

***PURPOSE***

The initial placement and tactical use of arriving apparatus and personnel will greatly contribute to the overall success of managing emergency incidents.

OBJECTIVE

This staging guideline provides a standard system of initial placement for responding apparatus, personnel, and equipment prior to assignment at emergency incidents.

SCOPE

All Personnel

BASIC OPERATIONAL APPROACH

Effective utilization of this guideline will assist the Incident Commander (IC) with the following:

- Prevent excessive apparatus congestion at the scene of an emergency
- Allow time for the IC to evaluate conditions prior to assigning companies
- Place apparatus in an uncommitted location close to the immediate scene to facilitate more effective assignment by the IC
- Reduces radio traffic during the critical initial stages of an emergency incident
- Allows the IC to formulate and implement a plan without undue confusion and pressure
- Provides a resource pool from which the IC may assign units and resources as needed

LEVEL I STAGING

Level I staging is automatically in effect for all incidents involving three or more companies responding.

During any multi-company response, companies should continue responding to the scene until a company reports they are on-scene. In situations where the simultaneous arrival of first due companies is possible, the affected officers shall utilize radio communications to coordinate activities and eliminate confusion.

The first arriving engine company will respond directly to the scene and initiate appropriate operations.

The first arriving ladder company will respond directly to the scene. They shall announce their approach to the scene so that the IC may commit them to an assignment.

The first arriving water tender company will respond directly to the scene and operate as assigned by the IC.

The first chief officer will go directly to the scene and assume command functions, all other chief officers should report to the command post.

Squads and/or rescue companies will stage in direction of travel, uncommitted approximately one block from the scene until assigned by command. When applicable, and when responding from quarters, squads and rescues shall wait and allow engine and ladder companies to exit first.

In the event a squad or rescue arrives first on-scene, they will make an on-scene report and assume command until an engine, ladder, or chief officer arrives and command is transferred.

All other responding units, will stage in their direction of travel, uncommitted, approximately one block from the scene until assigned by command. A position providing a maximum of possible tactical options regarding access, direction of travel, water supply, etc., should be selected. Arriving units will announce their arrival on-scene and their staged location. For example, "Engine 712 is on-scene staging North", or "Engine 811 is on-scene staging at the hydrant Gulf Beach and Bauer Rd."

Unless directed by the IC, second due engine companies will stage at the closest available fire hydrant.

At no time should units self-assign.

All utility trucks (air, service, brush, etc..) will assume level I staging. If level II staging has been implemented, utility trucks will go to the level II staging location.

Staged companies will stay off the air until orders are received from command. However, if it becomes apparent command has forgotten the company is in a staged position, the company officer shall contact command and advise him/her of their staged status.

These staging procedures attempt to reduce unnecessary radio traffic, but in no way should reduce effective communications or the initiative of officers to communicate. If staged companies observe critical safety or tactical issues, they can advise command of such critical conditions.

LEVEL II STAGING

Level II staging is utilized when command desires to maintain a reserve of resources on-scene, and when the need to centralize resources is required. Level II staging places all reserve resources in a central location and automatically requires the implementation of a staging officer.

Level II staging will be implemented for all multi-alarm incidents. Level II staging should be considered for all incidents where the IC desires to centralize resources, or simply park apparatus in a central, unobstructed location.

Companies which are already staged (level I) or enroute to level I staging, will stay in level I staging unless otherwise directed by command. All other responding units will proceed to the level II staging area.

Command should consider Level II Staging when calling for additional resources and request a separate radio channel. This is more functional than calling for Level II Staging while units are en-route. The additional units will be dispatched to the Staging Area.

When activating level II staging, command will give an approximate location for the staging area and should consider utilizing a separate radio channel for communications with the staging officer. If this is the case, responding units should monitor both the tactical and staging channels.

Command may designate a staging area and staging officer who will be responsible for the activities outlined in this procedure. In the absence of such an assignment, the first officer to arrive at the staging area will automatically become the staging officer and will notify command on arrival. The arrival notification will be made to command on the assigned tactical channel.

Due to the limited number of ladder companies, a ladder officer will transfer responsibility for staging to the first arriving engine company officer. Staging officers will assign their company members as needed to assist with staging operations, or assign them to another company.

