



**Incident Command System  
Position Manual**

**STRUCTURE FIRE INCIDENT COMMANDER  
JOB AID**

**ICS 510**

**January 2026**

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# ICS 510 STRUCTURE FIRE JOB AID

This is a list intended to assist responding public safety personnel with management decisions:

## COMMAND GUIDELINES

- Establish and announce command on arrival
- Use geographic-based IC naming ('7th Street IC')
- Establish Incident Command Post (ICP) early
- Apply ICS structure to match incident size
- Ensure formal command and coordinate with cooperators
- Provide a standard system for safe operations

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMAND

- Ensure life safety, incident stabilization, property conservation, environment protection
- Complete size-up and establish objectives
- Develop, revise, and communicate IAP
- Request and assign resources as needed
- Ensure RIC assignment, initiate Incident Clock timer
- Maintain accountability using a tactical worksheet

## RISK ASSESSMENT

- Conduct continuous risk analysis from initial arrival to mitigation
- Apply IAFC Rules of Engagement: measured risk for savable lives
- Evaluate structure type, construction, fire behavior indicators
- Identify hazards and structural integrity
- Utilize 360° assessment, compare fire conditions to building size
- Identify fire behavior: venting, flame color, smoke conditions

## INITIAL RADIO REPORT & SIZE-UP

- Unit designator at scene with number of crew members
- Incident location
- Description of the building (residential, commercial, number of stories)
- Incident conditions (smoke and fire)
- Description of actions taken
- Safety hazards
- Incident Indexing ("A side" is address side unless otherwise stated)

- Incident Commander location
- Request additional resources as necessary

### **360 ASSESSMENT**

- Walk around the structure if safe/feasible
- Update IC and crews with critical findings
- Identify hazards: power lines, basements, structural issues
- If unable to complete, assign another company or announce incomplete

### **FOLLOW-UP REPORT**

- Confirm 360 complete and give findings
- State life hazard conditions or confirmed rescues
- Confirm strategy, exposures, flow paths
- Update assignments and utility status

### **COURSE OF ACTIONS FOR COMMAND**

- Investigation: Crew investigates with radio or IC stays at ICP
- Command (Establish): IC remains outside with assigned strategy
- Rescue: Credible life hazard requires immediate entry
  - Transition to Establish Command when situation stabilizes

### **PASSING & TRANSFER OF COMMAND**

- Passing command only allowed to next-arriving ON-SCENE officer
- Never pass command to officer not yet on scene
- Transfer must include full briefing: conditions, plan, resources
- Use ICS 201 or tactical worksheet for turnover
- Announce command transfer over incident radio channel

### **FIREGROUND OPERATIONS & SAFETY**

- Use CAN reports: Conditions, Actions, Needs
- Maintain situational awareness and span of control
- Use standard communication terms: 'Assignment complete', 'Unable', 'Additional resources needed'
- Assign Divisions and Groups early to maintain control and provide for firefighter safety
- Division Supervisors monitor air supply, rehab, and accountability

### **MAYDAY & EMERGENCY TRAFFIC**

- Declare 'MAYDAY' for firefighter distress; IC must stay in command

- Confirm all resources acknowledge the MAYDAY
  - Affected Divisions/Groups
  - Deploy RIC
- Assign a RIC Group Supervisor; request additional resources (Consider assigning an additional RIC company)
- Use 'Emergency Traffic' to announce building collapse, flashover, etc.
- Evaluate and adjust incident objectives to support firefighter rescue
- All radio traffic ceases on that channel until 'All Clear'

## **ICS ORGANIZATION & EXPANSION**

- Use modular structure: add Ops, Plans, Logistics, Finance as needed
- Operations Section manages all tactical activity
- Assign Branches when multiple Divisions exceed span of control
- Use geographic and functional naming (e.g., Division 2, Ventilation Group)
- Assign additional radio channels based on incident complexity

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES – RECEO-VS**

- Rescue: Remove endangered occupants
- Exposure: Protect nearby structures or rooms
- Confinement: Stop extension within building
- Extinguishment: Apply water (interior or transitional)
- Overhaul: Ensure full extinguishment, check voids
- Ventilation: Coordinate with suppression; improves conditions
- Salvage: Minimize damage to property before demobilizing