

All Clear: A standard benchmark used on the fire ground to communicate the hazard zone is clear of people who present a life hazard. Frequently used to indicate primary search and rescue function(s) have been completed to the fullest extent possible.

Assessment: The evaluation and interpretation of information as it relates to decision making for the emergency.

Assignments: Tasks given to resources to perform within a given operational period that are based on operational objectives defined in the IAP.

Assignment Model: A standard way giving a work assignment, provide the following three pieces of information in this order: *Task – Location - Objective*. Example: “Stretch a hand line, to the Alpha Side door, for primary search and fire suppression.”

Back-out: An order given to an operational crew indicating they should perform an organized, phased, and/or supervised withdrawal from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas. Contrast with “Evacuate” which is an order given to an operational crew to get out of the hazard zone (building) as fast as possible.

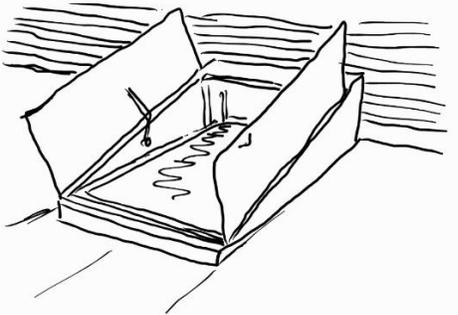
Basement Report: An evaluation and subsequent report of the basement type, smoke, heat, and fire conditions along with the information about the ceiling construction and whether it is finished or unfinished.

Basement Types: There are four standard types of basement: *Walk-out, Walk-up, Look-out, and Peek-out*.

Walk-out



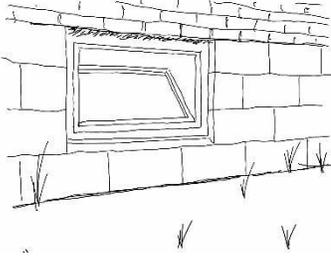
Walk-up



Look-out



Peek-out



Benchmark: There are three benchmarks *All Clear*, *Under Control*, and *Loss Stopped*. The three benchmarks align with the three fire department goals of *Life Safety*, *Incident Stabilization*, and *Property/environmental conservation*.

Blitz Attack: Applying a heavy stream of water from a master stream device from the exterior of the structure, used to decrease the amount of fire prior to entry of a suppression crew. (Also see: *Transitional Attack*)

Building Fire Classification: Nothing Showing, Light Smoke, Working Fire, Defensive Fire Conditions

Building Floors: For fire ground communications purposes the floors of a building are labeled so that floor numbers go up as the floors rise above the ground and floor. Floor numbers also go up from the main floor as the basement levels descend into the ground. Example: above ground floors going up = 1, 2, 3, 4... and so on. Basement floors going down = Basement or Sub Level 1, Sub Level 2, Sub Level 3... and on down.

Building Side Labels: Standard building labels begin at the “front” of the building (as determined by the Incident Commander) which is the *Alpha Side*, labels continue around the sides building in a clockwise fashion if looking down from above. The left side is the *Bravo Side*, then *Charlie Side*, *Delta Side*, and continue as needed. Always use the phonetic pronunciation to ensure accurate communication and ease of understanding.

Building Size: There are 4 Standard building sizes: *Small*, *Medium*, *Large*, *Mega*. A building is defined as *Small* if all areas of the main floor can be reached with a single 200 FT pre-connected hand line. A building is defined as *Medium* if it requires two 200 FT pre-connected hand lines to reach the entire main floor. A building is defined as *Large* if it requires three 200 FT pre-connected hand lines to reach the entire main floor. A building is *Mega* (or Very Large) if it requires four or more 200 FT pre-connected hand lines to reach the entire main floor.

Building Type Classification: There are 6 standard building types: Residential, Apartment, Strip Mall, Commercial, Big Box, High Rise. Others can be used but these six types adequately describe the vast majority of building types firefighters encounter.

CAN Report: C.A.N. is an acronym which stands for *Conditions*, *Actions*, *Needs*. This standard format keeps radio reports short and to the point. The standardized format works as a cognitive map for both the sender and the receiver to anticipate and understand the message.

