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 1st 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 2nd 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 2nd 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.