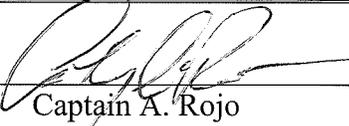




Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

Developed by: 
Captain A. Rojo

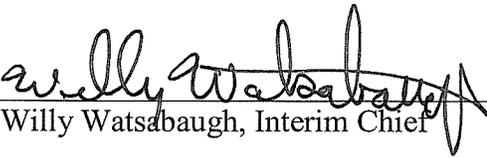
Title: Staging Guidelines

Division: 14

Approved by: _____

Article: 4

Revised: March 29, 2010

Approved by: 
Willy Watsabaugh, Interim Chief

Pages:

Approved by: _____

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines that will provide the Incident Commander and response personnel with a framework to manage resources for efficient deployment.

It shall be the practice for Jackson Hole Fire/EMS resources responding to jurisdictional emergent situations to enter into Level I and/or Level II staging as outlined in the following guidelines.

SECTION I – Basic Operational Approach

The objective of this procedure is to provide a standard system of initial placement for responding companies prior to assignment at tactical incidents. Effective utilization of this procedure:

- Will prevent excessive apparatus congestion at the scene.
- Will allow time for Command to evaluate conditions prior to assigning companies.
- Places apparatus in an uncommitted location close to the immediate scene to facilitate more effective assignments by Command.
- Produces more effective communications by virtue of reducing radio traffic during the critical initial stages of fire operations.
- Allows Command to formulate and implement a plan without undue confusion and pressure.

Staging will involve: **Level I** and **Level II**. Staging is assigned within the Operations Section.

SECTION 2 – Level I Staging

This procedure will automatically apply to all multiple unit responses and will necessitate the first arriving Command/Chief Officer or Engine Company, or Medic Company responding directly to the scene and operating to best advantage.

Companies should continue response to the scene until the first company reports on the scene. When a first arriving company reports on the scene, Level I staging will begin within these guidelines. Once

Command is established, resources may be ordered to the scene and positioned as needed. Command may advise company officers to approach the scene, leaving crews with their apparatus.

All other units shall 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 with regard to access, direction of travel, water supply, etc., should be selected. Staging resources shall position their vehicle so that they are not creating an unsafe situation. Resources should avoid staging on main roads, and should consider staging on a side street or parking lot.

Staged resources will, in normal response situations, report company status as "on scene" and their level 1 staging position "Engine-61, Level 1 staging, South of Hwy 390-incident". It may be necessary to be more specific when reporting standby positions in unusual response situations. A staging acknowledgment is not necessary from either Dispatch or Command.

Staged companies will stay off the air until orders are received from Command, unless they believe they may be forgotten by Command; in such cases, after a reasonable amount of time, they will contact Command and re-advise of their standby status.

SECTION 3 - Level II Staging

Level II staging relates to large or complex situations requiring an on-scene reserve of resources and involves formal staging in a designated area. The Staging Area should be away from the Command Post and from the emergency scene in order to provide adequate space for assembly and for safe and effective apparatus movement.

When Command announces a formal staging area, all responding resources will report to, and remain in, the Staging Area until assigned. When going to Level II, Command will formally announce "Level II Staging," and will give approximate location of the Staging Area.

Level II staging will automatically supersede Level I staging (unless the resource is already in Level 1 staging). Companies already staged in Level I will remain in Level I until assigned.

When calling for assistance or additional alarms, Command should consider Level II staging at the time of the call. This will be more functional than calling for Level II staging while units are en route.

Command will normally designate a Staging Area Manager who will be responsible for the activities outlined in this protocol. The Staging Area Manager shall report to Command, or Operations Section Chief if established. In the absence of such an assignment, the first Fire/EMS officer to arrive at the Staging Area will automatically become the Staging Area Manager. The Officer will notify Command of his arrival and will assume command of the Staging Area. In cases where the first Fire/EMS officer arrives with his company or is requested at the scene, he will assign his company members to best advantage inclusive of the position of Staging Area Manager.

The radio designation for the Staging Area Manager, Staging Area, and function will be "Staging." All communications involving Staging will be between Staging and Command (or Staging and "Operations," if so established). Staging will be responsible for communicating with staged resources.

All responding companies will stay off the air; respond directly to the designated Staging Area, and report directly to the Staging Area Manager. They will standby their unit, with crew intact and warning lights turned off. All resources in staging shall maintain a three minute available status.

When requested by Command, the Staging Area Manager will allocate resources to report to specific assignments, telling them where, and to whom to report. The Staging Area Manager will then advise Command of the specific unit(s) assigned.

Staging will give Command periodic reports of available companies in Staging

The Staging Officer will also be responsible for the following functions:

- Establish check-in and staging area layout.
- Insure that all apparatus is parked in an appropriate manner.
- Maintain a log of companies available in the Staging Area and inventory all specialized equipment that might be required at the scene.
- Coordinate with the Police Department to block streets, intersections, and other access required for the Staging Area (large incidents).
- Ensure resources maintain a state of readiness on a three minute available basis.
- Notify Command of resource status changes.