

SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE COMPANY No. 1
Standard Operating Guideline on F.A.S.T. Team Responses
Effective September 15, 2003

Purpose

To provide general information on and provide general guidelines to follow while training for and performing as a F.A.S.T. team.

Scope

Covers all aspects of F.A.S.T. team operations and training. F.A.S.T. – stands for **Firefighter Assist and Search Team**, also commonly referred to as a **R.I.T. (Rapid Intervention Team)**. The team is used by the incident commander for the sole purpose of assisting or rescuing downed firefighters. The team must therefore be capable of aiding, assisting, or rescuing a downed firefighter in a safe, timely and proficient manner. A line officer has the authority to modify this SOG as the emergency or training situation dictates.

Training

- 1) All firefighters who have successfully completed an approved firefighter 1 course and want to be eligible to respond to F.A.S.T. calls are encouraged to attend advanced training in F.A.S.T. or R.I.T.
- 2) All firefighters shall familiarize themselves with the equipment used on F.A.S.T. team calls through advanced training programs and in-house drills.
- 3) All firefighters shall continue to increase their level of skill and knowledge in F.A.S.T. operations by attending company drills, 50% of all annual company live burn drills.

Response

- 1) Rescue 56 should respond to all calls for a F.A.S.T. team.
 - a) If Rescue 56 is out of service (OOS), a line officer should notify the dispatch center that requested the F.A.S.T. team and request that Somerset County Communications (SCC) dispatch another F.A.S.T. team.
- 2) The recommended minimum personnel are 3 firefighters plus a driver.
 - a) Firefighters with the appropriate F.A.S.T. training are always given priority as the crew.
 - b) If possible, these firefighters should advanced medical training (e.g., first responder or EMT).
 - c) Probationary firefighters are able to respond to assist the crew but they are not to be considered as part of the minimum crew.
- 3) The officer of Rescue 56 should
 - a) Call in service to the dispatch center that requested the F.A.S.T. team
 - b) Ask what frequency the staging officer is operating on
 - c) Ask the dispatch center what the best route or approach is to the fire scene
 - d) Notify SCC that Rescue 56 is responding to a call (if the dispatch center requesting the F.A.S.T. team is not SCC)
- 4) The crew shall follow all accountability procedures as outlined in the Fire District No. 1 Accountability SOG.

On Scene Operations

- 1) Upon arrival the officer of Rescue 56 should report to the incident commander to find out where to position the team and to receive an update on the incident.

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- 2) While the officer of Rescue 56 is talking to the incident commander the crew should start to assemble the necessary tools. The minimum recommended tools to be assembled by the members of the F.A.S.T. team are listed below.
 - a) stokes basket
 - b) thermal imaging camera (TIC)
 - c) flashlights
 - i) personal lights attached to gear
 - ii) all light boxes off Rescue 56
 - d) set of irons
 - e) 6' or 8' hook (preferable with some type of prying head)
 - f) Hydra-Force tool (i.e., the rabbit tool)
 - g) officers bag
 - h) sledge hammer
 - i) pick-head ax
 - j) life-saving rope pack
 - k) search rope pack
 - l) power saw for cutting wood, such as the Partner saw with a wood or multi-purpose blade, the ECHO saw or Cutters Edge saw.
 - m) circular saw with metal blade
 - n) first-aid bag, AED and oxygen kit
 - o) additional equipment as needed based on building type and construction.
- 3) All tools should be checked to ensure that they are functioning properly and all saws shall be started.
- 4) The officer of Rescue 56 will brief the crew on its assignments, select a radio channel the crew will operate on (this channel will be known as the FAST tactical channel), and instruct the crew where to stage.
- 5) All firefighters shall carry a portable radio that is set to the FAST tactical channel with the scan mode turned off. The officer is the only member of the crew responsible for communicating with the incident commander.
- 6) Once briefed and staged, all firefighters should remain geared up and ready to go to work.
- 7) The crew should continue to size up the incident and monitor the FAST tactical channel.
- 8) Freelancing will not be tolerated.
- 9) The crew shall remain geared up and ready to go to work until the officer received word that they have been released.
- 10) Upon being released the crew should secure their equipment and advise the proper dispatch center that they will be clearing the fire scene and are available.