Chief: The ICS title for individuals responsible for management of functional sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, and Intelligence and others when established.

Cognitive Map (Mental Map): A frame of reference that serves to help an individual acquire, code, store, recall, and decode information. Acronyms like *CAN* and *SLICERS* are Cognitive Maps.

Command: The act of directing, ordering, or controlling by virtue of explicit statutory, regulatory, or delegated authority.

Command Post: The strategic location from where the Fire Ground Commander and incident management team function.

Command Team: The Command Team consists of the Incident Commander (IC), Support Officer, and Senior Advisor. (Same as *Incident Advisory Team*)

Communications Order Model: A standard for radio communications in which the following principles are used. The sender initiating the radio traffic will connect with the receiver. The sender will convey the message. The receiver will seek clarification if necessary and repeat the message from the sender. The sender will then confirm the message was understood:

Connect - *Sender:* engine 12 from division two / *Receiver:* engine 12

Convey - *Sender:* withdraw from floor 2

Clarify - *Receiver:* engine 12 copies withdraw from floor 2

Confirm - *Sender:* affirmative engine 12

Defensive Fire Conditions: When there is no reasonable chance of anyone inside the building surviving or when threats to firefighter safety outweigh what can reasonably be expected to be achieved using an offensive strategy.

Defensive Strategy: An exterior fire attack where fire personnel are not operating in a hazard zone.

Deputy: A fully qualified individual who, in the absence of a superior, has the authority to manage a functional operation. A deputy can act as relief for a superior and, therefore, must be fully qualified in the position. Deputies can be assigned to the Incident Commander, General Staff, and Branch Directors.

Dispatch: The communication center. The ordered movement of a resource or resources to an assigned operational mission. An administrative move from one location to another.

Division: The partition of an incident into geographical areas of operation. Floors of a building are typically designated as separate divisions. Divisions can be established when the number of resources exceeds the manageable span of control of the Operations Chief. A division is located within the ICS organization between the branch and resources in the Operations Section.

Emergency: Any situation requiring the need of the fire department equipment and the manpower to eliminate hazards and stabilize the situation.

Emergency Radio Traffic: Emergency traffic is usually centered on a change in strategy like a call to evacuate or abandon the building. Emergency traffic must be repeated twice. Start the transmission with the words "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC". If available, sound an Emergency Traffic tone over the radio before the message. Once IC has delivered the message twice, the dispatcher should repeat the message.

Emergency Operations Plan: The "steady-state" plan maintained by various jurisdictional levels for responding to a wide variety of potential hazards.

Engine: Pumper

Evacuate: An order given to exit the hazard zone as fast as possible. The Evacuate radio signal means that interior fire personnel should leave hoses and tools behind and get out of the structure as soon as possible. Contrast with "Back Out" which is a strategic move meaning interior fire personnel should gather equipment and hoses and move out of the building.

Evacuation Signal: Three (3) three second blasts of air horns and emergency broadcast over the radio.

Fast Attack: An offensive fire attack, which commits the initial Officer In Charge to the interior of the structure to assist with the immediate stabilization of a working fire.

Goal: Goals for the fire department include: *Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, and Property/Environmental Conservation.*

Group: Groups established to divide the incident management structure into functional areas of operation. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function and don't necessarily operate within a single geographic Division. Groups, when activated, are located between branches and resources in the Operations Section. (See Division)

Incident Action Plan: An oral or written plan containing general objectives reflecting the overall strategy, tactics, and tasks for managing an incident. It may include the identification of operational resources and assignments. It may also include

attachments that provide direction and important information for management of the incident during one or more operational periods.

Incident Advisory Team: Same as *Command Team*; consists of the Incident Commander (IC), Support Officer (Advisor), and Incident Advisor (Senior Advisor).

Incident Advisor: Same as *Senior Advisor*.

Incident Command: A safety system put in place to protect firefighters. A standardized, widely recognized, widely used, on scene, all hazards management system capable of being expanded and contracted to manage incidents of all sizes and types.

