

POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighter Assistance Search Team (F.A.S.T.)

Standard Operating Guideline

Purpose:

The purpose of the F.A.S.T. is to provide a back up team of trained firefighters to an incident outside our primary coverage area. The team will attempt to rescue a firefighter should they become trapped, lost or distressed.

Scope:

The F.A.S.T. shall be assigned to any/all confirmed structure fires, special operations, or any other time at the discretion of the Incident Commander of the jurisdiction for which we are requested.

Staffing:

There shall be three Levels of Certification for F.A.S.T. Members.

Aides- Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department F.A.S.T. Awareness
Drill at least 6 times annually with the F.A.S.T.

Level 1- 1 year as a Firefighter with the Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department
F.A.S.T. Awareness
F.A.S.T. Operations
Drill at least 6 times annually with the F.A.S.T.

Level 2- 3 years as a Firefighter with the Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department
F.A.S.T. Awareness
F.A.S.T. Operations
Advanced SCBA
IMS Level 1
Drill at least 6 times annually with the F.A.S.T.

Recommended Additional Training:

Large Area search Class
Thermal Imaging Class

Response Procedure:

The F.A.S.T. for the Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department shall consist of Engine 4201 (STATION 42) and Engine 4301 (STATION 43) and any other vehicles as needed.

- For a residential response, at least 8 members shall respond, with at least 3 being F.A.S.T. Level 2 certified.
- For a large residential structure, occupied multiple dwelling or commercial building (Level 2 response), at least 8 members shall respond with at least 6 being F.A.S.T. Level 2 certified.
- Minimum staffing shall be six firefighters for a residential structure and eight firefighters for a Level 2 response.
- The apparatus shall respond to the scene and park in a location where they will not interfere with the fire fighting operations.
- Additional F.A.S.T. Members, who respond to their respective firehouse after 4201/4301 have gone in service, will call F.A.S.T. Command on the radio and advise them of their staffing.
- F.A.S.T. Command will then advise these members if they are needed to respond and what apparatus to respond in.
- Upon arrival the Chief Officer, Senior Officer, or their Aide, shall report to the Incident Commander.
 - It shall be that member's responsibility to stay at the Command Post and monitor all radio traffic on the main fireground channel.

Staging:

- Once on scene the members shall be divided into Search and Rescue Teams.
- The first team that will be established is a Search Team followed by a Rescue Team.
 - An officer position will be assigned to one member in both the Search Team and Rescue Team.
- After one Search Team and one Rescue Team have been established another Search Team will be assigned and staged in another location, if manpower is available.
- If there are enough members an additional Rescue Team will be assigned.
- These teams will assume the Radio Assignments of Search 1, Search 2, Rescue 1, and Rescue 2.
- Further the Search and Rescue Team Members will be given a Radio Assignment that corresponds to their assignment and then use their last name. (Example: "Search 1 Vogel" , "Search 1 Finn", "Rescue 1 Michigan", Rescue 1 Brodeur", "Search 2 Zahorsky", "Rescue 2 Storino", etc.)
- The Search Team Officer and the Rescue Team Officer, or their designee, shall perform a size-up of the structure and ascertain the tactics being utilized.
 - They shall report back to the other members of the F.A.S.T. as to the size-up of the structure.

- The remainder of the manpower on the F.A.S.T. shall start setting up the tools in the designated F.A.S.T. Staging Area, as directed by the F.A.S.T. Commander.
- The F.A.S.T. members shall monitor all conditions on the fireground as the incident progresses.

High Rise Staging:

