Government of
Northwest Territories

Northwest Territories Defensive Firefighter Training

SESSION 4

COMMAND SYSTEMS

Government of the Northwest Territories
Municipal and Community Affairs

First Edition (2025)

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SESSION 4 – COMMAND SYSTEMS

INTRODUCTION

Northwest Territories Defensive Fire Training (NWT-DFT) is a competency-based learning program for community fire departments operating at a defensive level of service. This workbook provides volunteer firefighters with the knowledge to apply to achieving 34 required skills. When successfully assessed, students and volunteer NWT firefighters will have met the basic requirements to appropriately respond to fire scenes at a safe distance from fires. Skills in the NWT-DFT program are to be assessed based on validated learning outcomes from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 standard.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Discuss the purpose of the Incident Command System (ICS)
2. Explain how and why ICS works as a modular organization
3. Explain ICS functions related to fire operations
4. Describe ICS scene and risk management tools and concepts
5. Skill Drill 4-1: Perform establishing command
6. Skill Drill 4-2: Perform transferring command
7. Skill Drill 4-3: Perform operating within the ICS framework

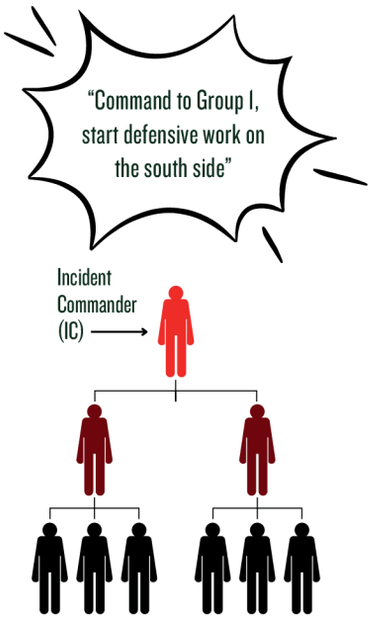
Digital versions of all books in the NWT Defensive Firefighter Training program are available for download and/or printing here:
https://communitylearning.learnworlds.com/defensive-fire

COMMAND SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Incident Command System (ICS)

The Incident Command System (ICS) was developed in the 1970s in the United States after massive wildfires in California. These fires showed the need for a standardized system to improve emergency response. ICS provides a flexible and scalable framework that can be used for incidents of any size.

In Canada, the fire service began using the Incident Command System (ICS) in the 1980s, with wider adoption in the 1990s. Using ICS, even for small emergencies, helps keep the fire team organized and working together. It ensures every firefighter knows their role, who they report to, and what they need to do. This reduces confusion and ensures resources are used effectively.



Priorities

In a firefighting command system, all actions taken in any operation are based on three priorities:

1 LIFE SAFETY

Includes keeping firefighters and other responders safe, as well as rescuing victims

2 INCIDENT STABILIZATION

Incident must be stabilized before fire suppression or clean up (includes protecting exposures)

3 PROPERTY CONSERVATION

Actions taken after meeting first two priorities to prevent further property damage

Unity of command

Unity of command is a top-down structure that defines ranks of authority and responsibility. It ensures a clear chain of command for the flow of information both up and down. At an incident, each person has only one direct supervisor. As a firefighter, you must follow unity of command by:

Taking direction from your superior only

Do not follow any other directions. Your superior coordinates response based on what they have asked you to do.

Reporting back to your superior

Do not forget to report back. Do not have another report back for you. Your superior hears directly from you.

Absolutely NO freelancing

Do not EVER freelance. This may seriously interfere with how the response is being coordinated by your superior.

COMMAND SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The following example shows how operating under *unity of command* ensures good coordination and communication among all fire team members.

What might happen in the example below if firefighters don't follow IC directions? What might happen if they don't report back? What might happen if Sara and Joe freelance?

1 ESTABLISH COMMAND

The first firefighter on the scene takes on the role of Incident Commander (IC). They assess the situation and implement the Incident Command System (ICS) until the fire chief arrives.	• *Peter (IC): "This is Peter to all units. I am on scene and establishing command. We have a single-story house fire with smoke coming from the roof. No occupants inside."* • *Sara (assigned to operations): Awaits Assignment* • *Joe (assigned to safety): Awaits Assignment*

2 ASSIGN ROLES

The IC assigns roles and manages the team.	• *Peter (IC): "Command to Sara, you are assigned to fire suppression. Confirm when in position."* • *"Command to Joe, monitor hazards. Keep me updated."* • *Sara: "Command, this is Sara. Establishing water supply now. Assigning two firefighters to assist — maintaining span of control."* • *Joe: "Command, this is Joe. Monitoring crew safety — all firefighters have full PPE and are staying hydrated."*

3 DETERMINE ACTIONS

The IC coordinates with the operations chief (Sara) and safety officer (Joe) to manage the response.	• *Peter (IC): "Operations, this is Command. Once supply is set, deploy hose line for exterior attack on the fire." "Safety, this is Command. Make sure to monitor structural integrity."* • *Sara: "Command, this is Operations. Water supply is being established now — two firefighters assigned to assist deploying a hose line for exterior attack once flow is confirmed."* • *Joe: "Command, this is Safety. Monitoring for roof collapse and slippery areas — no immediate hazards at this time."*

