

Manhattan Fire Protection District

Standard Operating Procedure	Section: INCIDENT COMMAND	Page 1 of 2
	Subject: BACK OUT/CHANGE STRATEGY vs. EVACUATE/ ABANDON	Date 7/25/95 Revised 10/1/12 SOP# 501-2

PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide an Emergency Evacuation Plan for the emergency evacuation of all personnel at the scene of an emergency incident or training exercise.

SCOPE

This procedure shall apply to all personnel operating at the scene of any emergency incident or training exercise.

ENFORCEMENT

The primary responsibility for adherence to this procedure rests with each individual. Company officers/ Acting Officers are responsible for enforcement of this procedure. There shall be no deviation to the intent of the procedure.

DEFINITION

BACK OUT/CHANGE STRATEGY vs. EVACUATE/ ABANDON

- Back Out/Change in Strategy- Crews and equipment quickly back out of the building (Change in strategy Offensive to Defensive) advising Command of PAR when out of structure.
- Evacuate/Abandon- Imminent DANGER. Leave your equipment and use closest means of egress IMMEDIATELY advising Command of PAR when out of structure.

Use of ALERT tones by Dispatch &/or Command unit. This should also be transmitted on all channels starting with the Fire-Ground channel in use.

APPLICATION

Operations at the scene of an emergency shall cease when the area that the personnel are operating in becomes potentially too dangerous for continued operations. At that time any member has the authority to utilize the Emergency Traffic announcement to the Incident Commander. The initiator should describe the apparent hazard and order a positive response, usually evacuate a particular area or section, according to the scope of the hazard. If at this time the Incident Commander decides that total evacuation of the area is needed he shall initiate the Emergency Evacuation Signal.

The Incident Commander shall order the closest apparatus to the incident to give the following signal: Five, 3 second blasts of the air horns with a pause in between each such signal. The evacuation signal will be repeated after a short break and until the evacuation is completed or upon orders to cease by the Incident Commander.

Upon the initiation of the Emergency Evacuation signal all personnel will immediately evacuate the area of the emergency scene to an area of safety. Personnel may attempt to back out any hose lines, equipment, and or apparatus during their evacuation.

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Crews retreating from an area shall regroup near their responding apparatus or their company officer to be accounted for. Regrouping is very important so that all emergency personnel are accounted for. A P.A.R. (Personal Accountability Report) shall be conducted by the Incident Commander.

In the event the Incident Commander orders the crews/members to “Abandon” the structure, all members shall leave any and all equipment and/or hose-lines and find the nearest exit/egress and exit the structure.

Chief Signature Daniel Forsythe

Date 10/1/12