

# SUBLIMITY FIRE DISTRICT

## Operational Guide

**SUBJECT:** Apparatus Placement

O.G. NUMBER:

**PURPOSE:** To describe the considerations for placing apparatus at emergency incidents.

Original Date: 5/10/98

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### *Apparatus Placement*

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

Generally, the first engine proceeds just past the fire building, leaving room for a ladder in front and allowing the officer a view of three (3) sides of the fire building.

First arriving apparatus should place themselves to 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. Additional 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 positions with a maximum of tactical options and as assigned.

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 the additional resources required on the fireground.

Command must maintain an awareness that access provides tactical options and that the immediate fire area can quickly become congested with apparatus. The officer must regard apparatus on the fireground in 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.

Maintain an access lane down the center of streets wherever possible or down the side of the street opposite that on which the hydrants are located.

Think of fire 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 which 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.

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, etc.)

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

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

Take advantage of the equipment on 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.

Do not hook up to hydrants so close to the fire building that structural failure or fire extension will jeopardize the apparatus or the supply lines.

Fire hose soon limits 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 the access problems they present. Try to lay lines on the same side of street as the hydrant and cross over near the fire.

When the aerial apparatus is not needed for upper level access or rescue, spot apparatus in a position that would provide an effective position for elevated stream operation if the fire goes to a defensive mode.

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