Purpose:

These procedures are designed to provide effective management and control of essential functions at fires (including terrorist acts, explosions, collapse, earthquakes, etc.) occurring in large multistory buildings. Such incidents present significant management, logistical, and safety problems. The size and complexity of the interior spaces, the enclosed nature of the hazard area, and limited access to the fire area all contribute to the problems faced by suppression forces.

The order in which the ICS organizational structure develops may vary within the type and scope of the incident. Following are examples of modular development of the ICS that serve to illustrate typical methods of expanding the management organization at a high-rise incident. These examples reflect the size and complexity of the incident and the available resources at a given time in the incident:

Initial Response Organization: The Incident Commander manages the initial response resources as well as all Command and General Staff responsibilities.

Multi-Group/Division Organization: The Incident Commander has established most Command and General Staff positions and has established a combination of divisions and groups to reflect the location and nature of the incident.

Multi-Branch Organization: The Incident Commander has identified a number of actual or potential incident challenges and has established all Command and General Staff positions. The IC has also established several branches to effectively manage the problems and the resources required for mitigation.

It is imperative that San Diego County Operational Area agencies become intimately familiar with the High-Rise Fire Operations SOG or SOP of neighboring agencies where they will be part of a greater alarm request. The specifics of each guideline or policy will have subtle differences.

Policy:

This policy is intended to provide personnel a common approach and ICS structure for high-rise fire operations.

Definitions:

ATTACK STAIRWELL is the stairwell is used as the primary ascent/access point to the fire floor. This stairwell will be the primary location from which fire attack will take place.

BASE is the exterior location at which the primary logistics functions are coordinated and administered, apparatus are parked, and initial stockpiling of incident equipment is assembled during a high-rise incident. Base is located a minimum of 200 feet from the building.

COMMAND STAFF consists of the Liaison Officer, Safety Officer, and Information Officer who report directly to the Incident Commander.

DIVISION SUPERVISOR manages a specific geographic area, usually one floor in a high-rise; and will assume a corresponding radio designation (e.g., "Division 12" on the twelfth floor). Division Supervisors report to the IC or the Operations Section Chief.
Division Supervisors must ensure that company officers keep their personnel together and under their control. Company effectiveness, personnel safety and accountability will be greatly enhanced by adherence to this fundamental rule.

GENERAL STAFF is the group of incident management personnel comprised of the Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and the Finance/Administration Section Chief who report directly to the Incident Commander.

GROUP SUPERVISOR manages a specific function and may not be confined to a specific geographic area. Examples: Ventilation Group, Rescue Group and/or Evacuation Group; each working several floors of a high-rise simultaneously. Group Supervisors must ensure that company officers keep their personnel together and under their control. Company effectiveness, personnel safety, and accountability will be greatly enhanced by adherence to this fundamental rule.

INCIDENT COMMAND POST is the location at which the primary command functions are executed. The location should be highly visible and provide safety for the Incident Command personnel.

LOBBY CONTROL is the unit that functions to maintain company accountability, control all building access points, direct incoming crews to appropriate stairwell or elevator, monitor building systems until the Systems Control Unit is established, and account for and operate elevators, and liaison between the IC and building engineers. Lobby Control initially reports to IC or Logistics.

STAGING in a high-rise, is generally two or three floors below the fire. This modifies the conventional concept of staging. This location places firefighters and equipment outside the IDLH environment, in a position to be immediately ready for an operational assignment.

SYSTEMS CONTROL is that function which monitors and maintains the building's fire control, life safety, environmental control, smoke handling systems, communications, and elevator systems. The System Control Unit Leader must establish and maintain close liaison with the building/facility engineering staff, utility company representatives, and other technical specialists.

Procedure:

A. The primary objectives of the initial responding companies should be:

1. Establish Command

2. Assure personnel safety

3. Rescue

4. Locate and determine the extent of the emergency

5. Initiate control efforts

6. Property conservation

At a minimum, the following core functions should be implemented and staffed by first alarm units as soon as practical:

- Fire Attack Team to the fire floor

- Lobby Control established inside the building

- Staging established inside the building

- Water Supply established

B. Incident command responsibilities for known emergency or fire

1. The first in company or chief officer shall perform the following tasks:

a. Initial size up, evaluation, and risk assessment of the situation

b. If possible, view all four sides of the building to accurately identify fire conditions. Be mindful that a sealed high-rise building may conceal a significant fire with little to no outward signs.

c. Give an initial radio report on conditions to the Communications Center of visible conditions that include the following:

- Building height

- Occupancy type

- Obvious conditions

- Safety concerns

- Occupant access/evacuation problems

- Actions being taken

- Any additional pertinent information

    d. Assume incident command (IC)

- Once command has been established, if there are indications that a working incident is in progress, an immediate request for a second and then third alarm shall be made.

- It is the responsibility of the incident commander to identify a location for Base. The location shall be relayed to the Communications Center as soon as possible. All resources assigned in the additional alarms request shall be directed to Base. The company officer of the first arriving unit of the additional alarm request should be prepared to assume the role of Base Manager.

2. The incident commander has the discretion to assign units in the sequence needed to satisfy the priority needs of the incident.

C. Core support positions and responsibilities

1. Fire Attack Team

    a. Stairwell management

    b. Attack hose line management

    c. Safety and safe zone establishment

2. Lobby Control

    a. Initial unit accountability

    b. Elevator control

    c. Building ingress, egress, and ascent location control

    d. Initial facilitation of equipment and supply movement to Staging

    e. Coordination and control of building systems

    f. Locate and staff the Fire Control Room (to become Systems Control)

3. Staging

   a. Initial rapid intervention crew (IRIC)

   b. Assign an accountability officer

   c. Prepare floor area for personnel waiting for assignment, personnel needing rehab, SCBA cylinder exchange, and equipment cache

4. Water Supply Group

   a. Support the building fire protection system

   b. Support the building standpipe system

D. Multi-branch response organization and supervision

1. The incident commander supervises and/or communicates with the following positions:

   a. Safety officer

   b. Liaison officer

   c. Public information officer

   d. Operations section chief

   e. Planning section chief

   f. Logistics section chief

2. The operations section chief supervises and/or communicates with the following positions:

   a. Staging area manager(s)

   b. Rapid intervention crew/company(s)

   c. Fire suppression branch director

   d. Medical branch director

   e. Air operations branch director

3. The planning section chief supervises and/or communicates with the following positions:

   a. Resources unit leader

   b. Situation unit leader

4. The logistics section chief supervises and/or communicates with the following positions:

    a. Support branch director

    b. Service branch director

5. The fire suppression branch director supervises and/or communicates with the following positions:

    a. Division supervisor(s)

    b. Group supervisor(s)

6. The medical branch director supervises and/or communicates with the following positions:

    a. Treatment unit(s)

    b. Patient transportation group supervisor

7. The air operations branch director supervises and/or communicates with the following positions:

    a. Helicopter coordinator

    b. Helispot manager

8. The support branch director supervises and/or communicates with the following positions:

    a. Base

    b. Lobby control

    c. Systems control

    d. Ground support unit leader

    e. Supply unit leader

9. The service branch director supervises and/or communicates with the following positions:

    a. Communication unit leader

    b. Medical unit leader: responsible for response personnel rehabilitation