmarks are utilized with outdoor natural gas leaks 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:

360 Complete

The 360 shall be completed by first arriving officer or member if conditions, size of the area and terrain permit. This benchmark can also be completed by the battalion chief or with assistance from the officer of a second arriving apparatus.

Evacuations complete

This benchmark shall be completed by the crew(s) assigned to evacuation and air monitoring by the incident commander. There may be more than one structure that needs to be evacuated.

Leak Stopped

This benchmark shall be announced once the line is clamped/secured either by LFRA personnel or Xcel crews. This is not a completion of a repair to the cut line, just that the hazard has been mitigated.

Risk Profile

The risk profile is established by the first arriving unit or member. The risk profile can be modified based on a change in conditions (offensive to defensive) or as the incident progresses from arrival to hazard mitigation (high to low). Additional information can be located in the LFRA ICS Guidelines.

Revision History:

3/20/15 Update to current format, no changes in content.

References:

No references cited.