

## Tactical Exercise; Denver Fire Captain Assessment Center 2022 (Orientation Day Instructions)

This orientation sheet outlines the process for the tactical assessment. Use this document and the one-page Staffing Document you've received, to prepare for the tactical assessment. On the assessment day you will be given a near duplicate of this document for your review. However, on the day of your assessment, additional information you'll receive includes; A) the duration of the tactical exercise, B) which apparatus you're responding on, C) the weather conditions and D) the time of day when running the tactical scenario.

On the assessment day, in a separate room, you will be given five (5) minutes to complete your review of the tactical process which includes the two-page briefing document and the single page staffing document (which is also available today). During your five-minute preparation time, you will be at liberty to create your own tactical worksheet, if desired. The goal is to make the assessment process as straight-forward as is reasonable to allow candidates to demonstrate their level of preparedness.

After completing the five (5) minute briefing, you'll be escorted into the assessment room where you will be dispatched by a proctor, and can then respond to the incident. The actual scenario time does not start until the simulation is displayed on the screen, which is when your apparatus approaches and then arrives on-scene. You should manage actions and words as if your scenario is an actual event happening in Denver. (During today's candidate orientation session, a short example of how a video presentation appears on-screen will be displayed). As you view this, put yourself in the role of Incident Commander and envision giving tactical assignments to arriving crews. This will help you mentally prepare for your tactical assessment. Tactical assignments should be given succinctly and be based on incident needs. A proctor will respond to these assignments, representing additional officers on arriving apparatus.

The assessment time will start when the display is shown on the screen. First, you will see three "approach views" (labeled as such) and then arrive at the pre-determined command post location. At times throughout the scenario, you will be given information via text on-screen. The text screens are intended to deliver pertinent information as you manage the incident. You will be notified of text screens with an audible sound from the computer. The simulation will be of a structure which has been edited for flames and/or smoke. The simulation will NOT show arriving apparatus, hose lays or ladder placements. You are welcome to move closer to the display screen if you feel that will give you a better view.

You will arrive first on-scene, followed by additional apparatus included in the initial response. Any additional apparatus will arrive at pre-determined intervals. You are to function as the Incident Commander and maintain that role until relieved by a chief officer. When the District Chief arrives, you will be given a short amount of time to perform a transfer of command. Following, you will be reassigned to another position at the incident scene. The proctor will coach you throughout the process as needed.

Your command and communication skills, crew tracking ability and strategic and tactical skills are being evaluated during the simulation. **Please note, if it's not communicated, it cannot be evaluated.**

The intent is for each candidate to use the portable radio to communicate tactical assignments to arriving crews, as if operating at the incident scene. **The radio will remain off and is used as a prop.** You are to function as if the portable is your primary means of communicating with arriving crews. You are not to rely on face-to-face communications with arriving apparatus; all tactical assignments are to be

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made over the radio. However, since you will arrive with crew members on your apparatus, you may speak directly to their own crew by talking directly to the assessors.

When giving tactical assignments, candidates are encouraged to use specific apparatus identifiers (such as Engine 2, Engine 3, Truck 1, etc.), instead of saying “next arriving.”

Assessors will base most of their score on what and how you communicate, as if they were watching you during an actual alarm. **You are at liberty to communicate your operational intent directly to the assessor panel at any time, however, all tactical assignments must be made over the radio, as if you were actually at this incident scene.**

As mentioned, responding resources will arrive at pre-determined intervals. You will know when they are on-scene when their “plastic accountability tag” is placed in front of you at the command post, which is where you will sit, (or stand if preferred). The tag is about 1 ½” X 3” and gives apparatus indicators at the time they are arriving. Apparatus will not audibly “arrive on-scene.” This would unnecessarily tie up your communication time.

All emergency scene tasks will be accomplished in a slightly reduced time frame following the giving of tactical assignments. For that reason, you’ll feel some degree of time compression which is intended. Manage the alarm decisively by eliminating unnecessary activity and words at the command post. When the District Chief arrives, (indicated by an arriving siren), you will be given one-minute to transfer the command to the arriving chief officer. Following you will be reassigned to another position on the incident scene. You will be notified as to your new assignment and location via text on-screen. After functioning in this new position, and, at the end of the scenario, you’ll hear three (3) dings, signaling the exercise is over.

When you communicate using the portable radio (as a prop), giving tactical assignments to arriving officers, a proctor will respond to tactical assignments, and will also give reports on conditions representing on-scene crews. **Reports from crews operating on-scene will ONLY be given if there is a request by the candidate.** A dispatcher will also respond via the simulated radio.

Remember, information or condition updates will only be given when requested using the radio. Without being requested, no reports on conditions will be given. Be sure to verbalize all of your assignments and tactical objectives as you would at the scene of a fire.