Washington Township Fire Department

Tactical Considerations for Engine Placement

Length: 1 hour

Reference: Blue Card- NFPA 1001

Policy: TBD

Description and Expected Performance:

Apparatus Positioning can change the tempo of the fire ground. As professionals we should have a better understanding on where we expect different pieces of apparatus to be positioned. The following are review for the best positioning and key considerations for Engine placement and with regard to Blue Card Command.

Equipment, Props, Information or Other Resources Needed: 3 Officers consisting of Captain and 2 Lieutenant's. Additionally Ipads with

Instructions for this core competency drill

Video Resource Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yINijp2vuQc

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKBCYAyy6Xc

Tactical Engine Placement

Apparatus placement is an integral part of the fireground and can set pace for fire operations. Safety is # 1 and the following should be considered :

- Collapse zones
- Water Supplies
- 3 stories or less engine has inside
- 3 stories or more ladder has inside
- Leave space to work
- Rescue, Ambulance, Utility, or Command apparatus
- Egress and Ingress points

Don't forget to: Look at the Flag before you leave!

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objectives

Engine:

Vehicle Tactical Objectives:

- Supplying
  - Attack,
  - Exposure
  - Supply
- Maintain a large enough supply of water to support the demands of the incident (NFA Fire Flow formula).
- Supply Incident with the needed hose, nozzles, and appliances

Engine position should take into consideration the Following:

- Stability of the ground including bridges and road crossings
  - Caution when draining valves on ground that is not pavement. Water could cause engine to become stuck.
  - Location of water supply
  - Municipal 100' or less D/O can make the connections. If hydrant is farther away than 100' second due Engine Company can make the connection to the hydrant with either a forward lay or reverse lay.
  - Rural potential water shuttle, portable tank, or relay pump. (BFD has no hard suction).
- Location of apparatus intakes so that you have the ability to use in the intake for portable tanks, intake to intake operations, and simple positive pressure water supply.
- Location and lengths of hose loads on apparatus (pre-connects, Bulk loads, and supply).
- When laying of the LDH, it shall not hinder other apparatus ability to complete their task (i.e. truck roof access).
- Municipal setting the engine should pull past to get first arriving officer 3 sides of the structure without compromising an effective stretch to the best objective point.
- Consider collapse zones, strong points, and overhead obstructions when positioning the engine.

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thoughts

General:

Apparatus positioning is integral part of the fire ground and can set the pace for the incident. It is very important that Safety is number 1 for apparatus positioning. When Positioning we need to consider the following:

Egress and Ingress points: Do not make them impassable for other apparatus needing to get to a different tactical advantage. Provides the best advantage to interior operations with minimal hose loss to the building.

Collapse zones: Position outside the collapse zone (1.5x height of the building). Utilize strong points of the building such as corners or a buildings directional change.

Water Supplies: Do not block if you do not have the ability to attach to the hydrant.

3 stories or less engine has inside: ladder companies are limited to their vertical reach. Many times the ladder company must set-up away from the building due to obstacles, therefore having a longer horizontal reach to the building. However, consideration should be for the engine company being in closer to buildings 3-stories or less providing more efficient hose evolutions and faster initial fire attack.

3 stories or more ladder has inside: With limited reach and minimizing the need for horizontal extension of the ladder, consider the ladder company to setup on the inside (closest to the building) to be able to reach ll tactical objectives and leave the outside for the engine company to set-up and access.

Leave space to work: Do not set up close behind apparatus with ladder chutes (rear egress and ingress of ladders) especially ladder truck/quint.

Rescue, Ambulance, Utility, or Command apparatus: should not interfere with achieving a tactical objective of other apparatus.