

## REGIONAL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

# On-Deck Assignment

#: 101.04

REV: 01/2016

### SCOPE:

This procedure provides a basic outline to further understand the tactical assignment of On-Deck in the use of structural firefighting operations.

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this procedure is to establish a standard deployment approach to the On-Deck assignment and for personnel to understand the role when operating as an On-Deck company.

### SAFETY:

It is critical for all personnel to know and understand the On-Deck function in an attempt to negate the practice of free-lancing on all fire incidents. Free lancing is dangerous from an accountability standpoint and understanding your assignment and role within the incident action plan minimizes the confusion when given task or tactical level assignments.

### PROCEDURE:

On Deck- "On Deck" is defined as a forward staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone, safely distanced from the position of a Group or Division. On Deck crews will be supervised either by the Group/Division Supervisor or Company Officer and they will remain On Deck until reassigned by the IC.

Potential reassignments after being placed On Deck are:

- Default to Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) as needed in the incident
- Reinforce a position within an assigned division or group
- Crew relief within an assigned group or division; tactical reserve
- Any other tactical position assigned by the IC

On-Deck assignments will automatically default to RIT depending on the situational deployment with victim removal or firefighter mayday. The On-Deck position can still be used to soften the building (performing 360 degree walk around verifying immediate access if necessary all while controlling and limiting ventilation flow paths) but should be ready in a moment's notice if reassigned in the incident to a group or division.

The on-deck assignment can be an immediate task for crews in staging or for recycled crews after being placed in rehab and ready for their next fire ground assignment. Assigning On Deck crews is done simply by contacting a staged company and directing them to go On Deck in a specific geographic location or division. A crew assigned to an On Deck position will need to park their apparatus in a manner that doesn't block access to the scene. Crews must be intact with full PPE, forecast the need for and collect all the necessary tools/equipment and report directly to their assigned location. The order from IC would sound like this:

*"Engine 362 from Command."*

*"Command-Engine 362"*

*"Engine 362 I'm going to assign you On-Deck, you will maintain your unit designator and accountability will be at your engine, I want you to pull a hand line off your rig and position your crew and equipment on the alpha/bravo corner."*

*"Engine 362 copies assigned On-Deck, accountability at our engine, pulling a hand line from our engine and positioning our crew and equipment on the alpha/bravo corner."*

Upon arrival, the On Deck company must contact the IC and inform them that they are in position and ready to go to work. On Deck crews must remain intact, in a ready state and monitor the appropriate channel at all times. On deck crews must also size up the area that they are assigned to, this size up should include:

- Locating the structures entrance/exit points in their assigned area
- Interior and exterior conditions
- Unit ID of crews operating inside the structure
- Approximate location of interior crews
- Identify which crews are operating each hose line

When an on deck crew is used as a relief crew, the Company Officer should do a face to face and transfer information with the officer exiting the structure. The information transferred should include:

- Interior conditions
- Routing instructions to the work area
- Interior obstructions

- Additional tools/resources required
- Group/Division objectives