Incident Commander (IC): The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and the release of resources. The IC has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

Incident Command Post (ICP): The field location at which the primary tactical-level, on-scene incident command functions are performed. The ICP may be collocated with the incident base or other incident facilities and is normally identified by a green rotating or flashing light.

Incident Management Team: A scalable group of specially trained & experienced individuals who work with the existing organization to provide for the command, control, coordination, support and/or management of the incident organization & its resources.

Initial Action: The actions taken by those responders first to arrive at an incident site.

Initial Report: A brief summary of the information available to the first arriving officer on an emergency scene. Example information includes: nothing showing, fully involved, endangered exposures, obvious water supply, etc.)

Initial Response: Resources initially committed to an incident.

Investigation Mode: A mode of operation where initial arriving crews do not have any external indicators of a fire or problem in a structure. For residential fires, this generally allows other responding units to downgrade to a non – emergency response.

Level 1 Staging: Units are staged close to the scene in their direction of travel having not passed their last tactical advantage like a hydrant or cross road.

Level 2 Staging: Units are staged in an area away from the scene where they will not interfere with the move up of specifically requested units and where they can be easily re-deployed to another emergency.

Loss Stopped: The condition when salvage and overhaul has been complete and no further damage to property is expected.

MABAS Incident Management Team (MIST): A scalable group who shall prepare through training and exercises to establish a command structure at large-scale incidents to assist local responders.

Master Stream: Large volume nozzles, usually stationary.

Mayday: Radio transmission procedures established for firefighters when they find themselves in a situation of distress or trapped.

Mode of Operation: There are 4 standard modes of operation for crews initially arriving on scene: Investigation, Fast Attack, Rescue, Search

Officer In Charge (OIC): The officer most responsible of the operations being conducted. Many times this is the most senior officer on scene, but not always.

Offensive Strategy: Deploying firefighters in a hazard zone to manage the incident. Examples include: performing an interior attack on a fire, entering an IDLH atmosphere, going into the water for a rescue.

On-Deck: A forward staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone, safely distanced from the entrance of a tactical position/division. The On Deck crew is the next to become active. They are fully geared up and ready to work. On-Deck crews will be supervised either by the Division Supervisor or Company Officer and they will remain On Deck until assigned by the IC or the Division Supervisor.

Operations Chief: An experienced Command Officer, usually a Chief Officer in charge of the operations element; see also "Operations Section Chief (OSC)".

Personnel Accountability Report (PAR): A procedure that can be performed over the radio or using name tags and status boards to verify that all persons operating in the hot zone and warm zone are accounted for.

Phonetic Alphabet:

A ALPHA (AL FAH)	B BRAVO (BRAH VOH)	C CHARLIE (CHAR LEE)	D DELTA (DELL TAH)
E ECHO (ECK OH)	F FOXTROT (FOKS TROT)	G GOLF (GOLF)	H HOTEL (HOH TELL)
I INDIA (IN DEE AH)	J JULIETT (JEW LEE ETT)	K KILO (KEY LOH)	L LIMA (LEE MAH)
M MIKE (MIKE)	N NOVEMBER (NO VEM BER)	O OCSAR (OSS CAH)	P PAPA (PAH PAH)
Q QUEBEC (KEH BECK)	R ROMEO (ROW ME OH)	S SIERRA (SEE AIR RAH)	T TANGO (TANG GO)
U UNIFORM (YOU NEE FORM)	V VICTOR (VIK TAH)	W WHISKEY (WISS KEY)	X XRAY (ECKS RAY)
Y YANKEE (YANG KEY)	Z ZULU (ZOO LOO)		

Primary Search: A search of the involved premises and all immediate endangered areas, to insure all occupants have been evacuated. This search is to be conducted at the onset, and to the fullest extent possible.

Progress Report: (also referred to as “Sit-stat” or “Situation Status Report”) frequent reports transmitted back to the next highest level of command, concerning the amount of success or lack of being encountered by a company, sector officer, or operations officer. (Ex: Company, Sector Officer, Operations, Command, etc.)

Public Information Officer (PIO): A member of the Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media or with other agencies with incident-related information requirements.

