

STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ARTICLE: C-69  
SECTION: Operations Division  
DATE: 2-15-11  
SUPERSEDES: NEW  
TITLE: **ASSUMING & TRANSFERRING COMMAND ON EMERGENCY INCIDENTS**

Scope

This procedure shall apply to all Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District resources operating on the fire ground.

Procedure

I. Assuming Command

- A. After broadcasting the Arrival Report, the first arriving Company Officer shall assume Incident Command responsibilities and name the incident. This shall be done on the Command Channel.
  - 1. Incident names shall be easily identified and pronounced if at all possible. Incident names shall be chosen as not to conflict with current incidents within the fire district and/or county system.
  - 2. The formal broadcasting of Incident Command & Incident name is only necessary on incidents where two or more units are operating or when the need has been determined by the first arriving Company Officer.

II. Transferring Command

- A. The first arriving Company Officer shall pass incident command responsibilities to an on scene Company or Chief Officer prior to entering the structure or building unless in the Investigation Mode.
- B. The transfer of command can occur via radio communications on the fire ground, but is recommended to occur face-to-face. An exchange of information should take place as soon as possible when transferring command. The following information should be exchanged at a minimum:
  - a. What did I have upon arrival?
  - b. What operation mode are the units working.

- c. What assignments have been made.
  - d. What Tactical Channel(s) have been assigned.
  - e. What resources do I need.
- C. When Incident Command is transferred, the new Incident Commander should transmit the change of command as follows:
- a. Unit identifier of the new Incident Commander.
  - b. Statement that command has been assumed with confirmation of the location of the Command Post.
  - c. Brief size-up of present conditions (if conditions are significantly different from the initial size-up.)
- D. It is not mandatory that Command be transferred to a higher ranking officer upon arrival. It will be the discretion of the higher ranking officer whether to assume Incident Command or not.

### III. Command Post

- A. A formal Command Post shall be set up when possible, in a location that gives the Incident Commander the best overall view of the incident. The Command Post should be visible to incoming personnel. Its location should not restrict access to and from the incident or be in an area that could become hazardous in the event of an escalated incident.

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Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

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