4 ENSURE COMMUNICATIONS, COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

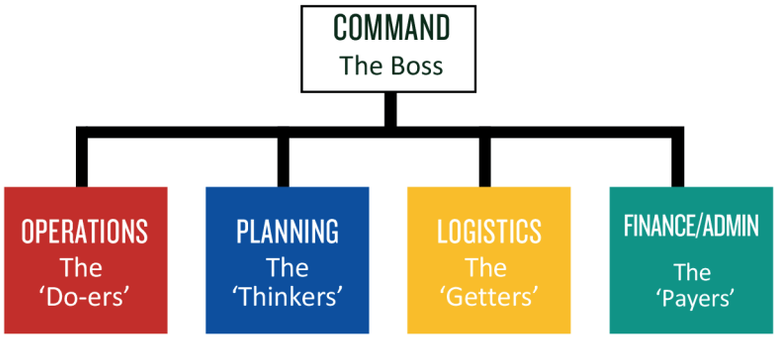
The IC keeps track of who is on scene and what tasks they are performing. Provides regular updates and confirms when fire is out.	*Peter (IC): "Command to all units: Fire is extinguished. House is clear. Crews are cleaning up."*

MODULAR ORGANIZATION

The Incident Command System (ICS) is used for every fire response in your community. It is the same system used for large-scale emergencies, including flooding and wildfires in the NWT. ICS is designed as a modular system, meaning it can expand, or contract as needed—similar to a building where sections can be added or removed.

Five management functions

To put ICS into place only requires one position to be filled - that of the Incident Commander (IC). For fire operations in small NWT communities there is usually an IC and a few other firefighters who are doing what they are directed to do by the IC. If the event becomes larger, the system can expand to include more modules, or parts of the command system, that each have a management function. The five management functions of an ICS modular organization include: Command; Operations; Planning; Logistics; and Finance and Administration.



Firefighters work under **OPERATIONS** because they are doing things.

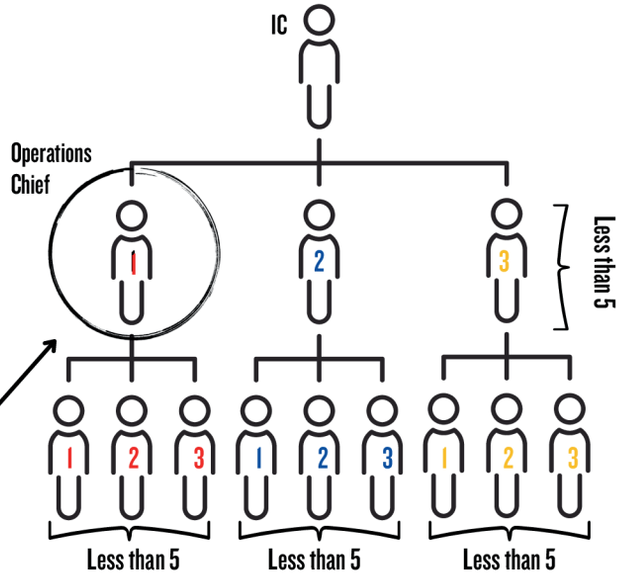
Span of control

Span of control ensures effective supervision of firefighters at an incident without overwhelming any one supervisor. Ideally, a supervisor should manage no more than five people at a time. As the organization expands, additional modules and supervisors are added to maintain control and efficiency.

THE INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC)

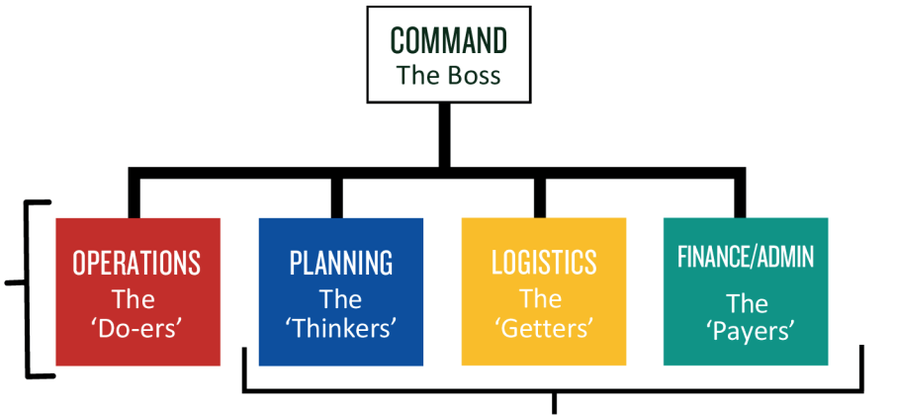
The **Incident Commander (IC)** is the highest-ranking person in charge at an emergency scene. When firefighters respond to a call, the first firefighter on scene typically assumes the IC role. However, command is often transferred to the fire chief upon their arrival.

In most cases, the fire chief remains the IC for the duration of the incident. However, if the emergency grows, ICS allows for a new IC to be assigned so the fire chief can focus on operations. In this case, the fire chief would still be a supervisor but would take on the title of **Operations Chief.**



OPERATIONS SECTION

Firefighters work within the **operations function** because they are the do-ers, no matter the size of the emergency.



Remaining management functions of an **expanded** ICS modular structure.

