

# Salt River Fire Department Operating Guidelines

## Additional Resources

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The decisions required to provide for adequate resources are an important factor in effective emergency incident management. Command must balance the tactical problems with the resources required to control problems and stay ahead of the situation through effective forecasting. Beware of "Crisis Management" where the situation grows at a rate faster than the response recovery. Command may end up with an out of control situation and inadequate resources to control it.

If Command begins to debate whether or not to call another alarm. - In such cases "call for it". If the extra resources are not needed, they can easily be put back in service.

In escalating incidents, Command should utilize the greater alarm mechanism -- it is the quickest, provides for automatic move-ups and indicates in a standard manner that the fire problem is in an expanded mode. Command should resist the temptation to request assistance in a piecemeal fashion. Additional alarms should be struck sequentially which includes going from a 2 and 1 assignment to a 1st alarm to a 2nd alarm, etc.

It is the continuing responsibility and function of Command to determine the resources required to control the situation and to provide for the timely call for any additional resources required. The early call for additional resources will tend to consistently "save the day."

Command must be aware of both the capability and response time of additional resources and effectively integrate these facts into calls for additional resources.

Some tactical situations move slowly, while some move very quickly. Command must call for additional resources at a rate that stays ahead of the incident. Some situations require the categorical call for additional alarms or upgrading an assignment upon knowledge of particular characteristics or conditions.

In other situations, Command will initiate some fire control activities, ask for reports and, based upon receipt of bad news, will strike more alarms.

When calling for additional resources, Command must expand the incident arrangement system to manage the additional resources. Command cannot encounter a big fire situation, call additional alarms and then expect to effectively manage the additional resources in a single alarm command mode.