

This guideline provides North Zone procedures for apparatus placement. The capabilities of an apparatus should regulate its placement. Breaking this rule often results in poor placement, which limits the options or eliminates the functions that can be assigned to that unit.

Fire personnel operate with a natural desire to drive apparatus as close to the fire as possible. This practice can result in positioning of apparatus that is dysfunctional and dangerous. The placement of all apparatus on the fireground should reflect one of the following:

- A standard operational procedure for first arriving companies
- A prearranged staging procedure
- A direct order from the Incident Commander
- A proactive decision on the part of the Officer assigned to that apparatus based on existing or predictable conditions

Avoid placing apparatus one behind the other in close proximity on the fireground. Do not drive all apparatus directly to the fire. First alarm units shall respond per North Zone policy (**EOM 401.00**) and await assignment.

In large, more complex fireground operations, additional alarm companies should be staged in a formal staging area with a Staging Area Manager consistent with the Incident Command System. Under the Incident Command System, the Incident Commander or Operations Chief communicates directly with the Staging Area Manager for additional resource requests from Staging. The Incident Commander should constantly maintain access to the fireground so that tactical options are not compromised. The Incident Commander should regard apparatus on the fireground in two categories:

- Apparatus Assigned
- Apparatus Available (Staged)

All assigned units should attempt to maintain an access lane down the center of the streets whenever possible.

Staged units should be parked out of the way of the fireground in a formal Staging Area, if established.

Personnel should think of apparatus as an expensive and avoidable exposure. Position apparatus in a manner that considers the size and location of the fire, and always evaluate the safety issues of fire spread and building failure.

Be aware of positioning apparatus where it cannot be repositioned easily and quickly, particularly operating positions with only one way in and out.

Be aware of overhead power lines when positioning apparatus. Do not park where lines may fall on apparatus.

If apparatus does become endangered by unexpected fire behavior, operate hose lines between the fire and the apparatus while the apparatus is repositioned. Moving apparatus several times during a fire can waste valuable time and compromise property conservation.

Enhance assigned units capabilities by taking advantage of good operating positions. Initial arriving units should be placed in locations that will take advantage of tactical priorities. These positions should offer maximum fire attack access to the fire area, and these units should be supplied with large diameter supply lines as quickly as possible. Hydrants located close to the fire area should be considered prime hydrants for initial fireground operations. However, do not connect to hydrants that are too close to the fire building. Ensure that fire personnel and apparatus will not be threatened in the event structural failure or unexpected fire extension occurs. It is vital that these first arriving units are assigned and positioned before additional arriving units arrive and block access.

Personnel should take advantage of the equipment on apparatus already in the fire area instead of congesting the area with additional units. Next arriving units can operate hose lines from the units already assigned and connected to a continuous water supply.

When a truck company is not needed for upper level access or rescue, it should be spotted in a location that will provide for elevated master stream operations in the event the fire progresses and a defensive mode of operation is necessary.

Truck Company Officers should consider the following:

- Extent and location of the fire
- Most dangerous direction of fire spread
- Confinement
- Exposure conditions
- Overhead obstructions
- Structural conditions in spotting apparatus

The Truck Company should be placed where the aerial can be raised and used effectively without repositioning.

The Incident Commander should position in a manner that will allow for safety and maximum visibility of the fire. The Incident Commander's vehicle should be positioned in a logical and easy to find location, and should not restrict the movement of units involved with firefighting operations.

Paramedic ambulances should be positioned in a safe location that will provide for the most effective treatment of fire victims and fire personnel while not interfering with fire fighting units or their operations.

STAGING AREAS DEFINED:

Primary Staging (First Alarm):

Resources will stage, uncommitted, approximately one block from the incident until assigned by the Incident Commander. Units in primary staging shall position so that tactical options such as access, direction of travel, and water supply are considered.

Secondary Staging (Formal Staging Area):

Resources from a 2nd alarm and greater will be initially assigned to a Secondary Staging Area. The Incident Commander may tactically assign resources prior to them arriving at the Staging Area based on the needs of the incident. When practical to do so, a Staging Area Manager will be assigned. Secondary Staging Areas shall be located in an area where resources will not impact the operations of the incident and should be located in a large enough area to accommodate the potential resource needs of the incident.