

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Emergency Operations		Code: E-I-3
Vegetation Fire Size up		
Chpt: I	Command Procedures	Revised: 5/2018 Pages: 2

I. POLICY

A. The first Fire Department unit or officer to arrive at the scene of multiple unit vegetation fire response shall assume Command and remain in command until relieved by a higher ranking officer or until the incident is terminated.

II. INITIAL REPORT

A. The person assuming Command shall transmit a brief initial radio report including:

1. Unit identifier on scene and assumption of Command.
2. Location-address
3. Incident size-acreage or dimension (¼ acre, 5 acres, 10 x 10 spot)
4. Fuel type-light, medium, heavy
5. Rate of spread (ROS)-slow, moderate, fast
6. Topography-flat ground, mid slope, ridge top etc.
6. Weather-wind (direction and speed) temperature, atmospheric conditions
7. Engagement level-progressive hose lay, running attack, structure defense
8. Best access routes
9. Special hazards or concerns-electrical lines, propane tanks, structures threatened
10. Additional resource needs-engines, crews, dozers, air support
11. Incident name

Example 1: E-1 is on scene, in command at 400 Loma Alta. We have an approximate 1 acre fire in medium to heavy fuels, with a moderate rate of spread heading uphill. Winds are light from the south. We are anchoring off Loma Alta and are starting a progressive on the right flank of the fire. Best access will be on Loma Alta. We will need 2 additional engines and a water dropping helicopter. This will be the Loma Incident.

Vegetation Fire Size up

Example 2: E-307 is on scene, in command at 2000 Stanwood Dr. (Parma Park); we have approximately 2 acres in light fuels with a fast rate of spread on flat terrain. Winds are moderate from the west. We are anchoring off the road and are starting a running attack on the right flank of the fire. Best access will be on Stanwood Dr. We have wires down near the point of origin. We will need 2 type IIIs engines, 1 crew, 1 dozer and a water dropping helicopter. This will be the Parma Incident.

When conducting a vegetation fire size up, there may be a need to pause and gather more information. The phrase “break” can be utilized. See example below.

Example 3: E-6 is on scene, in command at 702 Miramonte Dr; we have approximately ½ acre fire in light to medium fuels, with a moderate of spread. The fire is established below our location in drainage and is heading uphill towards structures. ***Break***. Winds are moderate and are from the west. We are starting structure defense in the 700 block of Miramonte Dr. Best access will be from Carrillo St. We will need 3 additional engines and a water dropping helicopter. This will be the Miramonte Incident.

III. RADIO DESIGNATION

A. The radio designation "IC" will be used with a brief description of the incident location. (i.e., "Foothill IC"; "Ontare IC"). This designation will not change during the duration of the incident.

IV. RESPONSE

A. To facilitate assumption of Command all officers responding on multiple unit assignments will record the following information.

1. Address of alarm
2. Responding units

B. At working incidents Command will use an Emergency Operation Planning Guide or the proper ICS Forms to outline and record assignments and to assist in the transfer of Command.

C. All units responding to multiple unit responses will follow Standard Operating Procedures and Staging procedures (see [E-III-2](#)) to support Command.

INCIDENT BRIEFING

1. Incident Name

2. Date

3. Time

4. Map Sketch