

SCOPE: This procedure provides a basic outline to further understand the tactical assignment of On-Deck in the use of structural firefighting operations.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this procedure is to establish a standard deployment approach to the On-Deck assignment and for personnel to understand the role when operating as an On-Deck company.

SAFETY: It is critical for all personnel to know and understand the On-Deck function to negate the practice of free-lancing on all fire incidents. Free lancing is dangerous and understanding your assignment and role within the incident action plan minimizes the confusion when given task or tactical level assignments.

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 On Deck - is defined as a forward staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone, safely distanced from the position of a Group or Division.
- 1.2 A 360 - is the process of making your way around the entire fire building, looking for possible victims, the location & severity of the fire, identifying the flow paths, and taking opportunities to control any critical fire ground factors that may go unnoticed such as closing open doors to prevent fire growth, controlling utilities as they walk around, and possibly removing an occupant that may be just inside a door or hanging out a window.
- 1.3 Soften the Building - the removal of egress limiting factors such as security doors and window bars.
- 1.4 On-Deck Tarp - is a tarp carried by engine and ladder companies that has marked off areas for all the required and additional tools that may need to be used by the On-deck crew.
- 1.5 Flow Paths - the movement of heat and smoke from areas of high pressure within the fire area to areas of lower air pressure both inside and outside of a fire building (examples are open windows and doors).

2. PROCEDURE

- 2.1 On Deck crews will be supervised either by the Group/Division Supervisor or Company Officer and they will remain On Deck until reassigned by the IC.
- 2.2 On-Deck assignments can default to RIT depending on the situational deployment with victim removal or firefighter mayday.
- 2.3 The Company Officer and Firefighter of the On-Deck crew will conduct an additional 360 of the building while their Engineer begins to set up the On-Deck Tarp. While performing the 360, the Company Officer and Firefighter will also secure the utilities and asses the building for the need to come back and soften the building with their crew.
- 2.4 The On-Deck crew should have their own firefighting attack line charged and in place with them at their On-Deck location.
- 2.5 The On-Deck Tarp should have on it, a minimum of a R.I.T bag, a set of irons, a K12, and a back board. Agency guidelines can suggest equipment beyond this as needed.
- 2.6 The on-deck assignment can be an immediate task for crews in staging or for recycled crews after being placed in rehab and ready for their next fire ground assignment.

- 2.7** Assigning On-Deck crews is done simply by contacting a staged company and directing them to go "On-Deck" in a specific geographic location or division.
- 2.8** A crew assigned to an On-Deck position that does not need their apparatus should park in a manner that doesn't block access to the scene.
- 2.9** Crews must be intact with full PPE and report directly to their assigned location, dropping of their Par board and hose tags per guidelines.
- 2.10** The order from IC would sound like this:
"Engine 142 - Command."
"Command-Engine 142"
"Engine 142 I'm going to keep you Engine 142 and assign you On-Deck on the Alpha side. I want you to pull an attack line from Engine 201. Your accountability will be with Engine 201. Give me your PAR going forward".
"Engine 142 copies. We will stay Engine 142 and are assigned On-Deck, side Alpha. We are to pull an attack line off Engine 201 and have our accountability on Engine 201. We are going forward PAR 3.
- 2.11** Upon arrival, the On Deck company must contact the IC and give their 360 reports as well as inform them that they are in position and ready. Subsequent On-Deck crews will not report the same information to the IC unless anything has changed.
- 2.12** On Deck crews must remain intact, in a ready state with adequate air reserves and ensure they are monitoring the appropriate channel.
- 2.13** On deck crews must also size up the area that they are assigned to, this size up should include:
- 2.13.1** Locating the structures entrance/exit points in their assigned area
 - 2.13.2** Interior and exterior conditions
 - 2.13.3** Unit ID of crews operating inside the structure
 - 2.13.4** Approximate location of interior crews
 - 2.13.5** Identify which crews are operating each hose line
- 2.14** When an On-Deck crew is used as a relief crew, the Company Officer should do a face to face and transfer information with the officer exiting the structure.
- 2.15** The information transferred should include:
- 2.15.1** Interior conditions
 - 2.15.2** Routing instructions to the work area
 - 2.15.3** Interior obstructions
 - 2.15.4** Additional tools/resources required
 - 2.15.5** Group/Division objectives
- 2.16** Potential reassignments after being placed On Deck are:
- 2.16.1** Default to Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) as needed in the incident
 - 2.16.2** Reinforce a position within an assigned division or group
 - 2.16.3** Crew relief within an assigned group or division
 - 2.16.4** Any other tactical position assigned by the IC
- 2.17** If there are extensive or time consuming needs for softening the building the On-Deck company officers should request additional support from command to ensure they are able to stay ready for RIT needs, should they arise.