

# **POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **Emergency Vehicle Placement**

### **Standard Operating Guideline**

#### **Purpose:**

The Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department herein referred to, as “the Department,” concerned with the safety of its personnel, needs to establish an effective system to account for the correct placement of emergency vehicles at emergency incidents or when operating at Department activities.

#### **Scope:**

This standard regulates the placement and positioning of emergency vehicles at fire control and rescue incidents

#### **General Rules for Positioning Emergency Vehicles:**

- Apparatus function shall regulate placement. The first-arriving companies should position themselves to maximum advantage and go to work. Later arriving units should place themselves in a manner that builds on the initial plan and allows for expansion of the operation. However, at no time shall apparatus be positioned in a manner as to place it in an unnecessarily dangerous position.
- Apparatus that are not being used should be staged in an uncommitted position that will not congest the incident site and will facilitate performing a maximum number of evolutions.
- Private vehicles brought to the scene by support personnel should:
  - Not block the street. Leave the street open at all times to permit the movement of additional apparatus.
  - Park at least one block away and never in a cul-de-sac or in front of the building(s) involved in the incident.
  - Do not park in front of fire hydrants, sprinkler connections, or stand pipe connections.
  - Do not block private driveways.
  - Do not run over or park on fire hose with your vehicle.
- When placing or positioning an emergency vehicle at an incident, consider the following items.
  - Leave an access lane open down the center of the street.
  - Do not park in such a manner as to make the emergency vehicle an exposure.
  - At fires, avoid heat and smoke. Guard against possible building collapse.

- Do not become trapped. Allow adequate room to reposition the vehicle if necessary.
  - Be aware of overhead power lines.
  - Try to use hoselines and equipment off of apparatus at the immediate scene to maintain better control and not strip all the apparatus.
  - On multiple alarms, an officer should be assigned to stage apparatus and deploy them per the incident commander's request.
  - Take maximum advantage of key hydrants to avoid excessive lays and to ensure maximum use of the water supply.
  - Do not park too close to another emergency vehicle. Allow sufficient room to deploy hose lines and to remove stretchers, ladders and other equipment from the vehicle.
- The first-arriving engine company at a fire should normally proceed just past the front of the fire, laying a supply line if necessary. ("Front" does not necessarily mean the front of the building. It may mean the area of heaviest involvement or primary access.) Driving past the structure this way will enable its crew to see three sides of the building.
    - Position the engine to use its deck guns, floodlights, etc. Take care to leave room for ladder or support companies. If the building has a wide frontage, position the engine at the entrance that provides the best access to the fire.
- Unless otherwise directed, the second-arriving engine company at a working fire should proceed to the rear or secondary access point and go to work.
    - If nothing is showing, the second-arriving engine should stage at the nearest hydrant and await orders if the first-arriving company did not lay hose.
- Truck companies should initially stage in such a position as not to congest the incident scene. A truck company should position itself for maximum use as ordered by the incident commander.
- Additional arriving companies should stage at least one block away and request orders from the incident commander or staging officer.
    - Companies should commit only when ordered to do so.
    - These companies should report the number of personnel in their respective companies, as well as their staging location. Example: "Engine 2 stages one block south with three personnel."
    - Staged companies should check their map books to locate key hydrants, etc.
- Medical Incidents
    - If an engine or truck company arrives before the medical unit, the company should leave clear access for the medic unit and not block the incident site.

- Due to the danger of oncoming traffic at motor vehicle accidents, the engine or truck should be parked so as to provide a barrier for personnel.
- Staging
  - Level I Staging.
    - First engine to scene
    - Second engine and additional engines – one block away and report location. Check map books.
    - First truck company to scene.
    - Privately owned vehicles – park at least one block away, not blocking the street, driveways or hydrants.
    - Level I Staging begins on arrival of the first company. The first company gives a situation report and advises the action to be taken.
    - Additional companies advise staging location.
  - Level II Staging: Multiple Alarms/Mass-Casualty Incidents
    - Command designates the staging area and staging officer.
    - All companies and personnel report to the staging area and await assignment.
    - POVs report to one block of staging area.
    - Dispatch shall designate a channel for staging and inform Command.
    - “Staging” shall be used as the radio identifier. Staging maintains a log of the personnel and apparatus available.
    - Staging should maintain a reserve of apparatus and personnel unless instructed otherwise.
  - Level III Staging: Multiple Alarms/Mass-Casualty Incidents
    - To be used when severe weather makes Level II staging inadvisable, such as during floods, tornadoes, and winter storms.
    - Companies will be in at a fire station or other covered facility and await orders.
    - Privately owned vehicles shall not obstruct the staging area.
    - Dispatch shall designate a channel for staging and shall report the status to Support or Command.
    - “Staging” shall be used for a radio identifier. Staging shall maintain a log of the personnel and apparatus available.
  - Staging should maintain a reserve engine and ladder company in the department affected. Use move-ups.