



## The Orchestra Conductor on the Fireground

By: Chief Robert Turpel

“Everything changed on September 11, 2001. Organizations from public safety to private industry watched incidents unfold before them with a certainty that things would never be the same again.” Indeed, a state of “new normalcy” was declared. “The creation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a key product of this new normalcy. NIMS defines a comprehensive national approach to incident management that is equally functional for local, state, and federal response agencies, as well as health care, infrastructure, public service, and private industry. Such an approach improves coordination and cooperation between public and private agencies and organizations in a variety of emergency management and incident response activities, setting the stage for seamless multifunction integration under a single incident command and control system. Incidents typically begin and end locally and are managed on a daily basis at the lowest possible geographical, organizational, and jurisdictional level. However, there are instances in which successful incident management operations depend on the involvement of multiple jurisdictions, levels of government, functional agencies and/or emergency responder disciplines. This framework forms the basis for interoperability and compatibility that will, in turn, enable a diverse set of public and private organizations to conduct well-integrated and effective emergency management and incident response operations. The authorization for the establishment of a national incident management system is found within Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5, which was issued on February 28, 2003.”

“NIMS is based on the premise that utilization of a common incident management framework will give emergency management/response personnel a flexi-

ble but standardized system for emergency management and incident response activities. NIMS is flexible because the system components can be utilized to develop plans, processes, procedures, agreements, and roles for all types of incidents; it is applicable to any incident regardless of cause, size, location or complexity. Additionally, NIMS provides an organized set of standardized operational structures, which is critical in allowing disparate organizations and agencies to work together in a predictable, coordinated manner.” The components of NIMS are adaptable to planned events with prior notification (large sporting events, festivals or blizzards) or no-notice events (tornadoes, large fires).

The NIMS standard incident management structures are based on three key organizational systems:

- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Multiagency Coordination System
- Public Information Systems.



*Incident Command Vehicle “Battalion 55”*

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# Interesting Calls

By: Deputy Chief Marc Small

In October, crews were dispatched for a motor vehicle accident at Old Route 53 and Robert Coffin Road. A Deputy Chief, Rescue pumper, and Ambulance responded. Command was established after conducting a scene size-up and the incident was upgraded to an entrapment response. Four vehicles were involved; one having heavy damage trapping the driver. The Fire Chief and our second ambulance responded along with assistance from Lake Zurich FRD, Palatine FD, Buffalo Grove FD and Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD. A total of four ambulances were used to transport five patients to area hospitals with non-life threatening injuries. Three other individuals involved were evaluated but refused transport and signed medical releases.

In November, we were dispatched to Nichols Road for smoke in the building at a multi-family apartment building in unincorporated Arlington Heights. Responding were the Fire Chief, Rescue Pumper, Pumper Tender, and an ambulance. Automatic Aid companies from Palatine FD, Buffalo Grove FD, Palatine Rural FPD, Lake Zurich FRD, Arlington Heights FD and Prospect Heights FPD also responded. First to arrive was the Palatine engine. They reported nothing showing from the front of the building; at that time the Long Grove Shift Commander arrived and established command. Palatine made entry to the unoccupied first floor apartment through a sliding glass door. They reported mild smoke and found a pan of food smoldering on the stove. The stove was turned off and the pan of food was safely removed from the apartment, then extinguished outside. Crews spent several minutes removing the smoke from the apartment and no injuries reported.

On the following day, crews were dispatched to another Nichols Road address for a possible fire in a multi-family apartment building in unincorporated Arlington Heights. The Shift Command-

er, Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Rescue Pumper, Pumper Tender, and an ambulance all responded. Also responding were Automatic Aid companies from Palatine FD, Buffalo Grove FD, Palatine Rural FPD, Lake Zurich FRD and Arlington Heights FD. Upon arrival, the Palatine engine reported nothing showing from the front of the building when the Long Grove Shift Commander arrived and established command. Palatine reported smoke in a second floor apartment and forced entry after not receiving an answer from inside. Moderate smoke was found in the apartment. A fire was located in the kitchen above the stove. The incident commander requested a call-back for off-duty Long Grove Firefighters and change of quarter's companies from Prospect Heights FPD and Barrington Countryside FPD to cover our station. The fire was quickly extinguished with a water can fire extinguisher. It was contained to the ventilation hood and cabinets above the stove. The kitchen sustained moderate smoke damage and the window was removed to help evacuate the smoke. Fire crews evacuated all six units in the 3-story apartment building while confirming the fire did not spread to any other units. No one was home at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported. Fire investigators determined it to be accidental, caused by unattended cooking.

