

# Yamhill Fire Protection District

District Policies, Procedures, & SOG's

## MISSION

*Yamhill Fire Protection District is dedicated to  
serve and protect our community*

# District Procedure

**OPERATIONS**

**OPS-GEN – 411.2**

**Transfer Command**

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**Issued: December 9, 2014**

The first Fire Department vehicle or officer to arrive at the scene of a multiple unit response shall assume command and will remain in command until relieved by a higher ranking officer or until the incident is terminated. The initial command can be relieved by a ranking officer within the following procedure.

1. The first arriving apparatus officer will automatically assume command except as noted below.
2. The first arriving Lieutenant or above will automatically assume command after the transfer of command procedure has been completed.
3. A Chief Officer will automatically assume command, after the transfer of command procedure has been completed, in cases of complex, tactical situations that have not been declared under control or near the control stage. Assumption of command in other situations is discretionary.
4. Assumption of command is discretionary for the Fire Chief, and other Chief Officers.
5. The Fire Chief will assume command of all multiple alarms.

Command will only be assumed by units that are present on scene or in the command post.

Note: This does not preclude the option of the first arriving company officer having another company officer arriving with him or close behind taking command. This may be by prearrangement or may be necessitated by circumstances. In either case, it shall be confirmed by both parties by radio.

Within the Fire Department chain of command, the actual transfer of command will be regulated by the following procedures.

1. Arriving ranking officers assuming command will communicate with the officer being relieved preferably, face-to-face upon arrival or by radio.
2. The officer being relieved will brief the officer assuming command indicating the general situation status, deployment and assignments of operating companies, and appraisal of needs for additional resources at that time.

Command officers shall eliminate all unnecessary radio traffic while responding, unless such communications are required to ensure that command functions are initiated and completed.

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The arrival, in itself, of a ranking officer at the incident does not mean command has been transferred to that ranking officer. Command is transferred only when the communication function has been completed. The response and arrival of ranking officers on the fire ground strengthens the overall command function. All officers will exercise their command prerogatives in a supportive manner that will ensure a smooth transition and the effective ongoing function of command. The officer relieved of command will be utilized to best advantage by the officer assuming command. The person assuming command on every subsequent transfer of command shall report by radio a synopsis of the incident including:

1. Obvious fire conditions
2. Building description
3. Other emergency conditions (i.e... Motor Vehicle crash, hazardous materials, etc.)

When an incident requires two or more apparatus or the length of the incident will exceed normal, the individual assuming command shall inform dispatch of his/her intention to assume command, name command and shall be referred to as "command." If multiple incidents occur during the same time the name of the incident shall be used in conjunction with "command."