

	Ashippun Fire Department		Policy #400.007	
	Standard Operating Guidelines			
	Subject:	Incident Operations System-Investigation		
	Initial Date:	9/15/15	Revised Date:	
Approved By:	Fire Chief Deonne Eske			

I. Purpose

- A. Provide members decision making guidance and to define acceptable practice for investigating responses.
- B. The guideline will also provide general information regarding performance standards for training under the Incident Operations System – Investigation tactic.

II. Scope

- A. This guideline will apply to all personnel.

III. Responsibility

- A. All officers are responsible for training their personnel and for ensuring proper compliance with this guideline.
- B. All members have the responsibility to adequately learn and implement this guideline.
- C. All members shall exercise reasonable judgment in implementing this guideline.

IV. Guideline

- A. As firefighters we routinely respond to investigation calls with nothing showing on arrival. In fact, statistically for every ten investigations that you make, fire will only show up once. While these usually are not the most exciting runs that we experience, a hazardous potential exists and firefighters have been ambushed. Training has concentrated on the more spectacular aspects of firefighting such as vehicle extrication and live fire there has been little training conducted for investigations. Preparing for major events are essential by we must also take time to analyze and train on those calls that we respond to over and over, day after day.
- B. Questions arise for responding to investigation calls such as:
 - a. What level of PPE should we wear?
 - b. Should we take an extinguisher and if so, what type?
 - c. What if the building is locked, when and how should we force entry?
- C. A real danger of minimizing investigation is the tendency to start thinking the same way at other incidents. “This one really isn’t that bad”, “it’s just another car fire”, or “it will never happen to me”. When firefighters respond with this attitude, performance will drop and firefighter safety will be compromised. Remember even though most of the time these incidents turn out to be minor, every so often, the unexpected things happen injuring and sometimes killing firefighters and our customers.
- D. The critical question that this tactic addresses is “... are we going to be proactive with the routine incidents and successfully mitigate 100 % of the calls or remain complacent and leave our success rate to luck and chance?”
- E. Some firefighters with cavalier attitudes may think that the IOS approach to these routine responses is overkill and even an annoyance. However it is clear through first

hand experiences and the study of other firefighter's experiences that hazards have no conscious. Battalion Chief Frank Montagna of FDNY wrote "... In truth, your 'routine' response is not routine. No response is. Every type of response should be discussed and dissected, and you should develop appropriate plans for them. This way you can minimize the dangers to firefighters and the public alike as you effectively, professionally perform your job."

- F. This tactic simulates the first arriving company reporting "nothing showing" from an automatic alarm at a structure. While you will use some high technology completing this tactic, the rock solid basics of PPE, communication, and teamwork cannot be overestimated. The critical firefighting skill that you will learn in this tactic will not only provide a solid foundation to build upon but will keep you safe allowing you the opportunity to be able to do it again.
- G. Primary Individual Responsibilities
 - a. Officer (senior firefighter if officer isn't present)
 - i. Have flashlight, portable radio, thermal imaging camera, and CO detector
 - ii. Crew integrity
 - iii. Communication integrity
 - iv. PPE with SCBA
 - v. Situation assessment
 - vi. Supervision of tactic
 - b. Tool firefighter(seat behind Driver)
 - i. Have irons
 - ii. Crew integrity
 - iii. PPE with SCBA
 - iv. Forcible entry
 - v. Portable radio on fire ground channel, turned off
 - vi. Assist with investigation
 - c. Nozzle firefighter(seat behind Officer)
 - i. Have portable extinguisher
 - ii. Crew integrity
 - iii. PPE with SCBA
 - iv. Fire extinguishment and protection of crew
 - v. Portable radio on fire ground channel, turned off
 - vi. Assist with investigation
 - d. Driver/operator
 - i. Monitors radio
 - ii. Positions apparatus
 - iii. Accountability and command
 - iv. Stays with apparatus