In February, crews were dispatched for a motor vehicle accident with entrapment on Lake Cook Road at Old Route 53. Responding were the Battalion Chief, Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Rescue Pumper, and Ambulance, along with Automatic Aid companies from Palatine FD, Buffalo Grove FD and Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD. Upon arrival, the Battalion Chief reported two vehicles involved with heavy front-end damage to a mid-size auto and moderate damage to a full-size SUV. An off-duty Long Grove Firefighter/Paramedic was on the scene attempting to make entry to the driver and only occupant of the automobile. It appeared that the driver was entrapped



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in the vehicle. When the pumper squad and ambulance arrived, crews split up and worked on accessing the driver of the automobile and checked the SUV for injuries. Six occupants were found in the SUV; two passengers were having medical complaints. The Palatine ambulance arrived and the two occupants were transported to Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights with non-life threatening injuries. Crews made access to the driver of the auto by breaking a rear window and unlocking the driver's side door. The driver was removed and transported by the Long Grove ambulance to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, with life threatening injuries. The Fire Chief was assigned operations. The Buffalo Grove unit assisted in checking and controlling hazards from the damaged vehicles while the Pumper Squad crew reassessed the remaining occupants of the SUV for injuries. Two of them then requested transport; a Lake Zurich FRD ambulance was requested to transport them to Northwest Community Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. While the driver and the last remaining passenger refused further assistance and signed medical releases. The Deputy Chief and Lincolnshire-Riverwoods pumper squad were redirected from the scene to the fire station to cover our district during the incident.

## LGFPD Mission Statement

*To provide residents, owners, businesses, and visitors within the Long Grove Fire Protection District, and any recognized emergency agency requesting automatic/mutual aid, with the safest, effective, efficient, comprehensive, and customer focused Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services possible. This high level of professional services will not be limited in scope to emergency situations only, but will encompass the broader spectrum of public safety, to include Public Education, Fire Inspections, and all other support services.*

## Calendar of Events

April 5	CPR/AED Class
May 10	CPR/AED Class
June 14	CPR/AED Class
June 20	First Aid Class
July 12	CPR/AED Class
August 2	CPR/AED Class
September 6	CPR/AED Class
September 12	First Aid Class
October 4	CPR/AED Class

Classes begin at 6 pm. Class fees are \$15 for residents of LGFPD, \$30 for non-residents. Call Jeff Baygood for additional information at 847-634-3143.

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“The most familiar component of NIMS to most members of the public safety community is ICS, a system for domestic incident management that is based on an expandable, flexible structure and that uses common terminology, positions and incident facilities. ICS is used to organize on-scene operations for a broad spectrum of emergencies from small to complex incidents, both natural and manmade. To effectively manage incidents, the ICS organization depends on five major functions:

- Command
- Operations
- Planning
- Logistics
- Finance/Administration.

A sixth function, Intelligence/Investigations may be added at the discretion of command.”

Mostly, this article will delve into the command portion of ICS as it pertains to the Long Grove Fire Protection District (LGFDP or District). The ICS has three types of command:

- Single Incident Commander: incident occurs within

- Unified Command: when there is more than one responding agency with responsibility for the incident or the incident crosses jurisdictional lines
- Area Command: is an organization established to oversee management of multiple incidents being managed by an ICS organization or to oversee management of large incidents that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

The ICS is utilized to facilitate the completion of tactical priorities. The Incident Commander (IC) is the person who drives the system toward that end. The IC is responsible to establish a command structure that matches the organizational needs of the incident to achieve the completion of the tactical priorities for the incident. The Functions of Command (see below) defines standard activities that are performed by the IC to achieve tactical priorities.

The Responsibilities of Command/Tactical Priorities include:

- Remove endangered occupants and treat the injured



*Front seat of Incident Command Vehicle*

a single jurisdiction and there is no jurisdictional or functional agency overlap (this does not mean that other agencies do not respond or do not have a role in supporting the management of the incident), this is most common format utilized daily

- Stabilize the incident and provide for life safety
- Conserve property
- Provide for the safety, accountability and welfare of all personnel and the general public throughout the duration of the incident.

