

Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline

STAGING AREA

Objective: To provide guidelines for staging responding apparatus and resources and the associated staging areas.

General Information: Falmouth Fire-EMS and its mutual aid partners use staging to serve as a location for incoming units to report to at an event. There are two levels of staging: Level One and Level Two.

Guidelines:

Level One Staging: Level One Staging shall be automatically established on all Still Box and Desk Box Alarms without further reference. In Level One Staging, the first arriving three engines, tower and ambulance shall respond to the scene and locate as appropriate unless otherwise directed. All other responding apparatus shall stop clear of the immediate scene and locate so as to be available for deployment to the scene while attempting to minimize disruption of area traffic.

A 4th Engine (possibly Tank 4) should stage prior to the scene in case it is needed to lay a line to or from a hydrant. A 2nd arriving ambulance should position itself on the hospital side of the scene in case it is needed to transport a patient from the scene. An additional aerial should stage prior to the scene in case it is needed to set up at an opposite side of the scene. In all cases, these apparatus should be placed such that other vehicles and apparatus can enter or leave the scene as needed.

For apparatus in Level One staging the crews should report to the scene and establish a resource group if not yet established. If resource group is already established the units should check in with the resource group supervisor.

Level Two Staging: Level Two Staging shall be implemented at the direction of the Incident Commander. Level Two Staging means the establishment of a designated staging area(s). A single staging area may initially be established which may involve sub section or separate areas as an incident progresses.

Level Two Staging areas are often used at multi-alarm fires where resources are brought to the scene to replace crews. Level Two Staging keeps them ready but out of the initial scene until needed.

The officer in charge of the first arriving unit at a Level Two Staging area shall automatically assume the position of Staging Officer until relieved.

Command shall determine the level of resources to be kept in Staging and the Staging Officer shall communicate with Fire Alarm to maintain those levels.

Command shall determine the number and location of staging areas.

The Staging Officer may organize their staging area into as many sub-units as they feel appropriate.

The Staging Officer shall coordinate with Command on the need for additional staging areas and their establishment.

The following are examples of multiple staging areas or sections of staging areas which may be established based on the incident.

Fire Apparatus Staging Area

Location for suppression-type apparatus. Should be established at a site large enough to stage engines and ladders.

EMS Staging Area

Location for EMS response and transport units. Should be established on the hospital side of the incident when possible.

Police Staging Area

A Police Department Supervisor or Officer will be assigned to oversee this staging area. It may consist of extra cruisers for traffic control and evacuation if needed.

Public Works Staging Area

A Public Works Supervisor will be assigned to oversee this staging area. This area may contain trucks with sand, a backhoe, bulldozer or front end loader and fuel trucks with diesel and gasoline. This supervisor will also control the dispatch of any private contractors to the scene if they are needed.

Bus Staging Area

Buses may be assigned to either the Police or Fire Department staging areas, depending on space available.

Haz Mat Staging Area

Location for dedicated Haz Mat resources from fire depts., other government agencies and private contractors.

Personnel Staging

A fire Department member, or a mutual aid officer, will oversee this staging area and will maintain contact with Command. Personnel staging should be established for incidents that require large numbers of personnel to provide for frequent crew rotations, or extended operations (Example: *Multiple alarms*,

Hazardous Materials incidents, etc.) This area should be within walking distance of the Command Post and remote from the incident.

Personnel rehab sector and Canteen Units may be incorporated into this area.

The Personnel Staging Officer should coordinate with the Rehab Officer for proper resting and to assure the readiness of personnel.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.