- When the F.A.S.T. is dispatched for a F.A.S.T. call in buildings over 3 stories tall, the team will utilize the High Rise Operation Rules.
- Once on scene a staging point will be established outside the building nearest to the entrance that the firefighters are using to attack the fire.
- Once a Search Team and Rescue Team have been established "Search 1" will deploy with their equipment and stage one or two floors below the fire floor.
 - The decision where to stage will be determined by the Search Team Officer, who will advise F.A.S.T. Command where they are located.
- The Search Team Officer will bring a CO Detector with him to monitor the conditions on the floor that they are located.
 - If conditions worsen on the floor the Search Team has staged, the Search Team Officer shall notify F.A.S.T. Command and advise him if they will be moving down a floor.
 - F.A.S.T. Command should advise the IC as to this condition.
- While the Search Team is staging either one or two stories below they should familiarize themselves with the floor plan of the floor where they are staged.
 - This is due to the fact that in High Rise Buildings, most floors have similar layout.
- The Rescue Team should stay at the F.A.S.T. Staging Area until the Search Team deploys.
- If there is an additional Search Team, this team may be staged in an additional stairwell that gives access to the fire floor and the floors above the fire.
 - This Search Team may be needed to go into operation if the floor plan of the High Rise Building is extremely large.
- The need to locate a second search team in this manner will be made by the Search Team 1 Officer.

Staging Area Equipment:

- The responding F.A.S.T. equipment cache shall consist of at least the following items:
 - PPE
 - SCBA & spare bottles
 - Flashlights
 - 6' Hook
 - Circular Saw & Chain Saw
 - 2 sets of "IRONS" (flathead ax and halligan bar)
 - Thermal Imaging Camera
 - Stokes Basket

- Scott RIT Pak II
- 200' Search Rope.
- Hand Operated Hydraulic Holmatro Combination Tool
- Additional equipment may include the a First Aid Supply Bag with O2, AED, Holmatro Combination Tool, Air Bag Set, Sawzalls, and assorted cribbing.
- Also each member shall have their own personal rescue rope and portable radio (if available, or for each pair of FF's).

Search Team:

- The Search Team shall consist of up to five firefighters and an Officer.
- It shall be the duty of the Search Team to locate, access, package and initiate the removal process when a "Mayday" is called and/or a F.A.S.T. is activated.
- The Search Team Officer shall be responsible for directing the initial efforts to locate the firefighter in distress.
- The Officer shall also be responsible for monitoring fire conditions and the team's air supply.

Search Team Tools:

- The Search Team shall carry at least the following tools:
 - 200 foot search Rope
 - "IRONS"
 - Maul
 - Scott RIT Pack for downed Firefighter
 - Thermal Imaging Camera.
- The Search Team may bring any additional tools that they feel would be needed to effect the rescue.

Rescue Team:

- The Rescue Team shall consist of up to four firefighters and an Officer, unless additional manpower is needed due to the incident needs.
- It shall be the responsibility of the Rescue Team to complete the extraction of the firefighter in distress if needed and to assist any rescuer that becomes distressed as well.
- The Rescue Officer shall monitor fire conditions, team air supply and progress of the extraction.

Rescue Team Tools:

- The Rescue Team shall carry at least the following tools:
 - Thermal Imaging Camera
 - 6 ft hook
 - “IRONS”
 - Assorted rescue rope, if required.
- The Rescue Team Officer shall listen to the radio for any additional tools requested by the Search Team Officer to successfully remove the downed firefighter.

Aides:

- One Aide per each operational and command group may be assigned to assist the F.A.S.T. Commander and the overall F.A.S.T. Operations.
- If dictated by staffing levels, an Aide shall be sent to the Command Post and relay critical information from the Incident Commander to the F.A.S.T. Commander.
- If only one Aide is available, they shall also provide status checks at ten-minute intervals, from when each team enters the structure.
- The other Aide shall assist in the operations of the Search and Rescue Teams, serving as the accountability officer.
- They shall also assist in the deployment of the search line and establishment of a tool and air supply cache.
- If sufficient command staff is available, the duties of the operational aide shall be divided between amongst available aides.
- The Aide assigned Accountability, shall also be responsible for the status checks.
- The apparatus operators and/or junior firefighters can be assigned to the Aide positions.

Command Operations:

- The F.A.S.T. Command structure shall consist of at least the following:
 - F.A.S.T. Commander
 - Search Team Officer (per team)
 - Rescue Team Officer (per team)
 - If available, an Officer shall be assigned as F.A.S.T. Operations
 - They shall stage at the F.A.S.T. staging area and oversee operations from that location.
- After the conclusion of the operation, the F.A.S.T. Commander shall conduct a roll call of the F.A.S.T. members.

