Time Management for the ISO

Fire Engineering Safety Officer

Standard References NFPA 1521; 6.2.1

Instructors should always include department references and procedures in this and any training session.

The clock at an incident is a very important thing to monitor. The safety officer can perform several critical safety observations relating to time. Use of a dispatch based time tracking announcement may be helpful in making everyone at the incident more aware of their surroundings. Air management, length of time a fire has been burning, progress indicators inside a building can all be measured against an elapsed time clock. The major variable however is always the time the fire was burning before the fire department was notified. This is a major safety point that needs to be estimated and placed into some of the time related observations that a safety officer will make.

Time Check Reminders	
10 minutes	Strategy CheckProgress ReportIs the IAP Still Correct?
10-15 minutes	Company Air Supply
20 minutes	Safe for continued operation?
30 minutes	PAR all members
40 minutes	Rehab Established Staging Available
50 minutes	Relief Crews Assigned
60 minutes	Continual Assessment
Over 60	Continued Risk Assessment and Fatigue Signs

Examples of Observations Made During Initial Scene Operational Times	
Since Time of Alarm	ISO Observation or Consideration
10 minutes	Where is fire at? Where are crews at? What is their air supply? Is a positive water supply available? Back-up should be in-place
20 minutes	Are initial crews out or coming out of area? Has fire been located? Is the structure now involved?
30 minutes	Is rehab established? Are replacement/relief crews available? Overhaul safety, air monitoring, lighting

Time Monitoring Basics

Monitor the following incident factors:

- How long have crews been on air?
- How long will it take them to reach an exit?
- How long has the fire been burning unchecked by suppression efforts?
- How long has the structure been involved?
- Determine crew fitness levels due to length of time working.
- Are crews accounted for in teams and within operational areas?
- Is relief available while crews rehab?