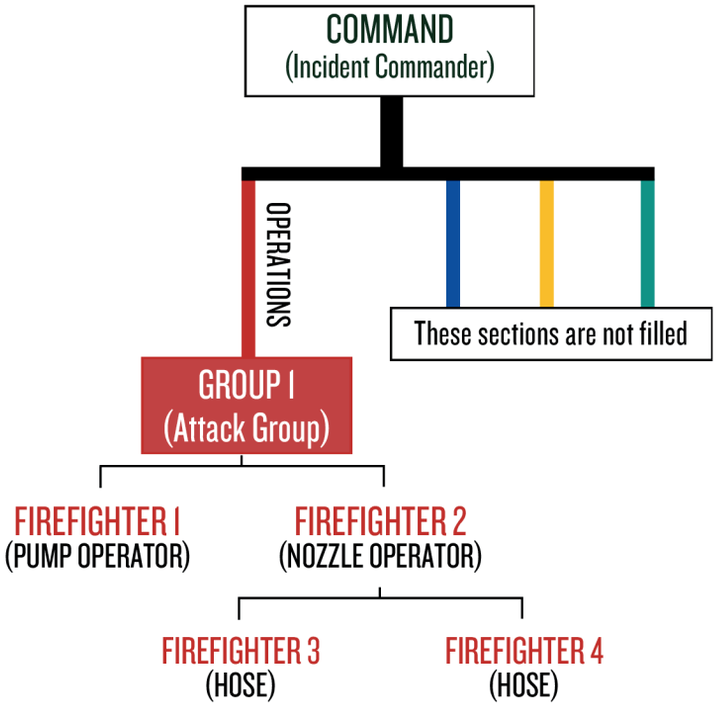
Operations structure

In a small community, defensive firefighters work under the Operations Section, which is responsible for tactical operations.

Consider a small fire department called to a fire where the task or objective—determined by the Incident Commander (IC)—is fire suppression. The IC assigns the necessary resources to meet the objective under the *operations* function/section.

In this case, there are only five firefighters and one truck, so the IC organizes them into a **Group** because they are focused on a single task—fire suppression.

- The fire chief is the IC.
- One firefighter operates the pump and reports directly to the IC.
- Three firefighters handle the attack line hose: One firefighter is the nozzle operator and reports to the IC; two firefighters assist with the hose and report to the nozzle operator.



OPERATIONS SECTION

Fire functions under ICS

In firefighting, the most commonly used ICS functions are Groups and Divisions.

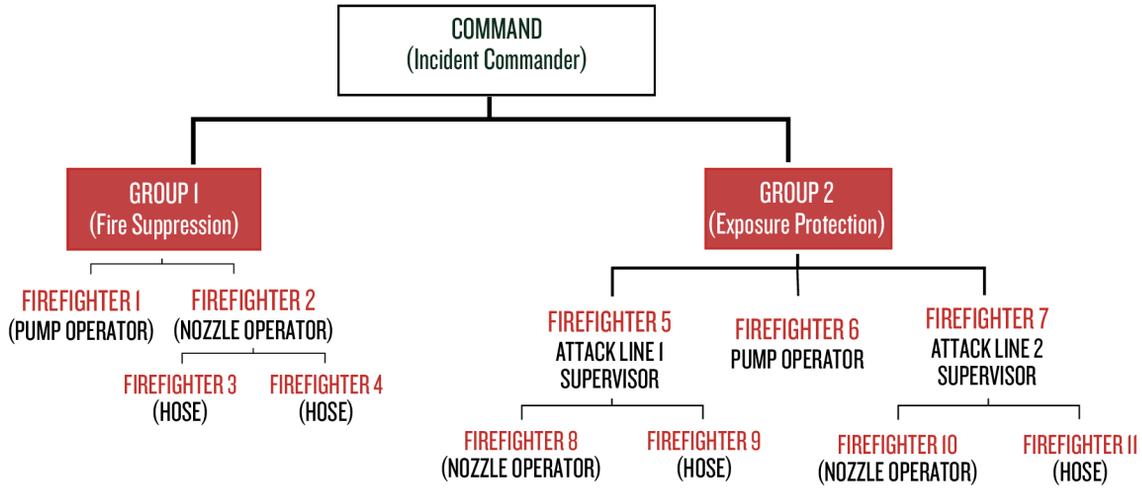
- Groups are task-specific teams, like those focused on fire suppression.
- Divisions are teams organized geographically (not often used in defensive fire operations).

Both groups and divisions utilize single resources.

Group	Single resources (chief; truck and crew; captain and hose operator) that are working on the same **task or function**, but not necessarily in the same location.	 Task: Fire Suppression
Division	Multiple single resources working in the same **location,** but on different tasks.	 Task: Fire Spotting Task Fire Breaks Task: Fire Suppression

Consider the same scenario as on the previous page, but with a few changes. There are now two trucks, 11 firefighters, and one fire chief. A house fire is burning intensely and is unlikely to be saved. The IC is most concerned about protecting the house next to the one on fire. To manage the response, the IC creates two groups, each with a specific task: **Group 1** focuses on fire suppression at the burning house; **Group 2** is assigned to protecting the neighboring house.

