

MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Operational Guidelines

Approved by: Chief Mark Rohlfing

2019

FORWARD

The purpose of these operational guidelines is to make clear expectations for company performance, safety, and efficiency, eliminating the potential for confusion and duplication of effort at the emergency scene.

It is understood that extraordinary situations may dictate a deviation from these guidelines. Deviation can only be authorized by the officer/acting officer of an apparatus or the incident commander. Any deviation must be communicated over the incident talk group.

The following guidelines are meant to clarify best operational practices for the MFD. They are not intended to be all-inclusive and are designed to be updated as necessary. They are guidelines for you to use. However, there will be no compromise on issues of safety, chain of command, correct gear usage, or turnout times.

SAFETY

If you see something that you believe impacts our safety, it is your duty to report it to your superior Officer immediately. If, in the course of carrying out an assignment, the situation deteriorates or changes in such a way as to affect your safety, immediately retreat to a more tenable atmosphere and report the hazard to your superior Officer. If an Incident Safety Officer orders you to stop what you are doing based on an assessment of the conditions, stop and report it to your superior Officer immediately.

In all cases, the rig should be used as a barrier between the flow of traffic and where fire or EMS crews are, or will be, operating. This means coordinating with law enforcement and other MFD units to use the rig(s), along with cones, to shut down all or part of the roadway.

Seatbelts must be used at all times when a department vehicle is in motion. Reflective safety vests must be worn any time a company is operating on a roadway or in a vehicle traffic area, except during firefighting operations or while in the hot zone of a vehicle extrication.

CHAIN OF COMMAND & COMMUNICATIONS

You report to your superior Officer, period. Any orders coming from an Incident Commander to HEOs or FFs are to come through your respective Company Officer.

If, in the course of carrying out your assignment(s), you are directed by another Officer (Company or Chief) to do something else, advise them that you are already carrying out an assigned objective. In an extraordinary situation requiring immediate attention (FF trapped at window needing ladder rescue, etc.), report the change or delay to your superior Officer as soon as is practical. Keep in mind that any deviation must not delay hoselines getting into operation, as this single action will reduce and/or eliminate most other hazards. Let your superior Officer know any time you complete your assignment(s) and/or change your location.

Input of later arriving Bureau or recall staff personnel must be approved and transmitted through the Incident Commander & Operations Chief via the established Chain of Command.

FIREFIGHTING ENSEMBLE

Per MFD documentation, full firefighting ensemble is considered to include: bunker pants with suspenders, bunker coat, boots, SCBA w/ facepiece, hood, helmet (with Company front piece), gloves, and safety glasses (carried in pocket). On runs requiring respiratory or thermal protection, members are required to be wearing all of the above items.

RECEIPT OF ALARM AND TURNOUT TIME

Upon receipt of an alarm in quarters, the members shall receive the alarm and respond quickly to the rig. Response time from quarters should be consistent and swift, regardless of the time of day or type of call. Companies should have no trouble turning out from quarters within the MFD-accepted standard (80 seconds for EMS responses and 80 seconds for fire/special operations responses) from the time the alarm tones sound.