



Rogers Fire Department
Tactics
505 Fireground Apparatus Placement
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide operational directives regarding apparatus placement at emergency incidents, namely structural fires.

POLICY

Apparatus placement is a difficult subject because of the wide spectrum of buildings that must be protected. Apparatus function should regulate its placement. Poor apparatus placement can limit the firefighting ability of the company and potentially eliminate use of specialized functions (ie: aerial ladder).

Fire companies must avoid the natural tendency to place trucks as close to the fire building as possible. Positioning trucks close to the fire building can hinder other, more useful apparatus, and can make them exposures. Effective apparatus placement must begin with the arrival of first units. The placement of the initial arriving unit should be based upon initial size-up and general conditions upon arrival. First arriving companies should place themselves to maximum advantage and go to work; at least one arriving engine company should stage at the most appropriate fire hydrant and later arriving units should be placed in a manner that builds on the initial plan and allows for expansion of the operation.

Avoid fireground congestion with apparatus. All apparatus should not be found in the immediate area of the fire. Companies arriving towards the last of the 1st alarm, or as part of the 2nd alarm should stage a block away and remain uncommitted until order to an assignment by the incident commander. This type of staging is described as “Level 1”.

In large, complex, and lengthy fireground operations, multiple alarm companies should be staged consistent with Level II staging procedure. Level II staging requires a formally designated staging area under the supervision of a Staging Area Manager (SAM). The Staging Area Manager is typically the company officer of the first assigned resource.

Apparatus at the scene of an incident will fit into two categories:

1. Those apparatus that are being actively used.
2. Those apparatus that are parked and are not necessary.

If an apparatus is not being used, it should be out of the general area to allow for adequate working room.



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Think of fire apparatus as an expensive exposure. Position 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 which may be released with structural collapse. Apparatus should generally be positioned at least 30 feet away from involved buildings, even with nothing showing. Greater distances are indicated in many instances.

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

When the aerial apparatus is not needed for upper level access or rescue, position apparatus in a position that would provide an effective position for elevated stream operation if the fire goes to a defensive mode. Truck officers must consider extent and location of fire, most dangerous direction of spread, confinement, exposure conditions, overhead obstructions, and structural conditions in spotting apparatus. The truck should be spotted where the aerial can be raised and used effectively without repositioning. It must also be spotted for effective use of hand ladders and allied forcible entry equipment.

Engine companies should leave the front of the fire building available for truck company placement. This situational awareness requires company officers to be prepared to extend fire hoses, in order to facilitate truck placement. Engine companies should also be mindful not to block truck access with supply line. It is the responsibility of the initial and subsequent incident commanders to dictate any deviation in aerial placement.

The incident commander's vehicle should be located in an area that provides for maximum visibility of the fire building and surrounding area. Command vehicle position should be easy and logical to find and should not restrict the movement of other apparatus.