What is happening here related to span of control? Why does Group 2 have two supervisors? Why are there two groups? What are the tasks? Why are these groups and not divisions? What kind of single resources are being used?



SCENE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Scene size-up

Often, the first person to arrive at an emergency scene will establish command, even if only temporarily until a more senior member takes over. As a result, you may find yourself in a situation where you need to conduct a size-up of the scene.

Scene size-up is the initial assessment of an emergency situation, aimed at identifying hazards, getting a clear picture of the incident, and establishing priorities for action.

Confirm address
Verify exact location of incident.

Identify hazards
Look for dangers such as structural issues, hazardous materials, or electrical hazards.

Determine fire conditions
Assess location, size, and behavior of fire.

Determine layout of the area
Look for obstacles in the area. If a building is involved, note the number of floors, type of occupancy, and any unusual features.

Establish Command
Set up an incident command structure and communicate the plan to all units.

Deploy Resources
Assign personnel and equipment based on the assessment.

Monitor and Adjust
Continuously monitor the situation and adjust strategies as needed.

Risk management principles

As discussed in module 1, all firefighters have the right and responsibility to refuse risk that can put you or your team members in significant danger (see Appendix 1). The following risk management principles are a way to help determine risk when sizing up a scene.

RISK A LOT TO SAVE A LOT

Firefighters may be willing to take a higher level of risk when there is a high chance of saving lives.

RISK LITTLE TO SAVE A LITTLE

Firefighters may be willing to take moderate risks to save valuable property.

RISK NOTHING TO SAVE NOTHING

Firefighters will not take any unnecessary risks when nothing can be saved.

Situation report

A situation report is a brief summary of the current status, actions taken, and any hazards or progress at an emergency scene. For defensive operations, this would include:

- Information on exposures and hazards
- Status of fire extinguishment
- Facts and likely developments at the scene
- Current situation and resources available
- Identifying any hazardous materials
- Progress evaluation so far

RADIO REPORTS

- Provide initial size-up information when you report from the scene and establish command.
- Provide situation reports as needed.

SCENE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Personnel Accountability System (PAS)

A Personnel Accountability System (PAS) tracks all personnel on the scene, including their identities (names), assignments (nozzle operator), and locations (see location indicators below on this page). Accountability systems are only effective when everyone uses them. By using a PAS within the ICS framework, an Incident Commander (IC) can track the resources at the scene, make appropriate assignments, and ensure everyone operates safely. If someone is missing, locating them becomes the top priority. Examples of PASs include:

- Written Rosters: Lists of firefighters and their assignments.
- Electronic Tracking Devices: Systems using electronic tags or GPS to track personnel.
- Nametags: Tags displayed on a board in the fire truck (apparatus) to identify personnel.

Location indicators

Location indicators help ensure firefighters can quickly explain their locations. In a defensive operation, location indicators are used for the four exterior sides of a structure. This is essential because ICS requires frequent updates and directions among all members. The IC must be able to communicate directions that include specific locations quickly. Firefighters also need to clearly explain their location at all times when using a Personnel Accountability System (PAS) or providing other updates.

Location indicators use the phonetic alphabet (see Session 3-Fire Service Communications) as a standard system to identify the different parts of a building or fire scene: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta.

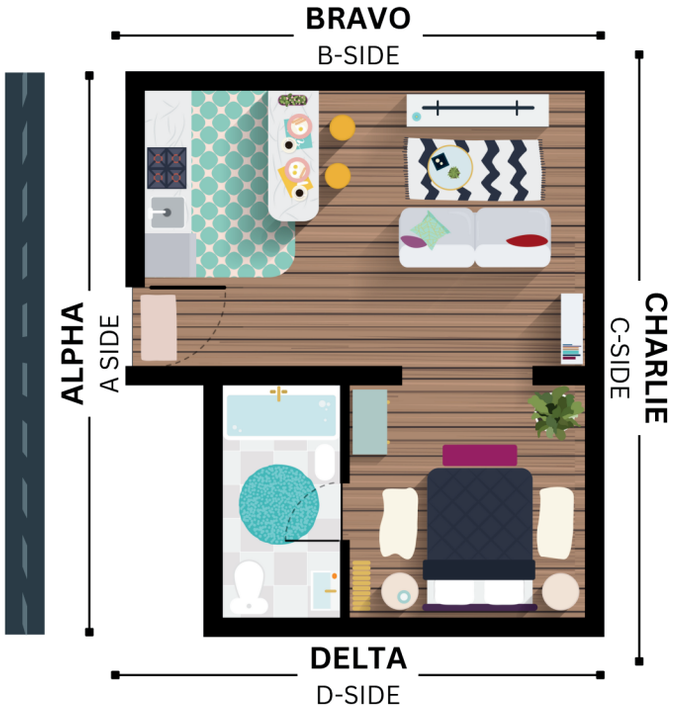
NOTE: Defensive fire operations rarely use divisions as location indicators. Divisions are often used as location indicators inside buildings:

- Division 1: first floor
- Division 2: second floor (and so on)

Some departments simplify this further by referring to them as A-side, B-side, C-side, and D-side.

