

CHAPTER II Operations

SUBJECT 2 Command

TOPIC 3 Staging

A. PURPOSE

1. To describe Staging of Operation Section Units during emergency incidents.

B. POLICY

1. Staging of apparatus, manpower and equipment is wholly at the discretion of the Incident Commander, except that the pre-plan for a property can include staging instructions. The Incident Commander shall decide the location and magnitude of Staging, if not pre-planned.

The Incident Commander can initiate auto staging by directing the Staging Officer to keep a set number of Companies in the Staging Area.

2. Companies assigned to Staging shall respond to, and remain at the Staging location awaiting orders.
3. Staging may be initiated at any incident and is totally at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

C. OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a system for better placement and management of apparatus arriving at an incident scene.
2. Provide a ready reserve of apparatus, manpower, or other required resources near the incident scene.
3. Prevent blockage of access by parked apparatus.

D. SAFETY

1. Staging allows the Incident Commander to better utilize manpower and equipment within an action plan, thus preventing dangerous free-lancing.
2. Manpower and equipment held in reserve near the incident location provide immediate backup for operating units.

E. ORGANIZATION

1. Level 1 Staging – First Alarm Companies shall position the apparatus as described in Section 203.01 (T) {Apparatus Placement for All One Alarm Fires or Fire Protection System Alarms}. When no signs of fire are apparent the first arriving Engine and Truck shall investigate and later arriving Companies shall remain with their apparatus.
2. Level 2 Staging – An area away from the incident scene to position apparatus until requested to respond into the emergency scene by the Incident Commander. The Staging Area shall be far enough away from the incident as to not impede fire operations. All Companies responding on the Second Alarm or greater will first respond to Level 2 Staging unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.
3. The Officer of the first arriving Company in Staging (Level 2) shall assume the role of the Staging Officer, and shall remain at that location, until relieved of these duties usually by a responding Staff Officer.
4. The radio designation for the person in charge of staging is "Staging".
5. Staging will report to the Operations Section if established or to the Incident Commander if the Incident Commander is retaining the Operations function. On directions of the Incident Commander, staging may be placed subordinate to the Logistics Section.

F. STAGING OFFICER DUTIES

The Staging Officer will be responsible for the following functions:

1. Determine suitable location for staging area if different than location given by the Incident Commander
2. Notify Command; Staging has been established and location if changed.
3. Position apparatus in a conspicuous location and keep all warning lights on to designate the location of the Staging Officer.
4. Determine configuration to efficiently position incoming apparatus.

5. Maintain the staging area worksheet (a log of Companies, equipment and manpower available in the Staging area.)
6. The Staging Officer shall determine which Companies respond from Staging to the scene.
7. Notify all Company Officers in the Staging area, via face-to-face communication, that he is the Staging Officer.
8. Coordinate with police to block streets, to provide space for Staging area and access both to and from that area.
9. To guide and/or give directions for responding Companies to get into the Staging area.
10. Under the direction of the Incident Commander, assign Companies to Divisions or Groups, telling them where and to whom to report.

G. REASSIGNMENT IN ROUTE

When a Company gets an assignment via radio, prior to their arrival at the staging area, the Company will respond to the assigned position, not to staging. Staging is for uncommitted units.

H. STAGING LOCATION

1. The Level 2 Staging area preferably should be located at least one block from the incident scene, preferably at a location that will permit the easy movement and parking of apparatus.
2. The Incident Commander may give the location of staging as "In the Area Of _____", which leaves the exact Staging location at the discretion of the Staging Officer.

For Example:

The Incident Commander may state "Third Alarm Companies stage in the area of Plum & Mehring Way. The Staging Officer could then elect to place Companies in an available parking lot, normally used for stadium event parking.

3. A vacated fire station may be used as a Staging area; however, staged Companies are not to be confused with Companies advanced to another Companies quarters. Advanced Companies are in-service for other dispatches. Staged Companies are not available, except for dispatch to the scene of the incident for which they were staged.

I. MANAGING COMPANIES OR OTHER UNITS IN STAGING

1. Staged apparatus shall be parked for easy movement, usually in an angle parking configuration.
2. Members of Companies in Staging shall stay with their apparatus at all times, ready for immediate response to the emergency scene.
3. When request for manpower are made, the apparatus will be left at, or returned to the Staging location whenever possible. All members of units called from Staging for manpower will respond to the incident scene with all necessary equipment and PPE including SCBA. A member may be assigned by Staging to drive apparatus to and from the incident.
4. Other resources, including Emergency Medical Units, may also be placed in Staging.
5. In large scale or multi-function incidents the Incident Commander can establish more than one Staging location. In cases where there is more than one Staging area, Staging will be designated either by geographical location and/or function.

For Example:

At a mass casualty incident with a fire there could be,

Fire Staging

EMS Staging South

EMS Staging North