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 responding companies will stay off the air, respond directly to the designated staging area, and the company officer will report in person to the staging officer. The crew will standby their unit with crew intact until assigned incident site duties, or released from the scene.

When assigned to on-site duties, companies leaving staging will communicate directly with command, operations, or their assigned division/group officer for instructions.

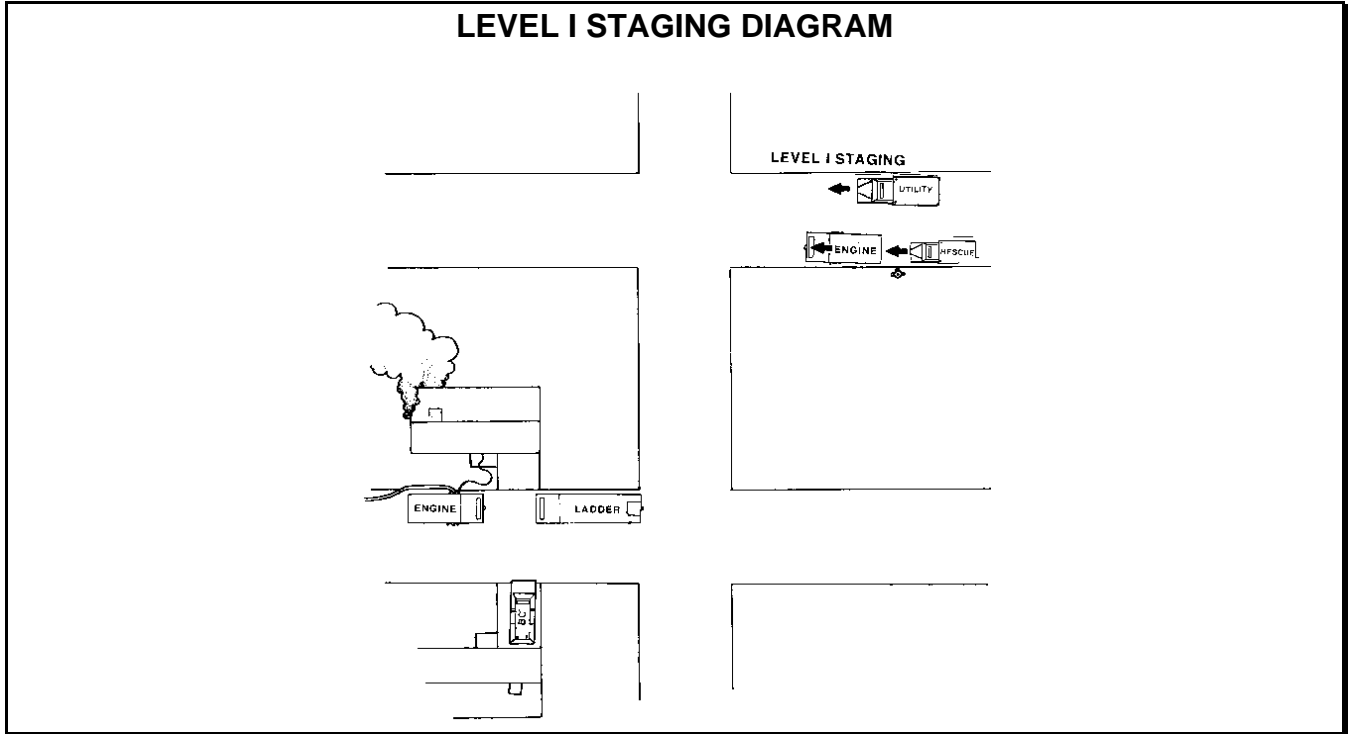
STAFF CHIEF OFFICERS AND CAPTAINS

Arrival on the scene of staff chief officers and captains can enhance the command organization and incident management. Unless arriving staff officers have predetermined responsibilities (i.e., Safety, Haz –Mat, etc.), these officers should assume a level I staging posture and announce their arrival on the tactical channel.

If the staging area has been assigned a separate radio channel, notification should be on the designated channel.

Vehicle parking at the site can be limited. Staff officers should leave their vehicles in the staging area, or park well off the road (i.e., parking lots) so as not to restrict on-site access by fire apparatus.

LEVEL I STAGING DIAGRAM



LEVEL II STAGING DIAGRAM

