

Pinion Pine Fire

Standard Operating Procedure
2012/13 revision



02 - STANDARD ON APPARATUS PLACEMENT

PURPOSE: To ensure proper placement of apparatus for scene safety and maximize work efficiency

SCOPE: All personnel

Apparatus function should regulate placement. Poor apparatus placement can reverse this rule, limiting the operations or eliminating functions to which a unit could be assigned.

Firefighters operate with a natural inclination to drive as close to the fire as possible. This often results in positioning the apparatus that is both dysfunctional and dangerous. The placement of all apparatus on an emergency scene should be a reflection of the following:

- Standard operational procedures for first arriving apparatus.
- Staging procedures.
- A direct order from command.
- A conscious decision on the part of the apparatus driver based on existing predictable conditions.

Effective apparatus placement must begin with the arrival of the first units. The placement of the initial arriving engine should be based upon initial scene size-up and general conditions upon arrival.

First arriving apparatus should place themselves to a maximum advantage and go to work. Later arriving units should be placed in a manner that builds on the initial plan and allows for expansion of the operation.

Avoid “belly to butt” placement on the fireground. Do not drive all fire apparatus directly in front of the fire. Reserve and mutual aid apparatus should stage a minimum of one block short of the immediate fire area and remain uncommitted until ordered into action by command. Apparatus

drivers should select staged position with a maximum of tactical option and as assigned by S.O.P. if applicable.

In large, complex and lengthy fireground operations, additional apparatus should be staged consistent with Level II Staging procedure. Under these procedures, command communicates directly with the Staging Officer for additional resources required on the fireground.

Command must maintain an awareness that access provides tactical option and that the immediate fire area can quickly become congested with apparatus. The Officer must regard apparatus on the fireground in (2) two categories:

1. Apparatus that is working.
2. Apparatus that is parked.

Park out of the way. Apparatus that is not working should be left in the Staging Area or parked where it will not compromise access/egress. Maintain access lane down the center of the streets, wherever possible or down the side of the street.

Think of apparatus as an expensive exposure. Position working apparatus in a manner that considers the extent and location of the fire and a pessimistic evaluation of fire spread and building failure. Anticipate the heat that may be released with structural collapse. Apparatus should generally be positioned at least 30 ft away from involved buildings, even with nothing showing. Greater distances may be required in many situations. The driver will stay with the apparatus at all times until relieved by the Fire Chief or Incident Commander.

Beware of putting fire apparatus in places where it cannot be repositioned easily and quickly, particularly in operating positions with only one way in or out (i.e. yards, alleys, driveways, etc).

Beware of overhead power lines when positioning apparatus. ***Do not park where lines may fall.***

If apparatus does become endangered, operate lines between it and the fire while you reposition it. When you do move it, move it to a position that is safe. It is dysfunctional to move apparatus several times throughout the progress of a fire.

Take maximum advantage of good operating positions and “build” the capability of units assigned to these effective positions.

These positions should offer maximum fire attack access to the fire area and supplied with supply lines as quickly as possible. Subsequent arriving apparatus can be supplied from this apparatus. Place these “key” apparatus first before access is blocked by later arriving units.

Key tactical positions should be identified and engines placed in those locations with strong water supply.

When high volume is indicated, a pumped supply line from a water tender should be provided. The forward engine can distribute this water supply to a variety of handlines, master streams or devices.

Order mutual aid water tenders as soon as possible as there will be a response time of more than 30 minutes.

Take advantage of the equipment on the apparatus already in the fire area instead of bringing in more apparatus. Connect extra lines to pumpers that already have a good supply line instead of making "daisy chain" supply line connections.

Fire hoses soon limit the general access, as the fireground operation gets older. Command and sectors must direct apparatus to important positions as early as possible. Lines should be laid with attention to these access problems they present.

Spot the command vehicle in a manner that will allow maximum visibility of the fire building and surrounding area and the general effect of the apparatus operating on the fire. Command vehicle operation should be easy and logical to find and should not restrict the placement or movement of other apparatus.

Ambulances and rescue units should be spotted in a safe position that will provide the most effective treatment of fire victims and firefighting personnel, while not blocking movement of other apparatus or interfering with fire fighting operations. Consideration must also be given for additional ambulances access to the Treatment Area in situations involving patient transportation.

On **wildland fires**, the fire apparatus should be parked to allow a rapid escape if needed and should not be parked with combustible material underneath or near the apparatus without the Engineer remaining with the apparatus to protect the apparatus. ***Remember to always leave water in the tank to protect the apparatus.***

On **motor vehicle accidents**, the apparatus driver must place the apparatus to protect the firefighters and scene if law enforcement and/or ADOT have not already provided for this. Otherwise position the apparatus to support the operation. Plan for the scene to change (road being opened). Place apparatus off the travel surface if possible.