

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Emergency Operations	Code: E-III-6
Building Labeling / Divisions	
Chpt: III Structure Fires	Revised: 3/5/17 Pages: 2

I. PURPOSE:

A. To define and create a system for labeling and divisionalizing a structure for command and control.

II. PROCEDURE:

A. In most fire ground incidents, the Incident Commander's Command Post will be located in front of the fire-involved building. In this instance, the building would be labeled in a clockwise direction as follows:

1. The front side would be designated Exposure or Division **A**.
2. The left side would be Exposure or Division **B**
3. The rear of the building would be Exposure or Division **C**
4. The right side of the building would be Exposure or Division **D**

B. In those rare instances when the Command Post is not in front of the fire-involved building, the Incident Commander must identify his location and clearly designate Exposure or Division **A**. Exposure or Division **B**, **C**, and **D** are then labeled in clockwise fashion.

1. **NOTE:** If the letters start to sound the same and create some confusion during radio traffic, the use of phonetic alphabet may be used. Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta.

C. In the event that the building has multiple floors, floors will be divisionalized by number corresponding to the floor. Example:

1. Floor 1 would be Division 1.
2. Floor 2 would be Division 2

D. Buildings with basements would be divisionalized as B1 and B2 as the basement floors descend.

E. The use of this system will allow the IC to better place crews and equipment where they need to be. Example: A crew might request a ladder to Division 2 on exposure **D Delta. This would be 2nd floor, right side of the building.**

Building Labeling / Divisionalization

F. In multi-unit occupancies, exposures can be indicated by alpha letter identifier for the side of the extension followed by a number that starts adjacent to the unit on fire. For example exposure side B1, B2, B3 etc. or D1, D2, D3 etc.

