

## Apparatus Staging

---

### Purpose:

The Purpose of this procedure is to provide a standardized system for initial staging for responding units prior to receiving a tactical assignment on an emergency scene.

### Scope:

This procedure applies to all Operations personnel responding to a multi-unit emergency scene.

### Procedures:

Effective utilization of this procedure will:

- Prevent excessive apparatus congestion at the scene.
- Allow time for Command to evaluate conditions prior to assigning companies.
- Place apparatus in an uncommitted location close to the scene to facilitate more effective assignments by Command.
- Reduce radio traffic during the critical initial stages of the incident.
- Allow Command to formulate and implement a plan **and then** assign resources as needed.

To achieve these objectives, there are two levels of staging: Level 1 and Level 2

### **LEVEL 1 STAGING**

Level 1 staging automatically applies to all multi-unit emergency responses involving three or more companies.

During a multi-unit response, all companies should continue to the scene until the first company arrives and declares Command. If simultaneous arrival of first-due companies is possible, the affected officers shall communicate and coordinate activities to eliminate confusion.

Once the first company arrives on scene, level 1 staging will be implemented in the following manner:

The FIRST ARRIVING ENGINE, LADDER, and COMMAND OFFICER will report directly to the scene to initiate operations, position apparatus on the scene, and assume Command.

ALL OTHER UNITS WILL stage in their direction of travel, uncommitted, and approximately one block from the scene until assigned by command. A position providing the greatest tactical advantage regarding access, direction of travel, water supply, etc. should be selected. At no time should units self-assign.

Units arriving at a level 1 staging location will report to command their UNIT DESIGNATOR, "STAGED LEVEL 1" and the DIRECTION OF THEIR APPROACH. Example: "COMMAND, ENGINE 221 STAGED LEVEL 1 TO THE SOUTH."

No acknowledgment is required from Command for any unit reporting that they are staged. Staged companies will stay off the air until orders are received from command. If it becomes obvious that command has forgotten about a staged unit, that company officer, after a reasonable amount of time, may re-advise Command of the company's status.

## **LEVEL 2 STAGING**

Level 2 staging is a specific location, determined by the incident commander, at which a tactical reserve of resources can be centralized and maintained for deployment to an emergency scene.

A level 2 staging location **must be provided at all multi-alarm emergency incidents** but may also be implemented at any incident at which Command desires to centralize resources at a safe and unobstructed location. This staging area should be far enough away from the incident and command post to reduce congestion but close enough to allow for prompt deployment of resources to the scene.

Companies already staged (level 1) will stay in level 1 staging until otherwise directed by command. All other responding units will proceed to the level 2 staging area. When activating level 2 staging, Command will provide the physical location of the Staging Area and should consider using an alternate channel for staging.

**EXAMPLE:** *Alarm Central from Command, strike a second alarm for this incident, level 2 staging for second alarm units will be at the Home Depot Parking lot.*

The first arriving officer in the staging area will automatically be designated as the Staging Officer. The radio designator for this position will be "STAGING". All other resources will report to the Staging Officer and will be deployed by him/her upon the request of Command. Units in staging will remain assembled and ready for immediate deployment.