Exterior sides of a structure:

- Front door/roadside is called Alpha or A-side
- Moving clockwise from Alpha is Bravo or B-side
- The back side of building is Charlie or C-side
- The 4th side is Delta or D-side



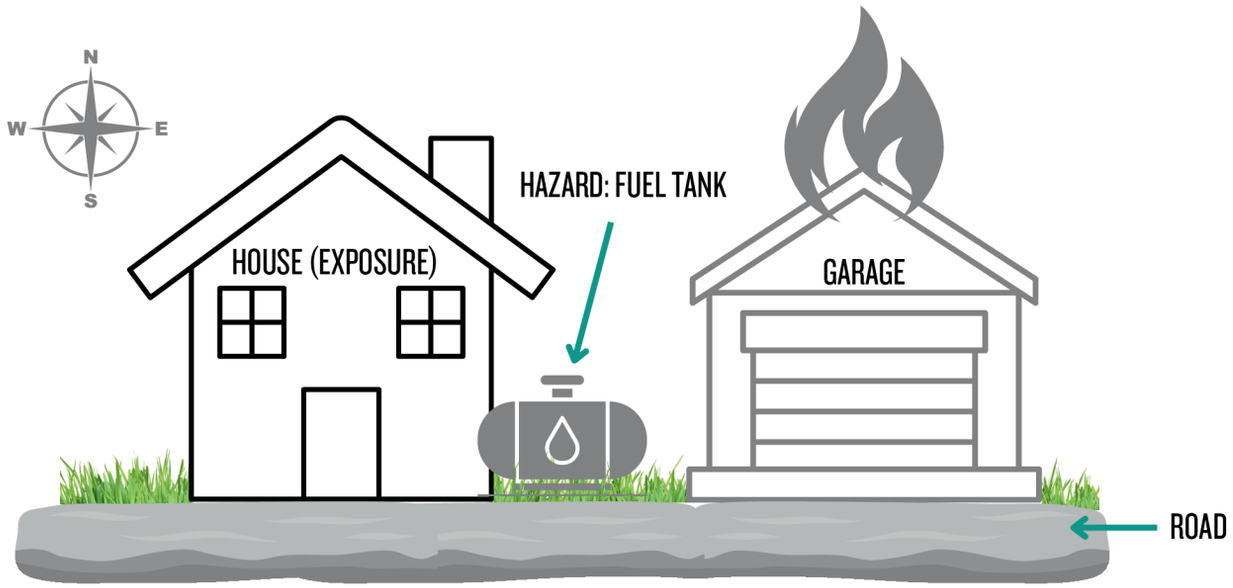
SKILL DRILLS

SKILL DRILL 4-1

Read or listen to the following scenario and use the image to perform the following Skill Drill 4-1

Scenario

- A call comes in reporting a garage fire at 62 Smith Road. All units have been mobilized. You inform dispatch that you're heading to the fire hall to get the fire truck (apparatus) and will provide a radio update while en route.
- Upon arriving at the scene, you are first on location. You observe that the garage is fully engulfed in flames. The house is located to the west of the garage, with its heating fuel tank on the east side of the house. The occupants have self-evacuated.
- You decide to initiate an exterior attack to protect the nearby structures but will need additional support for the attack line.
- Perform *Skill Drill 4-1: Establishing Command*



SKILL DRILL 4-1: Establishing Command

The first firefighter to arrive at a scene must establish command to implement the command system. While this person may not always be the senior member, command must be established until it can be transferred to another member.

1	Provide a size up report (see next page) • *Provide command designation*
2	Provide an initial situation report (see next page) • *State the initial actions being taken*

Use the following to complete Skill Drill 4-1

SIZE-UP REPORT

Location (use phonetic alphabet)**:**	**Identify hazards** (use location indicators)**:**
Describe fire condition:	**Describe the area layout:**
Establish command/provide command designation: *"(insert your name) assuming command at (insert location)"*	**Deploy resources:**

SITUATION REPORT

Status of fire:	**Facts and likely developments at the scene:**
Current resource situation	**Identities of any hazardous materials** (if not stated in size-up)**:**
What progress has been made so far:	**State your initial actions:**

SKILL DRILL 4-2

Use the following scenario, image and script template on the following page to practice Skill Drill 4-2:

Scenario Continued

- You have called for support, and two more firefighters have arrived. You remain in command. The three of you begin setting up the attack line for the exterior attack. You're just finishing the setup to protect the east side of the home and the fuel tank, while using a water curtain to douse flames from the west side of the garage at the same time.
- Then, the fire chief arrives, and it's time to transfer command to them.
- Perform *Skill Drill 4-2: Transferring Command*

- Action Plan: **WATER CURTAIN**
- Accomplished: **ATTACK LINE READY**
- Effectiveness: **ATTACK LINE READY**
- Resources: **IN PLACE**
- Resource Needs: **NONE**
- Tactical Priorities: **ATTACK LINE**

SKILL DRILL 4-2: Transferring Command

During an emergency, the first firefighter on scene directs operations. As the situation becomes more complex, they may need to transfer command to a more experienced firefighter if necessary.

1	Establish the ICS
2	Follow departmental procedures for transferring command.
3	Transfer command face-to-face, if possible. If not possible, transfer command over the radio.
4	Communicate to incoming command officer the: • *Tactical priorities* • *Action plan(s)* • *Hazardous conditions (and potentially hazardous conditions)* • *Accomplishments* • *Effectiveness of operations* • *Status of resources* • *Need for additional resources*
5	Formally announce the transfer of command over the radio.

