

FIREHOUSE[®]

Weekly Drill

DRILL #125: THE ON-SCENE REPORT

Introduction

We are constantly reminded in the fire service how critically important the On-Scene Report (or as some call it the “Size-Up Report”) is, but what makes it so critically important? To simplify this report, it can be broken down into three basic functions:

1. What do I have?
2. What am I doing?
3. What do I need?

Step by Step

Looking at the first part of this report (What do I have?) is where we start to paint the picture of what is taking place at the incident for the other responders not yet there, but listening to the radio report being given. Areas to key in on for this report are:

- **Building size** – generally the width and length of the structure is used in feet, along with the height
- **Construction type** – this can be given in one of two different methods, either by stating the type (i.e. wood frame) or using the numeric value (Type V)
- **Smoke and flames showing** – quickly identify the location and condition of such coming from the building
- **Amount of involvement** – this can be given as a percentage or number of floors
- **Type of occupancy** – is it residential, commercial or industrial
- **Unusual conditions or hazards** – this can be as simple as power lines down or something more serious as a specific hazardous material involved

The second part of this report (What am I doing?) is used to indicate actions that you are going to be taking with your crew. Items to key in on here are directly related to the severity of the incident and can consist of:

- Assuming command
- Advancing an attack line
- Obtaining a water supply
- Performing search & rescue activities
- Conducting ventilation
- Establishing a RIT (rapid intervention team)

The third area of the report (What do I need?) will deal with resources. Here is where you make your request



known for the type of support you are going to need to assist in dealing with the incident. Things to focus on here are:

- Securing the radio channel
- Having a water supply established
- Ventilation
- Search and rescue
- RIT established
- Rescue equipment such as a Hurst Tool or other specialty equipment
- MCI (mass casualty incident) resources
- Hazardous material team

Conclusion

In any event, once we begin taking our actions they should be conducted in an orderly process. Considerations should be focused on the factors necessary to mitigate the problem. This is done through prioritizing the order of importance for any incident we respond to – those being the protection of life and property, the stabilizing and control of the incident, and finally, the conservation and preservation of the environment.

–Prepared by Russell Merrick