

Accountability

A-014

Date: 4-1-1998

I. Purpose

It is necessary to be able to account for all personnel that may be assigned to or working at the scene of an emergency. Occasionally, our members respond on a fire apparatus as does the mutual aid personnel. Generally, our personnel will respond to the scene in their private automobile and participate in the emergency operation. We must ensure that all personnel, regardless of the method of transportation, will be accounted for in case of a change in strategies such as changing from an offensive position to a defensive position, a building collapse, or other circumstance that would require an accounting for all personnel at the scene.

II. Method

- A) A nametag shall be issued to every active firefighter. This tag will be attached to the outside of the firefighter's turnout coat or helmet. Note that they were made purposefully large to aid as a reminder to use them.
- B) On arrival at the scene of every incident all firefighters will clip their accountability tags on the collection ring of the first arriving apparatus, command vehicle, or designated safety & accountability point.
- C) Upon returning to the apparatus just prior to returning to service, you should retrieve your nametag from the apparatus collection ring.

III. Officers

- A) Firefighters should be working under your direction in teams of two or more. Firefighters entering the structure should be doing so in order to accomplish a tactical objective. If not needed inside, they should be held together in staging until the incident commander assigns your team/crew an assignment. Once you and/or your team/crew enters the structure, someone should be aware that you are entering, the approximate area where you are going, the general time when you are entering, and the number of personnel going inside. It may be the incident commander, safety officer, pump operator, or other person that you inform. The intent is if conditions should deteriorate, someone would know your approximate location and the number of persons we are looking for.
- B) The incident commander should advise mutual aid officers and firefighters of the procedure and establish a means of accounting for them.

IV. Firefighters

It is imperative that your team inform someone prior to entering the structure so that in the event of a deterioration of conditions, someone will be aware of your position and be looking for you. A system of communication must be maintained so that the firefighters may be notified or that firefighters may inform persons outside of problems. The tag system is intended to identify the number and names of persons who may be in need of assistance and for your safety. Please help make it work.

V. Communications

Each team/crew entering a structure should have a method of communicating present conditions and location to sector command or the Incident Commander. Sector command will report these

conditions and locations as necessary to the Incident Commander. Personnel working in the Incident area will be given a tactical objective and assigned a team/crew identification i.e. Interior 1, Search 1, etc.