

Genesee County Association of Fire Chief's Recommended Operating Guidelines

Effective 10-21-09
Revised 08-19-15
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SUBJECT: Personnel Accountability System 09-01

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all Genesee County Fire Departments as it relates to Personnel Accountability.

PURPOSE

To identify a system of incident site firefighter accountability. It will enhance safety and will provide the Incident Command staff an improved means to track and account for all personnel and their whereabouts within the danger area.

DANGER AREA

Is identified as any area that requires an SCBA, charged hose line, and special protective equipment. It also includes any area in which a firefighter is at risk of becoming lost, trapped or injured by the environment or structure. This would include entering a structure reported to be on fire, operating in close proximity to the structure during exterior operations, vehicle fires, brush/grass fires, confined space or trench rescue, etc.

PROCEDURE

1. To enhance accountability and to improve tracking of firefighters in the danger area, a two (2) tag system will be used.
2. Tags will include a minimum of the firefighters name and department.
3. One tag shall be affixed to a collection ring on the apparatus prior to leaving the station.
4. The collection ring will identify the department and apparatus ID and contain the tags of all personnel assigned to that apparatus.
5. Upon arrival at the scene, the collection ring shall be turned over to command, an accountability officer or the designated accountability location. The initial accountability location may be the first arriving apparatus.
6. As additional apparatus and crews arrive, their accountability collection rings will be turned over to the accountability officer.
7. Chief Officers after assuming command will collect accountability rings and as the incident escalates, place the collection rings on a status board or in a central location.
8. **The second tag** must be turned in at the entry point of the danger area. The sector or accountability officer who will track the assignments of teams on a status board will collect these tags. When no officer is available, the tags will be placed at a designated entry point location. Team members will retrieve their tags immediately upon exiting the danger zone or building.

MEMBERS ARRIVING VIA POV:

1. Individual members arriving via POV shall report to the Command Post and have their ID tag affixed to the company or area they are assigned to.
2. No member shall enter a danger area without first reporting to the IC or designated accountability officer. An accountability ID tag must be submitted prior to being assigned a task.

ACCOUNTABILITY EQUIPMENT:

Accountability equipment shall include:

1. Two (2) ID tags
2. Tags should be large enough to be handled with gloves and easily recognized.
3. Each apparatus shall have one (1) collection ring with apparatus ID affixed.

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ROLL CALL:

A roll call of members may be conducted as follows:

1. When a catastrophic change occurs.
2. When a firefighter is presumed missing
3. When a team is relieved from an assignment.
4. Before changing from an offensive to a defensive mode.
5. When the IC, Company Officer or team leader determines a need.

TERMINATING THE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM:

1. Accountability shall be maintained at least through a report of "incident under control", at which time a roll call for all crews should be conducted.
2. Command will determine at that time whether to continue with the accountability system.
3. Command may choose to extend the accountability system as deemed necessary.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of this guideline will be the direct responsibility the Genesee County Association of Fire Chief's, the officers and firefighters of the member fire departments within Genesee County.