
S.O.P. #: TACTICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL #12

SUBJECT: TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

DIVISION: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Objective: To establish responsibility for Task Force Operations and outline Task Force procedures.

Section 1: "Task Force Operations" refers to a temporary grouping of apparatus and personnel assigned to one Commander to carry out a specific operation.

A. Task Force Operational Procedures are designed to accomplish the following:

1. To establish a framework through which apparatus and personnel will function during Task Force operations.
2. To provide for the establishment of Task Force operations during disasters, disturbances, or mass mutual aid assistance.
3. To systematically group fire apparatus in a base of operation which, in turn, may be dispatched as a Task Force or by individual unit.
4. To provide a means for carrying out the orderly formation and continued command of Task Force Units during its total function.

B. The establishment of a Task Force Operation shall be determined by the on-call Division Chief of Field Operations, or the Assistant Chief of Field Operations. (Keep in mind that more than one Task Force may be assembled, if necessary).

1. The Officer establishing a Task Force Operation shall designate who the Task Force Commander will be and notify same.
 - a. "Task Force Commander" refers to the individual who is in total command of a Task Force Operation. This individual is to be a Division/Battalion Commander, or above, within the rank structure of the Baltimore County Fire Department. (Acting Division/Battalion Chiefs will be included)
2. It will be the responsibility of the Task Force Commander to immediately notify Dispatch of a Task Force formation. The Task Force Commander will designate a base location, indicate its identification, and advise Fire Dispatch of the selection of equipment to be dispatched to same.
 - a. "Base Location" - Base of operations for ground apparatus to form Task Force.
 - b. Task Force Base location shall be identified by:
 - 1) Task Force Base "A"
 - 2) Task Force Base "B," and to continue in sequence as required.
3. Once the Task Force has been established, all communications regarding the Task Force will be directed to the Task Force Commander.

4. Once established, Fire Dispatch shall announce, on all talkgroups, that a Task Force has become operational.
5. The Task Force Commander and Fire Dispatch shall maintain a close liaison at all times.
 - a. Upon the initiation of a Task Force Operation, Fire Dispatch shall notify the Fire Chief and his staff.
 - 1) When a Task Force Operation is initiated, it will be the responsibility of the Task Force Commander to have their position covered within their Division/Battalion.
 - 2) The area of involvement and designated need of a Task Force Operation will indicate the use of career and volunteer units within the Task Force makeup.
 - 3) The suggested equipment to be included in a Task Force Operation is as follows: four (4) Engines, one (1) Ladder Truck, and one (1) Medic Unit.
 - 4) The Task Force Commander must consider the length of time a Task Force may remain operational, as it could warrant the callback of off-duty personnel to staff reserve equipment.
 - 5) The Task Force Commander must also consider the following factors:
 - a) fuel for apparatus
 - b) sleeping facilities for personnel
 - c) meals for personnel, and
 - d) relief for personnel
 - 6) It shall be the responsibility of the Task Force Commander to ensure adequate security for their unit, when required. This could necessitate the dispatch of Police units with the Task Force.
 - 7) The ranking officer of the incident, necessitating a Task Force Operation, shall be responsible for its termination.