

**MAHANNOY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Standard Operating Guidelines**  
**#4807 – On the Scene**

Effective: 1/01/06  
Revised: 11/01/07

1. Personnel Protection

1.1 Turn-out Gear / Bunker Gear

1.1.1 All personnel shall be in full turn-out gear, with all fasteners closed, during any evolution inside or on a structure or rescue unless otherwise allowed by a line officer.

1.1.2 A Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) shall be worn by all personnel working in or on structures at fire scenes, at all vehicle fires and at all emergency scenes unless otherwise instructed by a higher ranking Officer.

1.1.3 Eye Protection

1.1.3.1 All personnel shall have proper eye protection when utilizing any tool that may cause debris to get into the eyes and when in close proximity of any patient/victim. S.C.B.A. face pieces, donned, will be considered to be adequate eye protection if no other eye protection is available.

1.2 Bio-Hazards

1.2.1 Personnel shall use Universal Precautions at all times during all patient contacts, and during any possible exposure to bodily fluids. The amount of personnel working in an area containing Bio-Hazards shall be limited to only that which is needed to successfully perform the task(s) necessary.

1.2.1.1 See SOG #4817 Infection Control Plan.

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1.3 Injuries & Casualties

1.3.1 The Chief, Safety Officer, Relief Association and Borough of Mahanoy City shall be informed of all fire fighter injuries and casualties within forty-eight (48) hours.

1.4 Environmental Considerations

1.4.1 The I.C., Safety Officer or appropriate Officers shall consider the detrimental effect of heat and cold on personnel during emergency operations. Adequate relief crews and rehabilitation areas for personnel shall be addressed as early as practical during emergency operations.

1.5 Safety Officer

1.5.1 The Safety Officer shall have the charge of the safety of all personnel at an incident scene.

1.5.1.1 The Safety Officer will conduct all PAR checks requested by the communications center. When a PAR request is made to the OIC by the communications center, the OIC will contact the Safety Officer, he/she will conduct the PAR check and report back to the OIC the status of the PAR check. The OIC will then contact the communications center with the status of the PAR check.

1.5.2 The Safety Officer reports directly to the Incident Commander

1.5.3 The Safety Officer shall not engage in any hands-on task performances and must maintain an objective over-view of the entire operation.

1.5.4 The Safety Officer may countermand an order by another officer if personnel safety is unreasonably jeopardized. If time allows, efforts should be made to discuss the operation with the appropriate officer before changing the officer's order.

1.5.5 If necessary, each company shall assign a Safety Officer to assist the Dept. Safety Officer and his/her responsibilities.

1.5.6 Any firefighter is empowered to report any unsafe act or near miss to the Fire Chief, OIC and Safety Officer. Any reporting to the Near Miss Reporting System ([www.firefighternearmiss.com](http://www.firefighternearmiss.com)) should be approved by a Chief.

1.6 Public Information Officer

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- 1.6.1 As deemed necessary by the I.C., Public Information Officer shall be assigned.
- 1.6.2 The Incident Commander may act as the Public Information Officer during significant incidents providing it does not interfere with his/her Incident Command responsibilities.
- 1.6.2 The individual assigned as the Public Information Officer shall be selected based on competence and the positive impression he/she will present to the media and the media's audience.
- 1.7 The Command Structure
  - 1.7.1 The Incident Command System shall be used at all emergency incidents.
  - 1.7.2 The first arriving officer at the scene shall assume incident command.
  - 1.7.3 Chief Officers shall, upon arrival to the scene, relieve subordinate personnel as Incident Commander.
  - 1.7.4 The Chief always shall assume incident command.
  - 1.7.5 Officers or personnel under the I.C. shall not issue orders or direction in conflict with those issued by the I.C. or Operations Officer.
  - 1.7.6 Fire/Rescue Incident Command should unite with EMS Command on all appropriate incidents.
  - 1.7.7 When available and applicable, vests identifying the Incident Commander, Sector Officers and Safety Officer shall be worn.
  - 1.7.8 See SOG #4803 – Chain of Command.
- 1.8 Apparatus Operations
  - 1.8.1 Drivers shall chock the wheels of their apparatus whenever it is out of the station and the driver is not in the driver's seat.
  - 1.8.2 Drivers/Operators of any apparatus shall be in direct control of the operation of that apparatus while at emergencies or non-emergency incidents/events.

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- 1.8.3 Personnel not responding on a particular apparatus shall inform the driver/operator before removing any equipment from the apparatus and return said equipment to the proper apparatus upon completed use.
- 1.9 It shall be the responsibility of the Assistant Fire Chief to insure that all members are trained to this SOG.
- 1.10 Any firefighter not adhering to this SOG shall be subject to Borough and Department disciplinary action.

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Fire Chief

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Author