



# INSTRUCT-O-GRAM

## THE HANDS-ON TRAINING GUIDE FOR THE FIRE INSTRUCTOR

VOLUME XXIV • ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 2003

## *Initial Response Preparation and Communication*

### **TASK**

The initial response has a variety of factors that must be considered by the company officer. This IOG will look at various procedures, operations firefighter safety considerations, building, occupancy and area fire potential in order to properly prepare for effective response.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. The firefighter shall identify the various categories of information needed for response preparation.
2. The firefighter shall define the need for Standard Operating Guidelines and their effect on the initial alarm response.
3. The firefighter shall identify proper communication methods and their effect upon the initial response operations.
4. The firefighter shall identify the significance of "target hazards" and the effect on firefighter safety in relation to those locations.
5. The firefighter shall define the water supply requirements and those procedures which may be necessary to assure proper supply for initial response operations.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL AIDS**

Department Standing Operating Guidelines  
Department Preplan Manual  
Digital or regular photographs of target hazards in your response district

### **ESTIMATED TEACHING TIME**

Teaching time will vary depending upon the response district. However a minimal of 4 hours should be utilized to cover the materials within this IOG. Do not limit your program whereas the amount of time will vary from district to district.

### **MOTIVATING THE STUDENT**

The fire service is a dynamic profession that is richly steeped in tradition, noble in deeds and calling. We know the fire service to be constant – yet ever changing in today's society. We have built this profession upon man and machinery in opposition with an uncontrolled force known as fire. As a firefighter you will face the unexpected at any given moment. It is crucial to operations that your knowledge be sound when responding to emergency situations. Preparation is paramount in facilitating safe and efficient operations.

### **PRESENTATION**

#### **I. Preparation**

##### **A. Basic Considerations**

1. The Five Firefighting Objectives
  - a. Rescue
  - b. Exposures
  - c. Confinement

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- d. Extinguishment
- e. Overhaul

## 2. Company duties

- a. Engine Companies
- b. Truck Companies
- c. Rescue Companies
- d. Other units

## B. Information Categories

### 1. Life hazard

- a. Building (age, size, construction)
- b. Occupants (number, condition, age)
- c. Possibility of being trapped
- d. Firefighter hazards
- e. Other local conditions

### 2. Exposure hazards

- a. General condition of the area
- b. Construction types and separation
- c. Exterior versus interior
- d. Apparatus positioning

### 3. Construction

- a. Type, age, condition, use
- b. Configuration
- c. Roof trusses
- d. Vertical and horizontal openings
- e. Firewalls/stops
- f. Attic spaces

### 4. Special hazards

- a. Hazardous materials
- b. Open elevator or other shafts
- c. Heavy roof loads
- d. Electrical
- e. Target for terrorism

### 5. Height

- a. Total height (stories and feet)
- b. Access
- c. Reach of aerial devices
- d. Elevated streams
- e. Command and control difficulties

- f. Ventilation problems
- g. Evacuation issues
- h. Victim rescue/removal

### 6. Fire protection systems

- a. Standpipes
  - i. Type
  - ii. Intakes
  - iii. Outlets/cabinets
- b. Sprinklers
  - i. Type
  - ii. Intakes
- c. Water supply
- d. Alarm systems

### 7. Area (square footage)

- a. Building
- b. Each floor
- c. Community general condition
- d. Street width
- e. Access width

### 8. Water supply

- a. Hydrant system
  - i. Flow in mains
  - ii. Type of system
  - iii. Additional mechanisms to raise pressure
- b. Poor flow
  - i. Distance to good flow
- c. Overall dependability
- d. Tankers
  - i. Number
  - ii. Capacity
  - iii. Travel time
- e. Nearest water supply
  - i. Hydrant
  - ii. Non-hydrant

### 9. Apparatus

- a. Number of units responding
- b. Type of units responding
- c. Location responding from

- d. Automatic aid
  - e. Working fire
  - f. Automatic staging
10. Personnel
- a. Number of personnel responding
  - b. Reserves in standby
  - c. Staging location
  - d. Automatic aid
  - e. Training
  - f. Experience
  - g. Specialties
11. Time
- a. Time of day
  - b. Time of year
  - c. Seasonal problems
12. Occupancy
- a. Residential
    - i. Homes
    - ii. Motels
    - iii. Hotels
    - iv. Apartments over stores
    - v. Bed and breakfasts
  - b. Commercial
    - i. Office buildings
    - ii. Stores
    - iii. Offices
    - iv. Offices over stores
    - v. Restaurants
    - vi. Malls
    - vii. Bars
  - c. Institutions
    - i. Hospitals
    - ii. Asylums
    - iii. Nursing homes
    - iv. Assisted living facilities
    - v. Schools
    - vi. Convents
    - vii. Prisons

- d. Industrial
    - i. Condition of workers/handicapped
    - ii. Healthy and agile
    - iii. Fire brigades
    - iv. Hazards
13. Building/complex access
- a. Will apparatus fit into complex?
  - b. Parking and obstructions
  - c. Fire lanes
14. Weather
- a. Recent and present weather
  - b. Wind velocity and direction
  - c. Temperature
  - d. Humidity
  - e. Heat index
15. Location and intensity of the fire
- a. Intensity of the fire
  - b. Size of building

**II. Communications**

**A. Responding**

- 1. Enroute
  - a. Report any conditions
- 2. Arrival on Scene
  - a. Building construction
  - b. Occupancy
  - c. Conditions found
  - d. Actions being taken by company
  - e. Position of company
  - f. Orders for incoming units

**B. During the Fire**

- 1. Detailed follow-up report by first chief officer
- 2. Periodic reports
  - a. Exposures (interior and exterior)
  - b. Companies at scene and positions
  - c. Search results

- d. Personnel Accountability Reports
- e. Evaluation of outcome
- f. Final report
  - i. Under control
  - ii. Units going in service
  - iii. Personnel Accountability Report

#### C. Communication Procedures

- 1. Use plain language and avoid codes
- 2. Identification number then message
- 3. All messages acknowledged
- 4. Clear concise text in messages
- 5. Multiple frequency radios
  - a. Command frequencies
  - b. Tactical frequencies

#### D. Effective Communications

- 1. Increased unit/personnel control
- 2. Provides contact between ranks at all levels
- 3. Improves firefighter safety
  - a. Controls company movements

- b. Provides danger and hazard information/control
  - c. Withdraw for change in tactics based upon strategy change
  - d. Emergency retreat due to dangerous conditions
- 4. Units responding can receive assignments
  - 5. Automatic staging

### RESOURCES

*Incident Command*, Instruct-O-Gram (June 1992)  
 Firefighting Principles and Practices (Clark)  
 Engine Company Fireground Operations (Richman)  
 Company Officer (Smoke)  
 Fire Officers Handbook

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The materials in this *Instruct-O-Gram* were originally prepared by Hal Richman and published in August 1993. Richman, a past president of ISFSI, retired as fire chief with over 30 years of experience. The information contained in the original *Instruct-O-Gram* has been updated by Douglas K. Cline, BSW, NREMT-P, Battalion Chief, Chapel Hill (NC) Fire Department. Cline serves as an Eastern Regional Director for ISFSI.

The Instruct-O-Gram is the monthly training outline of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI). The monthly Instruct-O-Gram is provided as one of the benefits of membership in ISFSI.

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