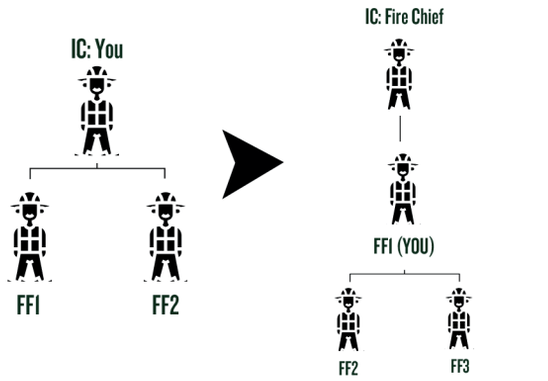
Use the following to complete Skill Drill 4-2

Establish ICS structure with incoming IC:

YOU: "Currently I'm acting IC with FF1 and FF2 reporting to me"

INCOMING IC: "Transfer IC to me, you will be FF1 and report to me, with FF2 and FF3 reporting to you.

WORK WITH INCOMING COMMAND TO ESTABLISH A NEW STRUCTURE:



Communicate the tactical priorities and action plan: Attack line to create water curtain

Communicate hazardous conditions (or potentially): Heating fuel tank

Communicate what has been accomplished and is it effective: (hoseline in place and ready, not yet charged with water)

Resources status, and need for anymore: (Engine, crew, hoseline are all in place to accomplish the objective)

Formally announce the transfer of command over the radio:

"All units, Command is being transferred to fire chief [Name].
Fire chief [Name] is now Incident Commander."

SKILL DRILL 4-3

Any of the steps in Skill 4-3 could be requested at any time by your commanding officer while working within ICS. You may also need to contact your commanding officer at times. Practice saying the examples below out loud for this drill based on the continued scenario.

Scenario Continued

- After you transfer command, the new IC assigns you as nozzle operator. You are directing FF3, the firefighter assisting with the attack line. Your assignment is to provide protection to the east side of the home and the fuel tank, while also using a water curtain to douse the flames on the west side of the garage. At some point FF3 is injured.
- Perform *Skill Drill 4-3: Operating within ICS*

SKILL DRILL 4-3: Operating within ICS

1	**Verify that the ICS is in use**	*Say: "Command, this is Engine 1. On scene and awaiting IC direction. Over"*
2	**When given an assignment, repeat that information over the radio to verify it**	*Say: "Command, Engine 1 copies. Proceeding to bravo to establish protective water curtain around fuel tank. Over"*
3	**Assess the scene, hazards, equipment, and PPE to ensure your safety**	*Say: "Engine 1 to Command, assessing the scene. Garage fully engulfed, house is 10 feet from bravo side with heating tank observed facing bravo. PPE and equipment are in good condition. Over"*
4	**Account for yourself and for other team members**	*Say: "Engine 1 to Command, accounting for all team members. All personnel are present and accounted for. Over"*
5	**Update your supervising officer regularly**	*Say: "Engine 1 to Command, protective water curtain established. No immediate threats to fuel tank or exposure. Monitoring."*
6	**Provide personnel accountability reports as necessary**	*Say: "Engine 1 to Command. FF3 down, possible leg injury, unable to continue operations. Request immediate medical support and replacement personnel. Attack Team 1 remaining in position. Over."*
7	**Report completion of each assignment to your supervising officer**	*Say: "Engine 1 to Command, assignment complete. Protective water curtain in place and holding. Awaiting further instructions. Over"*

LEARNING DEBRIEF

REMEMBER

- Developing proper work habits during training in this course helps ensure safety later
- Do not attempt anything you feel is beyond your ability or knowledge
- Tell someone if you see something that you feel is an unsafe practice
- Continue to learn teamwork and practice working as a team
- A firefighter injured during training should not return until medically cleared for duty

Reflect on the following questions. Jot down notes or sketches in the spaces provided.

How does the ICS enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of fire service operations? Reflect on an example from your experience or in this training.	
In what ways does the modular structure of ICS allow for scalability and flexibility during an incident? Consider how this affects span of control.	
What scene and risk management tools within ICS do you consider to be most valuable? Why?	

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Unacceptable Risk

Firefighting is a dangerous job, but there are rules to protect you from unnecessary risks. In the Northwest Territories, the **Safety Act and Code of Practice** give all workers the right to say no to unsafe work. For firefighters, this means knowing the difference between acceptable danger and unacceptable risks.

RIGHT AND OBLIGATION TO REFUSE UNSAFE WORK

The **NWT Safety Act** says workers can refuse work if they believe it will hurt them or someone else. This includes firefighters, even though the job is dangerous. If you think a task is too unsafe:

Tell Your Supervisor: Explain what makes the task dangerous.
Stop Work: Stay in a safe place while the problem is checked.
Work Only When Safe: The task should not continue until the danger is fixed or managed.

You cannot be punished for refusing unsafe work if you follow these steps. In fact, the NWT Safety Act and Occupational Health and Safety Regulations outline a legal obligation for workers to refuse unsafe work if they believe it poses a danger to themselves or others. This obligation ensures workers, including firefighters, prioritize safety in all situations.

