BA Entry Control Officer

Training Document

BAECO

Breathing Apparatus Entry Control Officer (BAECO) is a role taken by a firefighter on a scene.

They're primary job is communication with BA Crews, assigning BA Crews and monitoring BA Crews air capacity.

There are some cases, such as outdoor vehicle fires, where BA may be used, but a BAECO is not needed, BAECO are mainly used on structure fires, or incidents where BA Crews will be working for a long time/confined space.

Where it should be used

A entry control officer should be in use for a variety of incidents such as

- Any Interior fire.

- Incidents where BA will be used for long periods of time

- Any incidents what have a lot of smoke

- Some exterior fires depending on on the incidents - Whenever the OIC has requested

Pre-incident Procedures

BA Entry Control Procedures are designed to provide a consistent method for the safe and effective command and control and management of BA operations.

The BA Entry Control point is the designated position at which BA deployment and command control is manager and formed it

Disciplined adherence to BA Entry Control Procedures, Briefings, instructions is critical to the safety and effectiveness of BA operations and to BA team.

LFB
LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Bridgehead or Forward BA Entry Control Point

This arrangement allows an incident to be dealt with by deploying BA wearers from a safe-air environment within a structure while being as close as practical to the scene of operations. This may be considered necessary by an Incident Commander where there is a need to establish a BA Entry Control point at a distance from the first point of access to a building.

.Put the ba board in front and in sight of the door

.The board must be a safe distance away

.The baco must always be at the ba board

BA Briefing

When a ECO is in use, before any BA team starts their duties, they need to go to the ECO with a simple explanation of who is in the team and where they are going.

Radio Callsigns When assigning a BA crew, a callsign is given, if only one BAECO is in effect, the callsign for BA Crews that should be assigned are ALPHA (1, 2, 3, 4,) If there are multiple BAECOs, or multiple points of entry to a fire, the callsigns for BA crews might vary, I.e; Alpha BA crews enter through the front entrance, Bravo BA crews enter through the back entrance And then (at discretion of BAECO)

BA Briefing

RESCUE Brief

R - Route and Reason - where they are planning on searching and why

E - Equipment in use - the equipment the BA team are going to use

S - Specific Hazards - specific hazards the BA team needs to know (chemical spills, gas leaks, etc.)

C - Communications - who is communicating to BAECO, advise them their radio callsign and frequency

U - Understanding - check their understanding, if needed ask the BA crew to repeat

E - Emergency procedure - ensure they understand the emergency procedure

BA Briefing

An ideal RESCUE Brief from BAECO is:

'Hello guys, you guys are doing a Left hand direction search for Search and Rescue For a reported casualty as well attacking the fire in the kitchen, you guys are using one 22mm hose reel jet and a thermal imaging camera, there is a confirmed fire in the kitchen with a gas leak, I want (firefighters) to be communicating with me in (Breathing Apparatus 3) your callsign will be Alpha 1. Do you understand your Brief and have any questions. As well Just making sure, if you hear 3 whistles blown, all BA teams should exit the risk area immediately.

Initial Deployment

BA Entry Control points should be designated and identified at the incident by means of suitable referencing using the phonetic alphabet. The first BA Entry Control point established at the incident will be designated 'Alpha', the second 'Bravo', and so on.

BA teams deployed from the BA Entry Control point will be identified by a sequential numbering system. For example, at BA Entry Control point Alpha, the first BA team will be designated 'BA team Alpha 1', the second team 'BA team Alpha 2', and so on.

Initial Deployment

Operational Practice – Initial Deployment:

• Initial deployment will only be undertaken on the instructions of the IC

• Under Initial deployment no more than TWO BA wearers will be in the risk area.

• The pump operator may personally adopt the role of monitoring BA wearers

Operational Practice – Role and Responsibilities of the Monitoring Pump Operator:

• Establish and maintain communications with BA wearers and Incident Commander.

• Undertake other essential duties as required (e.g. pump operator).

• Be relieved of all other duties when resources permit to implement full Stage 1 Entry Control procedures.