Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service
FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 16-02

January 27, 2016

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein

SUBJECT: Incident Command Teams

The MCFRS philosophy for command of working incidents is based upon the use of Command Teams operating from Battalion Command Platforms. Generally, the highest priority for the first two arriving Certified Chief Officers (CCO's) is to build the Command Team in a stationary Incident Command Post (ICP). Unless there is a compelling reason not to move to a Battalion Command Platform (BCP), the team should move to the BCP, as soon as practical.

The first CCO to arrive at any incident which requires Level 2 Command (as described in Policy 20-02), must establish or assume command following proper transfer-of-command procedures. All subsequently arriving Chief Officers and support staff must report to the ICP for assignment as per FCGO 08-19.

When establishing a fixed ICP, the Incident Commander (IC) must attempt to position with a view of two sides of the incident and announce the location of the ICP on the tactical channel.

The first arriving BCP will attempt to position near the existing ICP, and in an effective position to manage the incident. The CCO in the BCP will notify Command that they are ready to have Command move to their vehicle. The first notification should be face-to-face. If that isn't possible, the Battalion Chief will notify Command by radio on 7-Oscar that BCP is effectively positioned, and that the vehicle is ready to become the ICP.

If a BCP cannot be positioned effectively as an ICP, then the first arriving rostered career Battalion Chief must report to the ICP with:
- MDC
- Accountability and staffing documents and resources

After the initial groups and divisions have been assigned, Command will move to the BCP, unless the incident is de-escalating and units are being placed in service.

It is the intent of MCFRS to have at least one career and one volunteer CCO as part of a Command Team. The first arriving career CCO, and the first arriving volunteer CCO should announce their arrival on 7-Oscar and report to the ICP. If there is a compelling reason, one of the first arriving CCO's may be given an assignment, but a subsequent

CCO of the same affiliation will then become part of the Command Team.

If a Command Team is established with two career CCO's, the first arriving volunteer CCO should become part of the Command Team. If a Command Team is established with two volunteer CCO's, the first arriving career CCO should become part of the Command Team.

All subsequently arriving CCO's should report to the ICP with appropriate protective equipment and expect to be assigned on the incident as needed.

The Command Team will consider moving to Command Post 700 (CP700) or a fixed structure if the need arises.

The current Battalion Command Platforms are only BC701-BC705 and the three command reserves. Any future BCP's will have to meet then-current standards including, but not limited to:

- 3 or more mobile radios
- VRS
- Headsets for the radios
- MDC
- Workspace for 4 occupants

For questions or further clarification please contact the Operations Division Chief.