



APPARATUS STAGING

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department and shall be adhered to by all members.

PURPOSE

To establish a procedure for safe and efficient apparatus staging operations.

DEFINITIONS

Guideline - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

Member – any career, volunteer, staff, and auxiliary personnel affiliated with the department

Shall - indicates a mandatory requirement

Staging – physical location for unassigned equipment or personnel, not at the incident scene

Staging Area – physical location where incident personnel and equipment are assigned on an immediately available status

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GUIDELINES

Staging at emergency incidents provides for a uniform method for unassigned apparatus and personnel responding to the incident to safely await a tactical assignment. This process permits the Incident Commander to retain additional resources near the incident that can be forwarded to the scene in a coordinated manner. Staging of unassigned resources saves time in the event that additional resources are required at the scene by eliminating the need to request those resources and await their arrival. The benefits of effective utilization of staging procedures include:

- Reducing congestion and radio traffic during the initial stages of the incident, making movement of apparatus and communications easier
- Permitting the Incident Commander the time to evaluate scene conditions and formulate and implement a plan prior to allocating resources without confusion
- Establishes a pool of uncommitted resources, close to the scene, that the Incident Commander may assign on demand

Apparatus staging is divided into two levels, determined by the size and complexity of the incident.



Level I Staging

This level of staging is the default level for all incidents requiring three or more apparatus to respond. During any multi-Company response, Companies shall continue responding to the scene until a Company arrives on the scene. When multiple Companies may arrive simultaneously, the Company Officers shall utilize radio communications to prevent confusion upon arrival. The appropriate Dispatch Center (City or County) will be responsible to confirm the arrival of the first on-scene unit. Once a Company establishes command Level I Staging will be implemented in the following manner:

Multiple Company Medical Response

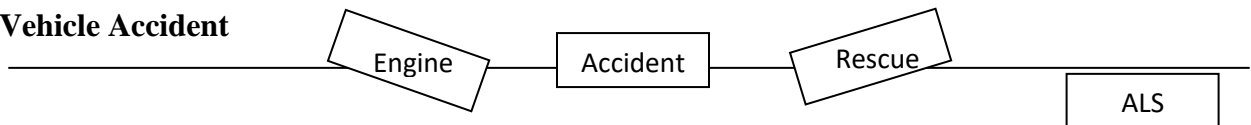
Most medical responses require only the Medical Squad (1371) and a responding Advanced Life Support Ambulance. However, there are circumstances that will require additional resources to be deployed for a medical response. Among these are motor vehicle accidents, multiple victim trauma scenes, etc. For these incidents, the first arriving Company shall place their apparatus in a location that will provide maximum access for medical/Rescue support. This position shall not impede access by other apparatus and be communicated by radio.

For vehicle accidents, the first arriving Rescue will proceed directly to the scene and position the apparatus to permit quick and unobstructed access for patient transportation and allow for efficient access to extrication equipment. The first arriving Engine Company will position the apparatus in a manner to protect the scene from secondary incidents.

All other Companies will stage in their direction of travel, approximately one block from the incident. Staged units will announce their arrival and report their staged location/direction ("Engine 1331, South").

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Vehicle Accident





Fire, Hazardous Material and Rescue Incidents

Level I Staging for incidents involving fires requires that the first arriving Engine Company respond directly to the scene, establish command, and initiate appropriate operations. The second and third Engine Companies, Aerial Truck Company and Rescue Company will proceed to the fire scene. All other apparatus shall stage approximately one block from the scene, in the direction of travel and await assignment after reporting on scene to the Incident Commander via the radio.

Hazardous Materials incidents require that the first arriving Engine Company proceed directly to the incident scene, establish command, and initiate appropriate operations. Additional apparatus shall stage approximately one block from the incident in the direction of travel and report to Incident Command. This prevents unnecessary contamination and hazards to arriving units until Command can formulate and implement a plan of mitigation.

Heavy Rescue incidents require that the first arriving Rescue proceed directly to the incident scene, establish command, and initiate appropriate operations. All initial dispatch apparatus shall proceed to the incident scene and position their apparatus at the direction of the Incident Commander. Additional units shall stage one block from the incident in the direction of travel, report to the Incident Commander via radio and await assignment.

Level II Staging

Level II Staging shall be implemented at all multiple alarm incidents.

This level of staging may also be implemented at any incident at the discretion of the Incident Commander to centralize resources or minimize the number of apparatus at a congested scene. Incident Commanders shall consider Level II Staging at any Hazardous Material, or Active Threat incident to minimize traffic and exposure. Level II Staging requires the assignment of a Staging Officer.

When additional resources are requested, after the implementation of Level I Staging, all incoming units will report to the designated Staging Area, however, units in Level I Staging will remain in place unless directed to relocate by the Incident Commander.

