

MA Fire District 14

Accountability System



MA Fire D14 Accountability

- **D14 will utilize a Velcro style personnel accountability and apparatus accountability system.**
- **The intent of the system will be to provide a uniform and standardized accountability system for all 23 Fire Departments within D14.**

D14 Accountability System

- **Upon completion of training and issuance of the components, students will have a working knowledge of personnel accountability and apparatus accountability.**
- **Course content will cover components and operating guidelines.**

Purpose of Accountability

- Why was fireground accountability developed?



Accountability

“Effective accountability of resources at all jurisdictional levels and within individual functional areas during incident operations is essential.” (FEMA)

ACCOUNTABILITY
BREEDS
RESPONSE-ABILITY.
~STEVEN COVEY

Accountability...It's more than a name tag

- **There are three tiers of accountability**
 - **Personal Accountability**
 - **Co. Officer Accountability**
 - **Incident Commander Accountability**





Personal Accountability

- **Every member of the fire service, from “the boot” up to the Chief of Dept. should know and practice accountability and abide by the department’s system.**
- **Personal responsibility is the backbone of personal accountability.**

Co. Officer Accountability

- **Co. Officers need to assure their members provide personal accountability.**
- **Co. Officers need to keep a keen eye on their members and maintain accountability.**
- **Co. Officers NEED to address members who aren't personally accountable.**
 - It can't be ... “ Oh, that's how ‘X’ is.”



Incident Commander Accountability

- **The IC takes the foundation of accountability ; personal and co. officer, and builds on it.**
- **By using the dept.'s accountability system and tracking the co.'s assignments it provides a mechanism for safer Fireground operations.**
- **It provides a more manageable command & control function.**

Why?



Team Effort

- All accountability systems are only as good as the people that use them!!!!
- DO YOUR PART!!!!



Components of the D14 Accountability System

- Apparatus Cards
- Name Tags
- Command Board
- Mutual Aid
- “Wall of Shame”



Apparatus Cards

- **Each apparatus has two cards; one red and one white.**
- **Each card will identify D14 and the community and apparatus name.**



Firefighter Tags

- Each member is issued 6 name tags.
- Name tags are mounted on the brim of your helmet.



D14 Accountability Basics

- **Used in conjunction with ICS to identify company assignment.**
- **Creates a riding list of company members for better accountability.**



Firefighter Tags

- At the start of each tour 1 name tag is placed each of the two apparatus cards.
- If member “cross staffs”, tags will be used in each vehicle.



Operation of the System

- **On day-to-day responses, the two apparatus cards with the crew tags stay where they are.**
- **On larger incidents the IC will request or send for them to begin using for Fireground Accountability.**
- **All mutual aid companies will provide their apparatus cards to IC upon arrival at scene.**

Use at Large scale incidents

- **There is no delay in initial companies going to work.**
- **1st arriving unit Apparatus cards are collected by a designated member or by Command.**



Use at Large scale incidents

- **Mutual Aid companies reporting to an emergency scene will transfer their White Apparatus Tag to the IC or delegated Accountability Officer.**
- **The Red Card stays on the truck.**





Example of operator staying outside

**Driver/Operator staying on turntable or operating the pump
will have their name tag remain upside down.**



Example of operator leaving apparatus unattended

Command call for full crew packs and tools. Driver grabs pack/tool and goes with crew. The CO will flip the bottom tag to face upright indicating the driver is away from the vehicle and in hot/warm zone.

Command Board

- **Used at large scale incidents by the Accountability Officer.**
- **Several versions are being used with the same concept being applied...resource accountability.**



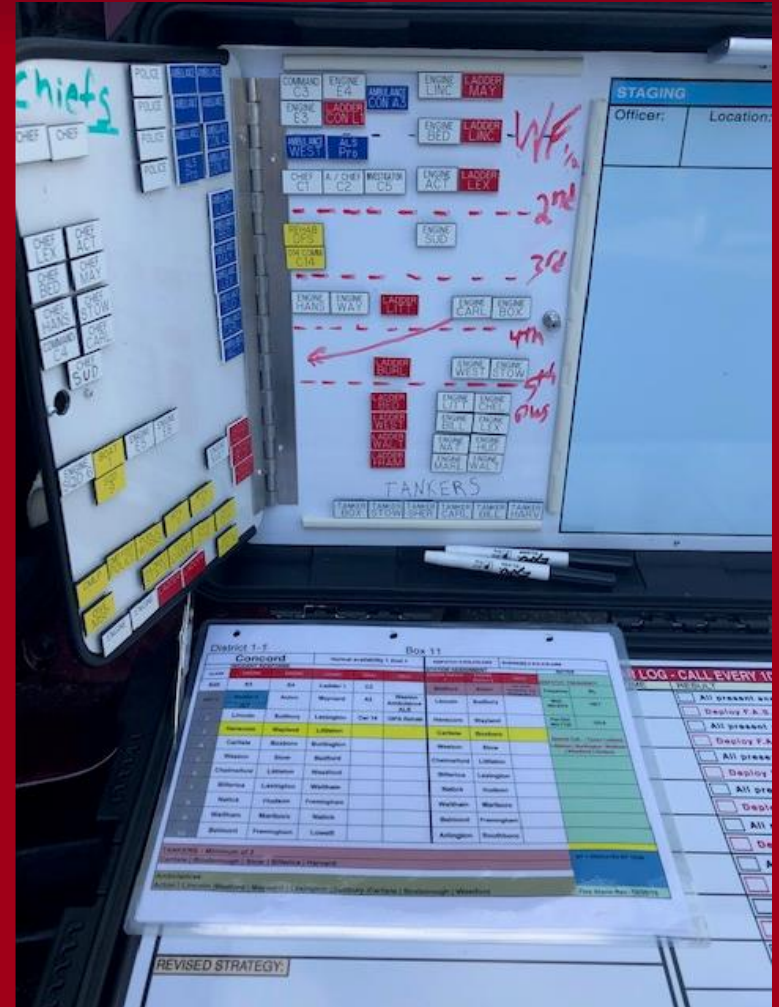
Command Board

- Divisions, assignments, resources are all tracked.
- Accountability and Command and Control cannot be effective without full circle communications.



Assignments

- **Command/Operations** will give orders to a crew.
- **Accountability Officer** will hear or be told the assignment and then place that company into the location.
- **The tracking only** remains accurate when companies report status.



Assignment Example #1

- Crew is assigned primary search.
- Crew searches Division 1 and reports, “Primary complete division 1, all clear moving to Division 2.”
- Accountability simply moves the tag to reflect company location.



Assignment Example #2

- Crew is low on air and reports this to the IC.
- Accountability hears this and looks for confirmation crew is out.
- Confirmation can be visual or simply reporting they are out of the building.



Fireground Safety and the Big 3



3

- **The connecting link between Command & Control and an effective Accountability Program is COMMUNICATIONS.**

Demobilization



- **Prior to being released from the scene, the Company Officer will check in with the Accountability Officer.**
- **Confirmation will be made and crews will be released.**

Completion of Shift

- When member is no longer on the apparatus, they remove their name tag and place it back on their helmet.



Wall of Shame

- **Location on the apparatus floor where the forgotten tags are placed.**



Fireground Accountability

- Only as Good as the People that use it!!!!



Conclusion

- **Tag up.**
- **Be accountable.**
- **Communicate.**

