

OSWEGO TOWN FIRE DEPT. SAFETY OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Safety Officer has a specialized task at an operation. The Safety Officer is part of the Command Staff and reports directly to the Incident Commander. The Safety Officer is primarily responsible for minimizing the threat of death or injury to personnel. If there is no Safety Officer, the IC will be responsible for this function. While safety is a major part of the Incident Commander's concerns, it is the sole concern of the Safety Officer. The Safety Officer's full attention must be focused on the safety of operating personnel. The Safety Officer must be the role model and leader in all aspects of safety.

2. PURPOSE:

The Safety Officer is responsible for recommending and developing measures that ensure personnel safety, and to assess and/or anticipate hazardous situations. This shall include:

Identify hazardous situations associated with the incident and communicate these hazards to the IC

Monitor the use of Personal Protective Equipment and ensure compliance with OTVFD guidelines

Keep the Incident Commander updated on conditions and recommend any modifications to the operation that would address identified safety issues

The authority to Alter, Suspend, or Terminate operations if the Safety Officer determines them to involve an **imminent hazard** based on a risk assessment.

The Incident Commander must be notified immediately of any change to firefighting operations ordered by the Safety Officer.

Prepare the following ICS forms if the incident requires a written Incident Action Plan:

ICS 208 HM – Site Safety & Control Plan

ICS 215 A – Incident Action Safety Plan

ICS 206 – Medical Plan

Whenever the Safety Officer takes action to remove members from a hazardous situation, the Incident Commander must be advised of the action taken and why the Safety Officer made the determination. The situation where a Safety Officer would terminate an operation without first consulting with a Sector Officer or the Incident Commander is extremely rare and reserved for hazards that place members in imminent danger.

Termination of one part of an operation may place members operating in other areas of the emergency in great danger. The Safety Officer must consider the impact of this action on the rest of the operation. The Incident Commander may reverse the decision of the Safety Officer and continue operations.

The Incident Commander has the overall responsibility for the safety of everyone on the scene. The presence of a Safety Officer does not relieve the Incident Commander of this safety responsibility. Every individual member has a duty to be safe, to watch out for the safety of other members at the scene and to comply with safety procedures. _____

A Safety Officer is assigned the role by the Incident Commander.

The (Specialist) will be designed the Assistant Safety Officer after the arrival of the Safety Officer or reassigned as determined by the IC.

The designated Safety Officer assigned as Safety Officer shall done the Safety Officer Vest.

The Safety Officer assigned aide shall report in wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

3. DUTIES OF THE SAFETY OFFICER(S):

Observe operations from a safety perspective and monitor for unsafe acts

The Safety Officer uses the following Risk Management guidelines to determine appropriate risk taking actions by members;

Keep significant risk to members limited to potential life saving situations

Inherent risks of routine activities should be reduced or minimized

No risk to the safety of members is acceptable when there is no possibility of saving life or property

Perform a safety size up of fire building/area and note the following:

Exterior condition of fire building

Observe perimeter of structure involved for stability

Evaluate smoke and fire conditions to determine flashover or back draft potential

When appropriate, inspect interior of fire building for structural stability and to monitor condition of members operating therein

Monitor Talk Group traffic paying particular attention to Urgent and/or Mayday messages

When required, ensure that a collapse zone is defined and enforced

Constantly monitor the use of Personal Protective Equipment and ensure compliance with Department guidelines

The Safety Officer shall assist in providing rehabilitation of members by consulting with the Incident Commander when there is a need for having Ancillary Support.

The Safety Officer should give particular attention to members during overhauling operations, when the potential for injury is high

4. SUMMARY

It is intended that Safety Officers shall perform the tasks as stated in this bulletin. They shall not be used for firefighting purposes, nor shall they make command decisions other than those required to protect members from imminent danger.

The intent of this guideline is to have a Safety Officer whose sole responsibility is the safety of our members, arrive at these incidents in a timely manner.