

Enchanted Circle Regional Fire Association

Model Operating Procedures

Staging

Purpose

This procedure describes a standard method of staging responding resources in order to meet the following objectives:

- Prevent excessive apparatus congestion at the fire scene
- Allow the IC to commit apparatus in an orderly fashion.
- Reduce radio traffic during a critical stage of the incident.
- Provide for a tactical reserve that can be immediately assigned on the incident.

Procedure

All *First Alarm* resources except water supply apparatus will respond directly to the fire scene and place themselves according to guidelines contained in the *Apparatus Placement Procedure*. Water supply apparatus, *Second Alarm* resources, and all subsequently arriving apparatus will stage in a designated staging area and report to the Staging Area Manager. In the event that a staging area has not been established, apparatus will stage in their direction of travel several blocks from the fire scene and inform the IC by radio that the apparatus is staged and awaiting assignment. The distance to stage from the fire scene will be determined by the Company Officer with consideration for the following:

- A sufficient distance from the fire scene to allow flexibility in approach and placement.
- In an area that is large enough to allow apparatus to pass each other.
- Close enough to the fireground to be quickly available for an urgent assignment.

Designated Staging Areas

A staging area will be considered an *Designated Staging Area* if it is managed by a Staging Area Manager. The Staging Area Manager will select the location for the Staging Area with the following considerations:

- A large enough area to accommodate the anticipated resources.
- An area that is easily located by responding apparatus.
- Close enough to the fire scene to allow for quick response to assignments
- Far enough away from the fire scene to avoid contributing to apparatus congestion.

The Staging Area Manager should keep both the IC and Dispatch informed of the location of the Staging Area, and of apparatus arriving in staging. In addition, the Staging Area Manager should be prepared to give Company Officers a face-to-face briefing on assignments as they are received from the IC, and good directions regarding direction of approach and placement of their apparatus on the fireground.