WHAT IS UNACCEPTABLE RISK IN DEFENSIVE FIREFIGHTING?

Firefighting always involves risk, but some situations are beyond what is reasonable or safe. For example:

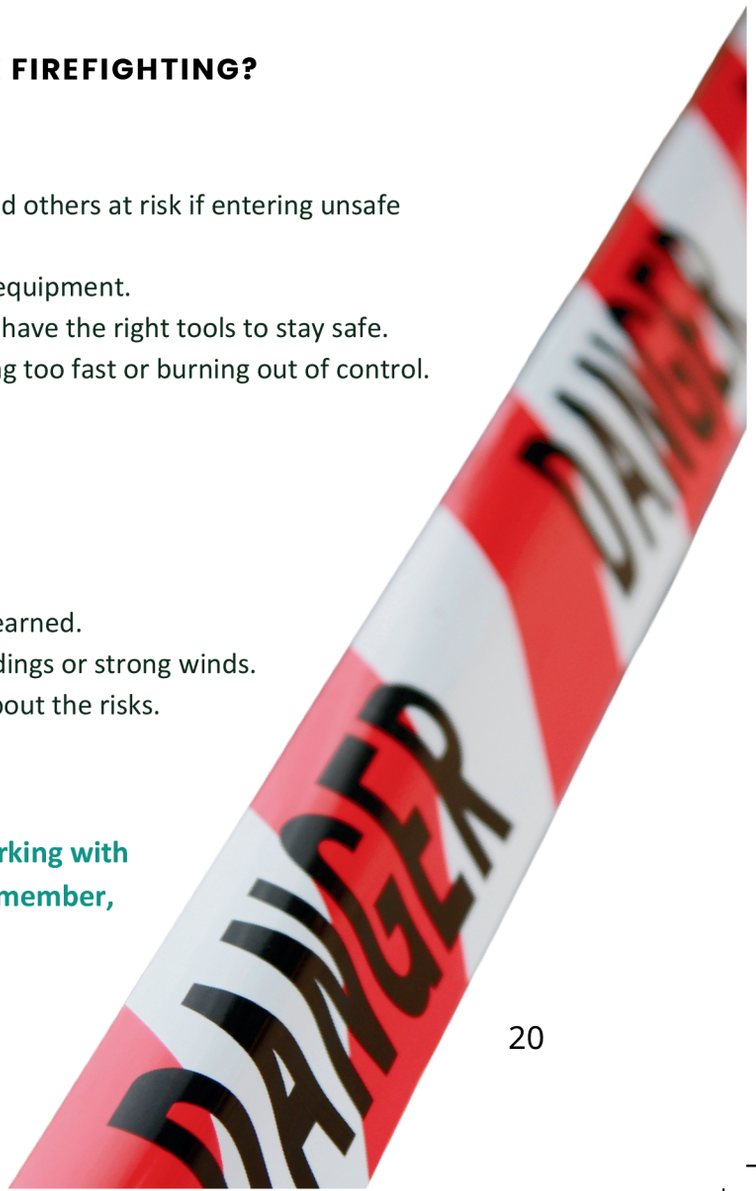
Entering Buildings: Defensive firefighters put themselves and others at risk if entering unsafe structures without the proper training.
Broken Gear: Never fight a fire without working protective equipment.
Toxic Chemicals: Risk of dangerous materials and you don't have the right tools to stay safe.
Uncontrollable Fire: Don't get close to a fire that is spreading too fast or burning out of control.

HOW TO DECIDE

Firefighters are trained to manage risk, but some risks are too dangerous. Use these steps to decide:

Follow Your Training: Stick to the defensive tactics you've learned.
Check the Scene: Look for signs of danger like unstable buildings or strong winds.
Work with Your Team: Talk to your crew and your leader about the risks.
Trust Your Instincts: If you feel it's unsafe, speak up.

By following the Safety Act, using your training, and working with your team, you can decide when work is too unsafe. Remember, staying safe helps you keep helping your community.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Communications

- **ABC Button:** Customizable preset button on radios
- **Channel Selector:** Dial or button to change radio channels
- **Communication Feedback Loop:** Confirming messages by repeating them back
- **Decoding:** Interpreting the received message
- **Emergency Button:** Sends alert for immediate help
- **Emergency Line:** Dedicated line for urgent calls
- **Emergency Traffic:** High-priority message overrides others
- **Encoding:** Turning thoughts into a message
- **Feedback:** Receiver's response to a message
- **Message:** Information being communicated
- **Monitor/Scan Buttons:** Used to listen to multiple radio channels
- **Noise:** Anything that disrupts communication
- **Portable Radio:** Handheld radio for communication
- **Push-to-Talk (PTT) Button:** Press to talk on a radio
- **Receiver:** Person who gets the message
- **Sender:** Person who sends the message
- **Transmission:** Sending a message over radio

