Manhattan Fire Protection District

SOP #: 705-1	Effective Date: 07/01/12 Revised Date: 07/08/16
Section: Fire Operations	
Subject: On Deck, In-Transit & Company Recycle	

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this procedure is to establish a standard deployment approach to communicating company arrival to their assigned work area, and to define On Deck deployment and Company Recycling.

SCOPE:
This procedure shall apply to all companies on the fire-ground.

DEFINITIONS:
On Deck: "On Deck" is defined as; a forward staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone, safely distanced from the entrance of a tactical position/Sector. On Deck crews will be supervised either by the Sector Officer or Company Officer and they will remain On Deck until assigned by the IC or Sector Officer.
In-Transit: "In Transit" is the time it takes for a company to reach their assignment area after receiving an order.
Recycle: Recycling is defined as: a timely and efficient means of air replacement and re-hydration of companies while maintaining their sector assignment.

GUIDELINE:
In-Transit
In-Transit often caries due to:
- Distance between staging and the incident
- Size of the incident perimeter
- Amount of equipment the company needs to assemble

The IC/Sector officer will lose direct accountability of these companies while they're In Transit. It is the responsibility of the company officer to monitor the fire-ground channel while In Transit. Upon arrival to the assignment area the company officer must provide a radio announcement to the IC (i.e.; "Squad 81 is On Deck in Alpha Sector") or report face to face with the Sector Officer that the company is intact and in the assigned area.

On Deck
On Deck companies can be used for, but not limited to:
- Reinforce a position within an assigned sector
- Crew relief within an assigned sector
- Any other tactical position assigned by the IC
- Rapid intervention crew

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Once the IC has deployed units to the critical sectors around the incident scene, the IC must then take a proactive aggressive approach to assigning additional resources to those sectors. This is best achieved by assigning staged resources as On Deck crews to those areas as soon as they arrive in staged positions. Layering On Deck crews around the fire ground will also provide the IC with the tactical reserves to manage the standard work cycle or sudden and unexpected incident events.

Assigning On Deck crews is done simply by contacting a staged company and directing them to go On Deck in a specific geographic location or sector. The order would sound like this: "Truck 5 from Command… go On Deck on the Alpha sector of the structure, Engine 81 is your accountability and resource location, you are assigned to Alpha sector".

A crew assigned to an On Deck position will need to park their apparatus in a manner that doesn't block access to the scene. Crews must be intact with full PPE, forecast the need for and collect all the necessary tools/equipment and report directly to their assigned location. Upon arrival, the On Deck company must contact the IC or their Sector Officer and inform them that they are in position and ready to go to work. (i.e.; "Command from Truck 5…Truck 5 is On Deck, Alpha sector"

On Deck crews must remain intact, in a ready state and monitor the fire-ground channel at all times. On Deck crews must also size up the area that they are assigned to, this size up should include:
- Locating the structures entrance/exit points in their assigned area
- Interior and exterior conditions
- Unit ID of crews operating inside the structure
- Approximate location of interior crews
- Identify which crews are operating each hose line

When an On Deck crew is used as a relief crew, the Company Officer should do a face to face and transfer information with the officer exiting the structure. The information transferred should include:
- Interior conditions
- Routing instructions to the work area
- Interior obstructions
- Additional tools/resources required
- Sector objectives

Company Recycling

Companies operating within a sector will require the refilling of air and fluid replacement in predictable time frames. At large scale incidents, Command will establish at least 1 Rehab Sector. Most of the time, crews that are assigned to rehab will be placed back in service after rehabbing. The rehab Sector may be located quite a distance from the work area and this distance creates the potential for:

- Command losing direct accountability of companies in transit to rehab
- Difficulty reassembling and reassigning crews in a timely manner from rehab

If conditions permit, a company's work cycle could be up to 2 to 3 air cylinders. In order to maintain a steady stream of resource in critical sectors, crews being relieved and exiting their sector should recycle themselves in a timely manner. Companies being relieved and recycled will remain in their assigned sector, refill their air supply, re-hydrate, then report back to their sector officer or the IC that they are ready to go back to work.

Command/Sector officers have the option of assigning/requesting a Utility/Rehab Company to geographic sectors. Utility/Rehab companies assigned to geographic areas on the fire ground will help expedite the recycle of companies within the sector.

Company officers should forecast the length of time they will be working in an assigned sector and should bring spare air cylinders if necessary. This will enable a company to recycle close their sector in a timely manner when a utility truck is not available in their sector or area. The Sector Officer may need to request additional resources to replace on deck crews or have recycled crews assume vacated on deck positions.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:
Sector and company officers are responsible to monitor the welfare of their personnel at all times and determine if sector recycling or a formal rehab is appropriate.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
If a Sector Officer is in place, the company recycling does not have to notify command of their status. They are report back to their assigned sector once recycled.

Approved By:

Signature: *Daniel Forsythe*   **Date:** *07/08/16*