Known Area / Radio Contact Deployment:

- The Search Team that has the best access to where the firefighter called the mayday will be deployed to the last known area of the lost firefighters utilizing a 200 ft search rope.
- F.A.S.T. Command has the right to place more than 1 Search Team into operation if he feels that it is in the best interest of the search. This could be due to the size of a floor layout in a building.
- The Search Team shall bring the required tools and locate the “mayday” firefighter.
- Once the Search Team has located the “mayday” firefighter, the Search Team Officer shall report to F.A.S.T. Command what the team needs to perform the rescue of the “mayday” firefighter.
- The Search Team will also check the “mayday” firefighter’s air supply and medical condition, providing a new supply of air, if needed.
 - These actions will be reported to F.A.S.T. Command so that EMS can prepare for the “mayday” firefighter and the Rescue Team can prepare for deployment.
- The Search Team Leader will advise what if any equipment will be needed for the rescue of the “mayday” firefighter and if the Rescue Team is need to perform the rescue.
- Members entering and existing shall travel with their left hand on the search line or hose line to avoid clogging the access way and to maintain team continuity.

Unknown Area / No Radio Contact Deployment:

- If F.A.S.T. Command is notified by the IC that they have a firefighter is missing and they cannot establish radio contact, a Search Team with at least two members will be deployed to each floor in the building.
- If operating in a two story dwelling Search Team 1 will perform a search of the 1st floor and Search Team 2 will perform a search of the second floor.
- If operating in a building that is larger than two stories, it will be FAST Command’s decision on how to best search all floors.
- It is advised that at least one Rescue Team be left in place to deploy when the ‘Mayday’ Firefighter is located.
- If operating in a building more than 3 stories and manpower cannot be provided for each floor, F.A.S.T. Command may request an additional F.A.S.T. to the scene.
- Once the Search Team has located the “mayday” firefighter, the Search Team Officer shall report to F.A.S.T. Command what equipment the team needs to perform the rescue of the “mayday” firefighter.
- The Search Team will also check the “Mayday” firefighter’s air supply and medical condition.
 - This will be reported to F.A.S.T. Command so that EMS can prepare for the “mayday” firefighter.

- The Search Team Leader will advise what, if any, equipment will be needed for the rescue of the “mayday” firefighter and if the Rescue Team is needed to assist in the removal.
- Members entering and exiting shall travel with their left hand on the search line or hose line to avoid clogging the access way.

High Rise Deployment:

- If a firefighter calls a mayday in a High Rise Building, the Search Team shall deploy to the last know area of the firefighter.
- While the Search Team is deploying, the Rescue Team shall move up to the floor that the Search Team was staged on.
 - The Rescue Team should bring extra air cylinders and their tools with them.
 - It is also recommended that the Rescue Team leave one member at the F.A.S.T. Staging Area so that he can bring up any additional equipment that may be need to perform the firefighter rescue.

Additional F.A.S.T.:

- Once our F.A.S.T. has been deployed, the F.A.S.T. Commander will request that a second F.A.S.T. immediately be called, if sufficient resources are not remaining

Radio Communication:

- The F.A.S.T. deployed will operate on the Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department Operation’s channel.
- This will allow the original frequency to be clear should the downed firefighter transmit any more information as to his condition or location.

Team Abort:

- If it becomes too dangerous for our F.A.S.T. to operate and the F.A.S.T. must abort the mission, an “URGENT” message shall be transmitted over the F.A.S.T. frequency.
- They shall require one of the fire apparatus on scene to blow their airhorn with (3) 5-Second Blast.

Team Debriefing:

- At the conclusion of the rescue, all F.A.S.T. members will meet and review what occurred.
- A small debriefing should be done at the scene, and then a more formal debriefing should be done back at the station.
- This debriefing should include, but not be limited to:

- What happened to cause the mayday
- What work was performed during the rescue and any problems encountered.
- The debriefing at the scene should occur only after another F.A.S.T. has arrived on scene and the original F.A.S.T. has been relieved.
- F.A.S.T Command should notify CISM/CISD if a firefighter is serious injured or a LODD occurs.

Recommendations to IC:

- Should a “mayday” be called the IC of the incident should immediately contact his dispatch and request an ALS unit to the scene and a Medivac to Fly.