When the decision is made to establish Level II Staging, the Incident Commander shall designate an approximate Staging Area over the radio, the first arriving Company Officer shall become the Staging Officer and report to the Incident Commander. A separate radio channel shall be assigned as the Staging channel. The Staging Area should be some distance away from the Command Post and the emergency scene to reduce site congestion, but close enough for prompt response to the incident site. All additional resources shall be dispatched to the Staging Area instead of the incident scene.

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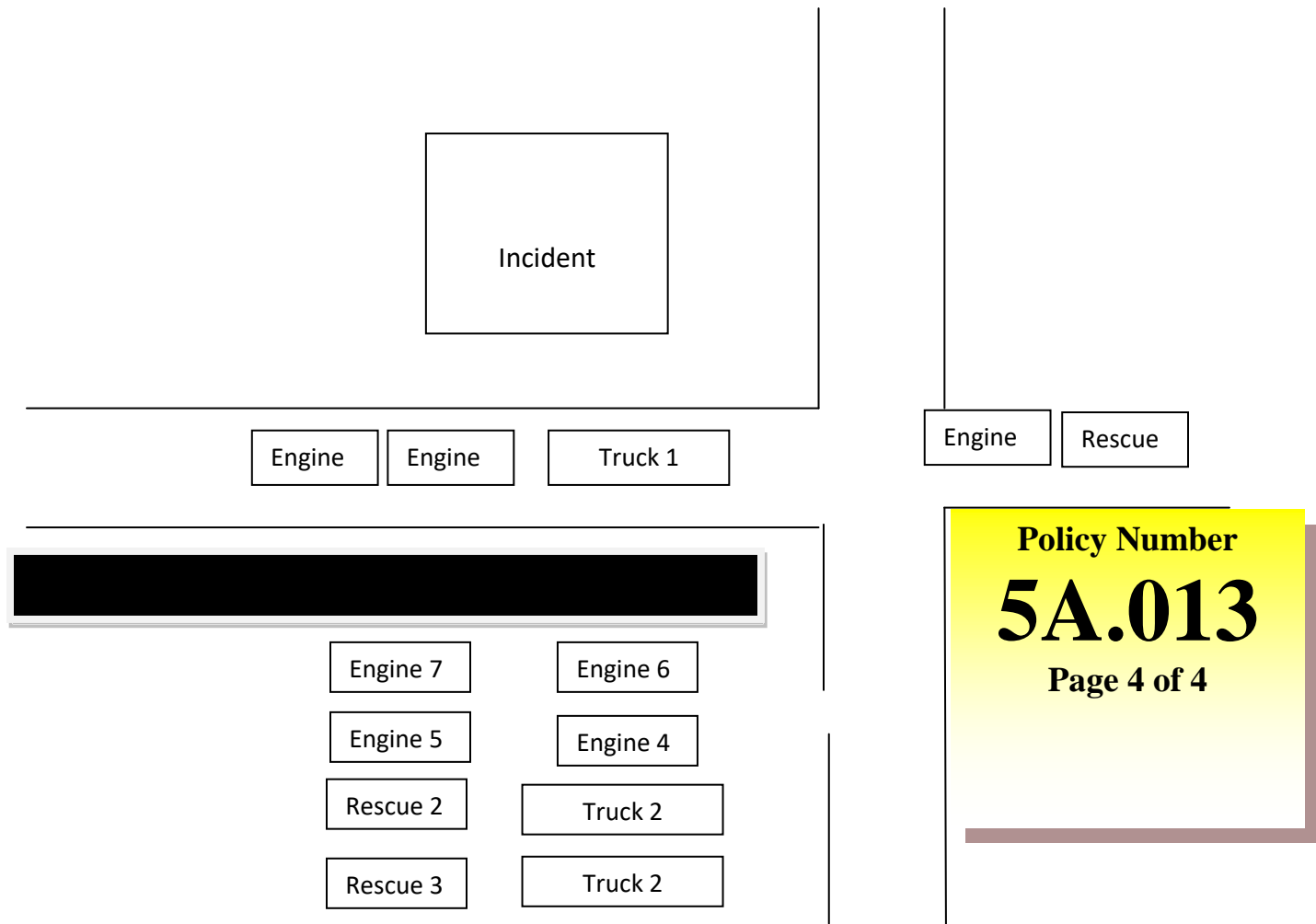
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Programs

Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)



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Aerial Companies shall not be assigned to duties as Staging Officers due to the limited number of Truck Companies. Engine Company Officers shall assign their crew to assist with Staging Area responsibilities or to other Engine Companies as needed.

The first arriving Chief Officer shall report directly to the scene and assume Command, if needed, all other Chief Officers shall report to Command.

References

NFPA 1002