

## **Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline**

### **Safety Officer**

#### **Objective:**

To provide guidelines for using Incident Safety Officers on incident scenes and at training functions.

#### General Information:

The recognition of situations that present an unusual hazard to personnel, and the proper response to those situations, is of critical importance in all Falmouth Fire-EMS operations. This procedure establishes a standard system for providing safety guidance at incident scenes and training functions, through the implementation of an Incident Safety Officer.

This procedure in no way diminishes the responsibility of each and every member of the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department to work within safety procedures at all times and the responsibility of officers for the safety of their assigned personnel.

The Incident Commander (IC) has the responsibility to recognize situations requiring the implementation of an Incident Safety Officer (ISO). When the IC does not appoint an Incident Safety Officer the IC performs the tasks of the ISO.

Falmouth Fire-EMS will utilize pre-determined Safety Officers to perform roles as Incident Safety Officers. The Falmouth Fire-EMS Safety Officers will respond direct to all Desk Box Alarms or greater within the Town of Falmouth, and on request to other incidents. In the absence of a Falmouth Fire-EMS Safety Officer the role of Incident Safety Officer may be performed by another First Responder on scene. Mutual Aid Fire Chiefs may be assigned to the Incident Safety Officer role.

Upon arrival at an incident designated Falmouth Fire-EMS Safety Officers will report to the Command Post and, unless otherwise assigned, will automatically establish the ISO position.

#### **Guidelines:**

##### General Response:

The following actions will be taken by the Falmouth Fire-EMS Safety Officer:

1. Report to the Incident Commander.
2. Perform a 360 degree walk-around of the Incident Scene (unless already performed by the IC).
3. Assess accountability of all personnel on scene.
  - If no accountability is established, collect all accountability tags from apparatus on scene and bring to the Command Post.
  - If accountability is established, report to the Incident Commander.
4. Assess hazard or potential hazard conditions on scene.
  - Identify all Utilities on scene and assess safety of them.

- i. Provide list of Utility Companies to IC
- Identify potential collapse zones
  - i. Report any personnel or equipment operating in collapse zone to IC.
- Identify any hazardous materials located on scene.
- Ensure Rehab Group is created and utilized if needed.
- 5. Perform Branch, Division or Group Safety Functions as needed and assigned by the IC. (example: C-side Safety)
  - Monitor condition of personnel for signs of exhaustion and effects of products of combustion or toxic materials.
  - Observe operations for proper observance of safety procedures and precautions by all personnel.
  - Assure proper use of protective clothing and equipment by all personnel in operating areas.
  - Observe general fireground for unsafe or hazardous conditions and interact with command officers to take adequate precautions.
  - Observe and assess any structural conditions that could present a safety hazard.
  - Monitor concentrations of toxic or explosive vapors and use of monitoring equipment.
- 6. Document information to be used for the incident report or by training staff for future training and/or a review of the incident/training.

Important considerations:

- The command structure shall be used to affect appropriate response to a safety problem. Incident Safety Officers should coordinate all actions with the Incident Commander whenever possible. When the urgency of the situation demands, the Incident Safety Officer has full authority to cause immediate action by direct order to personnel or by use of **“Emergency Traffic”**.
- Operating personnel receiving safety instructions from Incident Safety Officer shall immediately take appropriate action. Failure to comply will be subject to subsequent review and investigation.

Training:

- All Safety Officers should have a minimum of 3 years of experience as a company officer for the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department.
- All Safety Officers should have completed IS700 (an introduction to the National Incident Management System) and IS100 (an introduction to the Incident Command System).
- All Safety Officers should complete the National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer (ISO) course before appointment as a safety officer.
- All Safety Officers should complete ICS 200 (ICS for Single Resources & Initial Action Incidents) within 1 year of appointment as a Safety Officer.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.