

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA

FIRE GROUND OPERATIONS POLICY #20-004

TOPIC: Staging			
Revision Date April 8, 2017	Replaces February 2017	Approved By XCC OPS	Pages 4
DISPOSITION: Operational Area Policy Manual			

INTRODUCTION:

The objective of staging procedures is to provide a standard system of initial placement for responding apparatus, personnel, and equipment prior to assignment at tactical incidents. Effective utilization of these procedures allow proper placement and efficient use of available resources and increase safety by providing time for the first in unit to formulate and implement an incident action plan without confusion and pressure of arriving units.

BACKGROUND:

Lack of having or following a systematic approach to evaluating and assigning resources to an emergency incident leads to congestion at the scene which does not allow for optimized apparatus placement, promotes free lancing of operations and increased radio traffic at the critical initial stages of the incident. This in turn can lead to delays in establishing a command structure, implementing an action plan, establishing control lines, water supplies or proper safety measures such as back up teams. Proper staging of resources also allows for vicinity response from a resource pool.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **Level I Staging:** Designated apparatus shall be positioned one block from the incident scene or at the closest hydrant (as appropriate) to the incident scene.
2. **Level II Staging:** Designated apparatus shall be positioned at the location designated by the Incident Commander (IC) or Operations Section Chief (Ops) at the time of request.

POLICY:

1. Level 1 staging shall be optional for all first-alarm incidents and shall be implemented by the first-in officer when necessary to prevent congestion at the scene and allow resources to be assigned in an orderly and optimized manner that accomplishes the objectives of the incident action plan.
2. Level II staging shall be mandatory for greater alarm incidents unless IC or Ops has directed all responding units to respond directly to the scene. IC, Ops, or the first unassigned engine arriving on the greater alarm shall establish and designate a staging area location.

PROCEDURE:

1. Level I Staging

- B.** When determined necessary, the first-in officer shall announce the implementation of Level I Staging. (*Example:* “CON Fire, Lone Tree IC, Advise responding units to Level I stage”).
- C.** The Dispatch Center should repeat this information to all responding units and enter a note into the CAD (computer aided dispatch system).
- D.** First due Engine, Truck, and Battalion Chief shall respond directly into the scene unless directed otherwise.
- E.** All other apparatus shall stage one block from the scene or at closest hydrant, as appropriate.
- F.** Company Officers on staged apparatus shall announce when staged on the appropriate radio frequencies. Engines standing by at a hydrant, will announce this action.
- G.** Position staged apparatus with consideration for the possible need to reposition, provide a vicinity response, and/or allow passage of other apparatus (*Example:* incoming Truck company).

2. Level II Staging

- A.** IC’s should designate a Staging Area location at the time they request a greater alarm(s). Dispatchers shall repeat this information and enter the staging area location in CAD.
- B.** If the IC or Ops has not designated a Staging Area location, the first arriving unassigned engine on the greater alarm shall announce the staging area location and name. (**Example:** “Sun Valley IC, CON Fire. Engine 10 has established Sun Valley Staging in the parking lot south of Sears, just off Willow Pass Road”)
- C.** Single Staging Areas are named for the incident (“Treat Staging”, “Willow Pass Staging”). If additional Staging Areas are required, IC or Ops designates each Staging Area individually using name of a geographical landmark such as a street or location to easily identify each location (“Mitchell Canyon Staging”).
- D.** All apparatus and personnel at the Staging Area(s) shall be available for an immediate assignment unless otherwise directed.

3. Staging for EMS Calls

- A.** Officers shall communicate staging locations for EMS calls so Medic Units can stage in the same location.
- B.** Fire companies and medic units should proceed together into scenes that have required staging to maximize personnel safety.

- C.** Medic units that are first to arrive on incidents that require staging should communicate their staging location to incoming fire companies.
- D.** Units should communicate their staging location if they are unable to stage together because of access issues.
- E.** A tactical talk group/channel should be used to coordinate staging activities as necessary.