The Functions of Command include:

- Assume and announce Command and establish an effective operating position (Command Post)
- Rapidly evaluate the situation (size-up)
- Initiate, maintain and control the communication process. Assign tactical radio frequencies as needed
- Identify the overall strategy, develop an incident action plan (IAP) and assign companies and personnel consistent with plans and standard operating guidelines
- Ensure scene safety; establish a safety officer as necessary. Assign assistant safety officer when needed
- Ensure personnel accountability; establish a personnel accountability officer as necessary. Assign

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accountability responsibilities to division/group supervisors as necessary

- Provide and communicate tactical objectives
- Review, evaluate and revise (as needed) the IAP
- Provide for the continuity, transfer and termination of Command
- Ensure adequate coverage for the remainder of the jurisdiction (Change-of-Quarters)
- Utilize the tactical work sheet
- Request and assign alarm levels and/or mutual aid
- Establish liaison with other local government agencies and officials, outside agencies, property owners and/or tenants
- Utilize Command checklist to ensure performance of Command functions.

At this point, it is important to note that we are an all hazards/full service fire department. The ICS utilized by the District is implemented on all type of scenes warranting such action. It can be applied/adopted to structure fires, vehicle accidents, special rescue events (dive rescue/recovery, entrapment/pin-in accidents, hazardous materials incidents, wildland fires, confine space rescues, trench rescues, multi-patient/mass casualty incidents and high angle rescue situations).

On a daily basis, the person who usually would perform the Incident Commander role is the on-duty Battalion Chief. As you may recall from previous issues of this newsletter, LGFPD is heavily involved with other agencies providing/receiving automatic response/mutual aid. In total, we have 13 shared/reciprocating automatic response agreements with neighboring agencies and are members of a larger shared resource group, the Lake County Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 4. MABAS Division 4 in turn is a member of the statewide organization MABAS-Illinois. The concept of MABAS crosses over our state line into several other states on a national level. The MABAS motto is "We Got Your Back." All of this readily available assistance must be appropriately managed early in an involved emergency situation. The person initially charged with such a critical task is our on-duty Battalion Chief. If you were to take the previously mentioned four Command responsibilities/tactical priorities and add in all the functions of command

and make a list of tactical considerations an incident commander must take into account (during a structure fire, for example) in order to properly run the incident and achieve the best results, this would be a comprehensive list of those considerations:

- Conduct initial 360 degree size-up and maintain continuous 360 degree size-up throughout the duration of the incident
- Rapidly interview witnesses for critical information; such as are persons in the structure, where are they, where is the fire, layout of the structure
- Establish Command (Single Incident Commander, Unified Command, Area Command)
- Identify limited access problems
- Declare mode of operation (Investigation, Rescue, Offensive, Transitional, Defensive)
- Call for help, if needed
- Address difference in residential/commercial mentality
- Apparatus Placement/Hoseline Placement
- Occupant survival profile
- Sprinkler/Standpipes present
- Examine/review existing preplans
- Attack Fire-adequate gallons per minute (gpm), needed fire flow (length x width/3 per floor, what size hoselines to use
- Ensure back-up hoseline(s) are deployed and are the correct size
- Ensure primary search for fire victims is completed
- Ensure medical group set-up to treat/transport victims, ensure enough staffing is present to assist ambulance crews if needed
- Ensure secondary search for fire victims is completed
- Ensure coordinated ventilation with attack team is performed, monitor flow paths
- Will aerial operations be needed
- Exposure problems due to nearby structures, vehicles, etc.
- Comply with OSHA Two-In/Two-Out, Rapid Intervention Team, are multiple teams needed due to type of operations/size of structure, what team size should be deployed
- Water supply (city hydrant water available, drafting hydrants nearby, tanker nurse operations, large diameter hose relay, tanker shuttle operation, combination of above, joint hose tender needed, where



*Back seat of Incident Command Vehicle includes a desktop for an assistant (when needed)*

will the fill sites for tankers be located, how many tankers are necessary, what is the needed expected fire flow

