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<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>RESCINDS</b>
COMMERCIAL FIRES	9/10/96	

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**REFERENCE**  
Franklin County Fire Chiefs  
Norwich Township Fire Department SOG #16

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this document is to provide a guideline for the operation at incidents or situations that may arise during the course of an operation. Each member is expected to know, understand, and operate according to this guideline as each situation arises.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to implement this operating guideline.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to train their personnel in the application of this guideline.
3. It shall be the responsibility of each member to know, understand and use this guideline as it applies to the situation at hand. Each member will use reasonable judgment in the use of this guideline.

**GUIDELINE:**

**A. Responding**

The officer of each responding unit will develop a preliminary plan based on the dispatch information.

The officer will clearly assign duties that deviate from standard practice.

Radio equipment will be placed on the appropriate channel.

**B. Arrival**

The first arriving unit shall give an appropriate incident size-up and establish command or pass it to the next arriving officer.

**C. Nothing Showing**

1. Nothing showing will be considered any incident where no visible personal injury and/or property damage has occurred.

2. The first arriving engine company will normally go to the front of the building or location of incident as given by dispatcher. Set up IC and take appropriate action. If annunciator panel is at another location assign a crew to respond to that location.
3. The second engine company should go to the fire department connection. They should prepare to make connection or lay a supply line or both.
4. The third engine company will go to the rear of the building. If rear is not accessible or other equipment already at rear go to a side not occupied or as directed by IC. This company shall remain flexible so that if it is needed in other areas it will be able to respond with a minimum of delay.
5. The first arriving ladder company will normally go the front of the building and take appropriate action unless otherwise directed by IC.
6. The second arriving ladder company shall take a position that will enable them to operate with the third engine company in the rear of the incident. This company shall remain flexible so that if it is needed in other areas it will be able to respond with a minimum of delay.
7. Rescues and EMS company should be located near the command post. Such companies should remain flexible so that if needed in other areas they will be able to respond with a minimum of delay.
8. All remaining equipment should stage in area designated by IC.
9. Proper consideration will be given to assist the owner in correcting the problem (removing smoke/odors, calling utility companies, turning off power/gas etc.)

**D. Working Incidents**

1. This will be considered any incident where visible fire, moderate to large amounts of smoke are present and/or when any victim(s) are reported or encountered.
2. The first unit on the scene will communicate a working incident/fire. This indicates that the situation is of such seriousness that companies other than those initially arriving may be needed and those on the assignment should be prepared to go to work on arrival.
3. The first arriving engine company should position the fire apparatus at the most appropriate position to attack the fire and /or protect exposures or rescue.
4. The second engine company shall or support the fire department connection, standpipe,

sprinklers, etc. unless otherwise directed. Report to IC when ready to operate.

5. The third engine company will do the following in order of priority.
  - A. As directed by Incident Commander.
  - B. If Fire Department connection is not supported by second engine then proceed to Fire Department connection.
  - C. Proceed to rear of building. If rear is not accessible or other engines at rear already, proceed to a side of building not occupied.
6. The first ladder company will normally go to the front of the building or at the most advantageous position for search/rescue/ventilation. Or as directed by Incident Commander.
7. The second arriving ladder company shall take a position that will enable them to operate with the third engine company in the rear of the incident. This company shall remain flexible so that if it is needed in other areas it will be able to respond with a minimum of delay.
8. IC will coordinate initial assignments and call for additional resources as needed. On all working incidents at least one rapid intervention crew shall be maintained by the IC.

Note: All suppression lines or method of extinguishment shall be determined by the officer in charge.

If EMS has not been dispatched or are unavailable due to being used for suppression or patient care, additional EMS unit (s) should be requested by Incident Commander.

## **E. Operations**

1. *Suppression* should be coordinated with ventilation and rescue efforts. Attack lines must be of sufficient size to quickly gain control of the incident.
2. *Safety* back up lines should be positioned to be used as needed. All structures having more than one level should be laddered whenever possible to provide a second means of egress when companies are operating above the first floor. Prolonged operations and extreme weather will require rotation of crews.
3. *Salvage* runners, debris bags, salvage covers should be used to protect property and contents. This shall be accomplished when applicable and as soon as crews are available.
4. *Overhaul* should begin after the incident is contained. Cause and origin should be determined prior to removing or disturbing any contents. First in attack companies should not be

considered for overhaul operations, except upon discretion of Incident Commander and based on the workload of the first in companies.

5. Proper consideration will be given to assist the owner in correcting the problem (removing smoke/odors, calling utility companies, turning off power/gas etc.)