

## Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline

### BRUSH FIRES

#### **Objective:**

To provide guidelines for emergency response to brush fires.

#### General Information:

Falmouth Fire-EMS is called to numerous reports of brush, grass, and woods fires each year. Since brush, grass, and woods fires are often off-road or on uneven terrain, they are dangerous scenes. Steps must be taken to keep all personnel safe at these incidents.

#### **Guidelines:**

Falmouth Fire-EMS will respond to reports of brush, grass, or woods fires with two Engines, Utility 4, and a Chief Officer or Duty Officer. The on-duty Ambulance will also respond if it is in service and the call is not on a limited access highway (I-95, I-295 or Spur).

#### A. Role of 1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine:

- a. Scene Safety.
  - i. Protect the scene from oncoming traffic.
  - ii. Light up the scene
  - iii. Put out cones to make safe area
- b. Establish Command (if not done yet)
- c. Investigation / Size-up
  - i. Investigate the scene if not done yet.
  - ii. Size-up the Scene to determine size and movement of fire.
    1. Assess the need for other resources.
  - iii. Check for hazards
    1. Fire Hazards
    2. Terrain Hazards
    3. Other Hazards
  - iv. Suppression
    1. Provide charged hose line if needed.
      - a. Deploy charged 2.5" line if into woods.
      - b. Deploy Forestry Bag and attach to 2.5" line.
      - c. Bring hand tools into woods/brush as needed.

#### B. Role of Utility 4

- a. Provide Access
  - i. Deploy UTV (Utility 5 as needed)
- b. Equipment
  - i. Deploy Backpack Tanks, Forestry Bag, Chain Saw as needed.
- c. Assist Attack Crew

- C. Role of Ambulance (if responding)
  - a. Assist Engine Company as needed.
  - b. Set up Rehab Area if needed.
- D. Role of Chief Officer / Duty Officer
  - a. Establish Command if not already done.
  - b. Transfer Command if needed and already established.
  - c. Perform Safety or Assign Safety Officer
  - d. Assist Companies on scene as needed.
  - e. Ensure IMC report is completed.
- E. Role of 2<sup>nd</sup> Due Engine
  - a. Water Supply
    - i. Provide Water to Attack Engine as Needed.
    - ii. Secure hydrant if available.
  - b. Provide a “block” to protect scene if needed from oncoming traffic.
  - c. Assist Attack Group as needed.
    - i. Deploy Forestry Pack and attach to Attack Engine’s charged line.
    - ii. Bring hand tools to fire area as needed.
    - iii. Pull 2<sup>nd</sup> attack line if needed.

If fire is large more resources can be called to the scene. If the fire is next to, or headed toward, a building, request a desk box assignment (3 Engines, Aerial and Ambulance).

If fire is in a rural area, consider calling in tankers to the scene. Request tankers through dispatch.

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