

This guideline provides North Zone Company Officers with incident command options. In cases where the initial arriving Officer is a Chief Officer, efforts should automatically be directed toward establishing a Command Post and fulfilling command responsibilities.

If first on scene, the Company Officer must decide on the appropriate action for their company. This action will usually fall into one of three general modes as listed below:

Nothing Showing Mode: A situation generally requiring investigation by the first arriving company while other units remain in a staged mode. Normally, the Officer will go with his company to investigate while utilizing a portable radio for communication.

Fast Attack Mode: A situation which requires immediate action to stabilize such as interior fires in residences, apartments, or small commercial occupancies. This requires that the Officer quickly decide how to commit his/her company. Where a fast interior attack is critical, the Company Officer can take advantage of a portable radio to permit the necessary involvement in the attack. Normally, the next due Company Officer will assume Incident Command responsibilities until relieved by a higher-ranking Officer. This mode requires the Company Officer to assure an uninterrupted, adequate water supply (**EOM 305.00**). In addition, initial attack Officers shall appropriately establish a Rapid Intervention Crew (**EOM 601.02**).

Command Mode: A situation that requires primarily command. Such a situation by virtue of its size, complexity, or potential, requires strong, direct, overall command from the onset. In such cases, the Company Officer will initially assume an Incident Command position and maintain that position until relieved by a higher-ranking Officer.

If a Company Officer assumes Incident Command and elects not to join the company, he/she may operate within the following options with regard to the assignment of the crew:

- The company can be given an assignment with two members. The individual and collective capability of the crew will regulate this action.
- The company members can be assigned to perform staff functions.
- The company members can be assigned to another company. In such cases, this assignment must be communicated to the receiving Company Officer.

While Company Officers assuming Incident Command have a choice of modes and degrees of personal involvement in the attack, they continue to be responsible for the identified tasks assigned to the command function. In all cases, the initiative and judgment of the Company Officer are of great importance. The modes identified are not strict rules, but general guidelines to assist the Officer in planning.