

FIREHOUSE®

Weekly Drill

DRILL #130: SCORE

Introduction

SCORE is a nice simple acronym to help firefighters, company officers, and command officers get their command structure established. If conducted in the proper sequence you will SCORE big!

Here is how it works. The “S” stands for Scene Evaluation. Some considerations to observe here are:

- Factors necessary to mitigate the problem being confronted upon arrival. These are broad in scope, but important to the success of the operations.
- Once identified, you will need to prioritize them in the order that they need to be addressed.
- Next is to calculate the needed resources to accomplish these tasks.
- Then match up the resources to the tasks that you have identified in your strategic plan.
- Finally, control the resource to fulfill the needs of the Incident Action Plans. Don't allow the resources to freelance.

The “C” stands for Command Post. Every event we respond to, whether it is a single company run or a multiple alarm incident, will require a strong command presence. Someone needs to establish and take command and then communicate this information to all resources and the dispatchers as to who is in command and where the command post will be located.

The “O” stands for Organization and Objectives. The organization should be built to support the incident's needs; our strategy and tactics. The objectives are the things we want to accomplish.

The “R” represents the Resources that the incident is going to require to mitigate the problem. The key here is to identify the need for additional resources early on in the incident and get them on the road. I like to tell my



company officers that “if you pull up on scene and the thought goes through your mind that this incident may have the potential to go to a second alarm; then call for the resources right then, because the incident probably will escalate to second alarm.” Generally, we like the incident commander to have a task in mind for the additional resources they call. However, in this case the resources can be placed in staging should they arrive before you have a task for them.

And last, the “E” in SCORE. The “E” stands for Evaluate. In other words, review, evaluate and revise the incident action plan as the incident dictates. Are your objectives being met? If not, and it is because of a lack of resources; then request more. If the objectives are being met, can we start de-escalating and send some of the resources back in service?

At your next incident try this acronym and see how well you SCORE!

—Prepared by Russell Merrick