Equipment

- **Apparatus:** Firefighting vehicle
- **Deck Gun:** Fixed, high-volume water device on fire trucks
- **Dry Barrel Hydrant:** A hydrant that drains to prevent freezing
- **Handline:** Hose operated by hand
- **Hose Appliance:** Tools used with fire hoses to control flow
- **Hose Couplings:** Connect hoses to each other or a water source
- **Hose Lays:** How hoses are arranged from source to scene
- **Hose Loads:** Hose stacking methods for easy deployment
- **Nozzle:** Controls water stream from a hose
- **Pumper Truck/Attack Engine:** Vehicle with pump, hose, and water for fire attack
- **SCBA** (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus): Air tank and mask for breathing in smoke-filled areas
- **Standpipe:** Built-in pipe system for supplying water inside buildings
- **Storz-Type Coupling:** Quick-connect hose ends without threads
- **Suction Hose:** Pulls water from static sources
- **Supply Hose:** Delivers water from source to pump
- **Threaded Couplings:** Screw-type hose connections
- **Turnout Gear:** Protective clothing worn during responses

Education and Training

- **Codes and Standards:** Laws and guidelines for fire safety
- **Exit Drills In The Home (EDITH):** Practice home fire escape plans
- **Home Safety Surveys:** Checking homes for fire safety issues
- **NFPA (National Fire Protection Association):** Sets fire safety standards

Fire Science

- **Backdraft:** Explosive ignition when oxygen re-enters a smoldering fire
- **Combustion:** Chemical process of burning
- **Conduction:** Heat transfer through contact
- **Convection:** Heat movement through air or gas
- **Decay Stage:** Fire slows as fuel runs out
- **Fire Tetrahedron:** Fire needs heat, fuel, oxygen, and a chemical reaction to burn
- **Fire Triangle:** Fire needs heat, fuel, and oxygen to start
- **Flashover:** Sudden full-room ignition
- **Fully-Developed Stage:** Maximum burning
- **Growth Stage:** Fire starts spreading and intensifying
- **Heat Transfer:** Movement of heat via conduction, convection, or radiation
- **Incipient Stage:** Fire just igniting
- **Light (Thermal) Energy:** Heat and light given off by fire
- **Mechanical Energy:** Energy from movement, sometimes causes sparks
- **Oxidation:** Reaction of fuel with oxygen
- **Pyrolysis:** Breakdown of material from heat before ignition
- **Radiation:** Heat traveling in waves
- **Smoke Colour:** Helps indicate type of material burning
- **Smoke Explosion:** Ignition of trapped fire gases

Incident Command Structure

- **Chain of Command:** Order of authority
- **Division:** Personnel and resources assigned to a geographic location
- **Emergency Management Organization (EMO):** Coordinates emergency responses
- **Group:** Personnel and resources assigned to a specific task
- **Incident Action Plan (IAP):** Plan for managing an incident
- **Incident Command System (ICS):** Structured approach to managing emergencies
- **Incident Commander (IC):** Person in charge of an incident
- **Operations Function:** Part of ICS that manages tactical operations
- **Span of Control:** Number of people a leader can manage (usually 3–7)
- **Single Resource:** One unit (e.g., one engine or person)
- **Unity of Command:** Each person reports to only one boss

Operations and Tactics

- **Advancing Hose:** Moving hose toward the fire
- **Attack Hose:** Used directly on the fire
- **Charged Hose:** Filled with water, ready to use
- **Defensive Operations:** Fighting fire from a distance
- **Establishing Command:** Identifying who's in charge
- **Evolution:** Planned firefighting tasks or maneuvers
- **Exposure:** Nearby object at risk of catching fire
- **Freelancing:** Acting without direction during an incident
- **Initiating Response:** Units are en route
- **Overhaul:** Checking for and putting out hidden fire
- **PAR (Personnel Accountability Report):** Roll call for safety
- **Rehabilitation:** Rest and recovery for firefighters
- **Salvage:** Protecting property during/after firefighting
- **Scene Size-Up:** Assessing what's happening at the scene
- **Size-Up:** First look and judgment of the fire scene
- **Staging Area:** Place where people/equipment wait near the scene

PPE and Safety

- **Accountability Tag:** Tracks firefighter location and status
- **Bunker Gear:** Full protective firefighting gear
- **Carcinogens:** Cancer-causing substances from fire/smoke
- **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM):** Mental health support after tough calls
- **Freelancing:** Acting without direction during an incident
- **PPE (Defensive):** Gear for indirect fire attack
- **PPE (Structural):** Gear for entering burning buildings
- **Rehab Officer:** Person monitoring health in rehab area
- **Safety Culture:** Shared values and actions for safety
- **Unacceptable Risk:** Danger too high to allow action

Radio Language and Protocols

- **Arrival on Scene:** Unit has reached the incident
- **Cancelling Response:** Units not needed anymore
- **Clearing the Scene:** Leaving the scene, ready for next call
- **Incident Type:** Describes the emergency
- **Location Indicators:** Help identify where something is
- **Phonetic Alphabet:** A set of code words used to clearly communicate letters over radio
- **Priorities:** Life safety, property protection, incident control
- **Resource Request:** Ask for more units/equipment
- **Situation Report:** Update on the current status

Water Supply

- **Dry Hydrant:** Pipe for pulling water from lakes or ponds
- **Portable Pump:** Moveable water pump
- **Portable Tank:** Temporary water holding tank at the scene
- **Pumper Truck/Attack Engine:** Vehicle with pump, hose, and water for fire attack
- **Static Water Supply:** Water from non-pressurized sources like ponds
- **Water Fill Station:** Spot for refilling water trucks
- **Water Shuttling:** Moving water from water source to scene