- Maintain accountability of emergency personnel and civilians
  - Ensure fire extension checks are completed, remember there are six sides to a fire (up, down, front, back, left, right)
  - Ensure overhaul operations are completed
  - Ensure salvage operations are completed
  - Monitor for hostile fire events (flashover, backdraft, flow path problems, wind driven fires, etc.)
  - Monitor structure integrity/building construction (collapse zones, if needed)
  - Ensure proper communications are taking place between all the personnel, are you receiving timely pertinent information (assign tactical channels)
  - Conduct personnel accountability reports as needed
  - Ensure you are receiving appropriate progress reports
  - Ensure you have a plan for emergency evacuation
  - Ensure utilities are secured in a timely fashion, if needed (gas, electric, water)
  - When appropriate, continuously monitor for air quality in structure (carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, oxygen)
  - Gather on-going reconnaissance information/intelligence
- Closely monitor the weather and react accordingly
  - Is plan working: update/modify strategy & tactics; periodically re-evaluate, be flexible; beware of unexpected delays, unusual circumstances
  - Expand ICS as necessary (safety officer, press information officer, liaison officer, section chiefs, division/group supervisors, branches)
  - Ensure proper size rehab group implemented for amount of emergency personnel on scene and for any adverse weather conditions, two ambulances (at least one for transport, one for rehab), MESS Canteen (if needed), bottled water, set up air station for SCBA bottle refill, shelters, heating/cooling units
  - Ensure lighting equipment available if needed
  - Stage incoming apparatus/vehicles/equipment appropriately (Level I or Level II staging), do not block access to scene
  - Request a callback of off-duty personnel/ensure there are change-of-quarters companies covering the Long Grove station
  - Update tactical worksheet
  - Request District fire investigators, how many are necessary, do we need outside help
  - Ensure all other notifications (internal/external) are made based on the type of incident
  - Ensure proper traffic/site control & security measures are in place
  - Achieve customer stabilization.

As you can see the responsibilities of an incident commander in a situation such as this is daunting. It is imperative that someone is assigned to operate as the incident commander early on in any significant event. Failure to do so will most assuredly result in negative outcomes possibly catastrophic in nature. The task at hand is so overwhelming that the sooner an incident commander can expand the ICS with more “bosses,” the sooner he can limit his span of control so he can effectively manage the incident and focus on the “big picture” at hand. The incident commander truly is the orchestra conductor on the fire-ground.

Sources:  
[National Incident Management System: Principles And Practice, Second Edition, 2012.](#)  
[NIMS-Incident Command Standard Operating Guideline, LGFPD, 19 April 2012.](#)



*Fire Line*  
 A newsletter of  
 Long Grove Fire Protection District  
 1165 Old McHenry Road  
 Long Grove IL 60047  
 847-634-3143

Presorted Standard Mail  
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 Palatine P&DC

*Emergency always dial 9-1-1  
 Non-emergency 847-634-3143*

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# Christmas Wreath Sale Update

Thank you for participating in the Christmas Wreath sale over the past years. We only raised \$670 (net) in 2015. Unfortunately, costs for printing and postage were \$1300. As everyone knows, postage has gotten very expensive. For 2016 we are going to try something different. We will **NOT** be mailing out cards like we have for the last 14 years. We will go digital, by using E-mail, instead of mailing the cards. What I'm asking of you now, is to send me an E-mail asking to be placed on our Wreath Sale notification list. Then, in October I will send you an E-mail asking if you would like to purchase a wreath. Everything else remains same. You place your order and receive your wreath products in the second half of November. As always, prepaid orders receive **FREE DELIVERY**. Thanks again for your support.



## Long Grove Firefighters 14th Annual Christmas Wreath Sale

This year your local Firefighters will be selling beautiful evergreen wreaths and roping from northern Wisconsin. The proceeds will go towards sponsoring children for Burn Camp. This is a summer camp for child burn survivors. More info at [www.ifsa.org](http://www.ifsa.org). To order please complete the form and return with your check made payable to:

Long Grove Firefighters Association  
 1165 Old McHenry Road  
 Long Grove, IL 60047

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Size	Price	Total
_____	24 inch wreath	\$21.00	\$ _____
_____	36 inch wreath	\$36.00	\$ _____
_____	48 inch wreath	\$48.00	\$ _____
_____	Roping 25 feet	\$35.00	\$ _____
_____	Donation	\$ _____	\$ _____
		Total	\$ _____

Please have your orders in by Thursday, November 12, 2015  
 Deliveries included with prepayment.  
 We thank you! Sincerely, LGFFA  
 Any questions please call John at 847-634-3035

Battalion Chief John Jaworski

[jjaworski@lgfpd.org](mailto:jjaworski@lgfpd.org)

847-634-3143