Roof Report: Evaluate and report any smoke or fire penetration of the roof, exceptional weight loads, sagging, or apparent instability.

Recycle: A timely and efficient means of air replacement (usually 2 to 3 air bottles) and re-hydration of companies while maintaining their division assignments. Firefighters replace their air bottle, quickly hydrate and return to their assignments.

Rehab: An intervention designed to mitigate the physical, physiological, and emotional stress of firefighting in order to sustain a member's energy, improve performance, and decrease on-scene chance of injury or death.

Rescue Mode: A mode of operations where all personnel and tactics are committed to the removal of all known or potential victims from the structure. Generally "Rescue Mode" is no longer in effect once a "Primary Search" has been completed and no victims are found.

Resources: Personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Resources are described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at an EOC.

Safety Officer: A member of the Command Staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety. The Safety Officer has the authority to stop or prevent unsafe acts when time or conditions prevent them from going through the regular chain of command.

Salvage: The act of saving property in danger using tarps, smoke ejectors, etc.

Secondary Search: A thorough search of the interior of the fire area after the initial fire control and ventilation activities has been completed. Secondary search should preferably be conducted by personnel other than those members of the primary search team.

Senior Advisor (SA): The Senior Advisor is responsible to look at the incident and its impact from a broad perspective and to provide direction, guidance, and to advice to the IC and / or Support Officer. (Also see: *Incident Advisor.*)

Size-up: The process of making an estimate of the various conditions present by the first firefighter on the scene of any fire or other emergency that is critical to the success of an operation.

Staging Area: One of two location levels established where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. The Operations Section manages the Staging Areas.

Stand-By: A type of mutual aid whereby one department covers another department's station with equipment and/or firefighters to respond to their emergencies when their station is left uncovered.

Strategy: Offensive or Defensive are the two recognized firefighting strategies.

Support Officer (SO): Responsible for assisting the IC as necessary; is the second member of the Command Team/Incident Advisory Team. Examples include managing the tactical worksheet, functioning as the Incident Safety Officer until one can be assigned, assisting with communications, and tracking assignments and resources.

Tactic: Tactics require a group of Tasks to complete. Examples are covered with SLICERS acronym: Size-up, Locate fire, Isolate air flow, Cool from safe location, Extinguish, Rescue if saving is likely, Salvage only when it is safe to do so

Task: Hands on activities on the emergency scene. Examples of tasks include such things as search, ventilation, water supply, checking for extension

Tanker: An aircraft capable of delivering water. (Also see: Tender)

Tender: A fire department apparatus capable of carrying a minimum of 1000 gallons of water.

Transitional Attack: Briefly applying water from a position outside of a building to a fire inside a building with the intent of improving fire conditions before making entry for internal fire attack.

Transport Officer: Directs all incoming squads, assigns victims for transport. The Transport Officer is also responsible for documentation, supervising EMS personnel and firefighters in removal/bagging/tagging of all personal effects. Transport officer will record on a worksheet the squad name/unit, patient name/number, number, priority and receiving hospital. Usually a Group Leader.

Triage Officer: Responsible for triaging and tagging all victims according to priority. Assigns personnel to various jobs. The Triage Officer's first responsibility is to complete the survival scan of all victims and direct their placement in the triage area. The Triage Officer supervises EMTs in patient care. Usually a Group Leader.

Turnout Gear (full): Helmet, gloves, hood, turnout coat, bunker pants, bunker boots and passport identification tag.

Under Control: A stage reached in firefighting in which the fire has been contained and extinguished to the extent the fire authorities are confident of its complete extinguishment, and in certain cases overhauling can begin. The forward progress of the fire has been stopped.

Unified Command: An application of ICS used when there is more than one agency with incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross-political jurisdictions. Agencies work together through the designated members of the UC, often the senior person from agencies and/or disciplines participating in the UC, to establish a common set of objectives and strategies and a single IAP.

Water Officer: The officer in charge of water supply to the emergency. Also the coordinator of water tenders and tankers.

Write Off: A portion of property abandoned when an offensive attack mode is no longer possible.