An actual or potential fire situation exists and the life hazard exceeds the rescue EMS capabilities of initial alarm companies.

The number, location and condition of actual victims exceeds the rescue/removal/treatment capabilities of companies.

An actual or potential fire situation exists and the property protection demand (both internal and external) exceeds the fire control capabilities of initial alarm companies.

Fire conditions become more severe or the situation deteriorates significantly.

All companies have been committed and the fire is not controlled.

Forces are depleted due to exhaustion or injury or are trapped or missing: Command must forecast the effect the fire will have on personnel and provide for the support of such personnel in advance.

Command runs out of some resource (men, apparatus, water, equipment, command, etc.).

There is evidence of significant fire but companies are unable to determine location and extent.

The commitment of companies is not effective.

Companies cannot effectively perform early loss control operations.

Situation becomes so widespread/complex that Command can no longer effectively "cope"--the situation requires larger command organization and more sector functions.

The weather is or has the potential to have a particularly exhausting effect on resources.

Command instinctively feels the need to summon additional resource--(don't disregard fireground hunches).