Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS
Standard Operating Procedure

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Standard Operating Procedure: 4.2.3	**Effective Date: 9/22/2025**
Subject: Non-Hydrant Running Assignment	**Section: Fire/Rescue Operations**
Authorized: Deputy Chief Paul supko	**Revision Date: N/A**

Applicability: **[X] Volunteer** **[X] Career**

I. PURPOSE

To identify the unit responsibilities for units arriving on "Structure" or "Box" assignments in non-hydranted areas in Carroll County, MD

By design, the non-hydrant box alarm assignment is divided into two sections: fire suppression and water supply. Using the attack tanker concept, the fire suppression group alone, consisting of two engines and one tanker, will have a minimum of 3000 gallons of water. This capacity allows us to continuously flow the maximum critical flow rate of 500 GPM for six minutes.

For example, this is three 1 ¾ inch lines, or two 2 ½ inch lines, or a master stream device. Properly managing deployed hose lines can double or triple this time, or even more.

Considering that the minimum available water carried by the full first alarm is 8,250 gallons, (5-750 gallon engines and 3-1500 tankers) the water carried on our apparatus alone should support 500 GPM for 16.5 minutes of non-stop water flow. Typically, responding Engines and Tankers will have more than the required minimum tank size and therefore an increased fire flow time.

II. DEFINITIONS

Attack Tanker: The first arriving tanker that positions as close as possible to the first engine to provide ample water for the initial attack.

Nurse Tanker(s): A tanker operation that arriving tankers pump their water off into a clappered siamese attached to a supply line.

III. PROCEDURES

Carroll County will utilize the attack tanker deployment for all non hydrant structure fire responses. This deployment requires the first two engines and tanker to work as a team to establish a stationary water supply. This will essentially put 3000 to 5500 gallons of water

stationary, ready to use. All other tankers will pump the Siamese, off loading their water directly to the fire ground. We will use dump tanks only when larger fires warrant the need.

Unit assignments for the hydrant structure fire SOP are based on order of arrival which must be announced by radio when a unit arrives and assumes the responsibility's other than which they were dispatched.

IC and unit officers have the responsibility to communicate any deviations to this policy via radio.

Response in a Non-Hydrant Area:

A. <u>First Due Engine Responsibilities - During Response</u>

1. **Identify water supply:** The first due engine shall identify a primary (high volume) water source (15,000 gallons or unlimited) and relay the location to Carroll ECC for the fifth due engine. The fifth due engine shall acknowledge by using the order model.

    a. If the first due engine responds late identifying a primary water source falls to the responding first due Command officer.

2. Relay specific instructions to responding units
    a. <u>The first due engine is responsible for the supply line.</u>
        i. They must either lay the line or communicate with the second due engine regarding layout instructions.
        ii. Depending on access issues and the geography of the scene, the first due engine may decide to proceed into location without laying out.
        iii. When the first arriving Tanker has supply line capabilities they may also be utilized to layout.

3. Running route, the first due engine may need to verbalize which direction they are approaching from and direct the later arriving units.

    Ex. *"E123 to Tower 12 come in Becket Rd. to Tydings Rd we will be stopping short".*

4. Identify if the Medic unit will be used for suppression staffing if so, replace the unit. This should happen as early as possible in the incident.

B. <u>Attack Tanker Deployment</u>

1. The first two engines and the first tanker will position as close together as possible.
2. All three units will be interconnected with supply line.
3. Supply lines will NOT be connected to direct tank fills.

C. First Arriving Engine

1. **Unit** – Begins the water supply process by laying a supply line (with clappered Siamese) to Side Alpha or the appropriate location for a fire attack.

    a. Reserve adequate space for the first due aerial and tanker if possible.

    b. Connect to the Fire Department Connection/standpipe if closest to this side. (Advise IC when FDC/standpipe is charged)

    c. May proceed to side Alpha without laying a supply line for rapid fire attack or to leave the driveway open for additional apparatus. This must be communicated on the radio.

2. **Unit Officer -** If positioning is not on side Alpha advise other units via radio, transmit a **BIR**, establish or pass command if not in place, conduct a **360**, advise if the structure has a basement and report initial conditions of the basement and the location of any exterior basement entrance if indicated, request additional resources, identify a **"2-out" team.** The unit officer will then identify the **strategic mode** and transmit an entry report.

Basement Fires: Whenever fire is determined to be below the primary entry grade i.e.: a basement fire the initial attack should be made from the exterior basement entrance if there is one and access to it is reasonable. Refer to SOP 4.2.4 Basement Fires

3. **Crew** – Advance the appropriate size primary attack line to the fire floor/entry point, force entry, and control the door. No crew will make entry until a 360 report has been completed. Begin fire attack/confinement, rescue victims, protect exposures as appropriate.

4. **Equipment** – All personnel must wear full **PPE**. Equipment should include portable radios, tools, hand lights, **TIC**, hose, and other equipment appropriate for the construction of the structure and the tactics being deployed.

D. Second Arriving Engine

1. **Unit** – Ensure the completion of, or expand as directed or if necessary, the primary water supply for the first arriving engine. Position back the driveway to supply the first due engine with tank water leaving room for the first arriving truck and tanker if possible.

2. **Unit Officer -** Establish command if not in place or assume command if indicated by first due engine.

3. **Crew**- Immediately establish a **"2-out" team**. If a **"2-out" team** is already in place, assist the first engine with deploying the primary attack line if needed, advance a second attack line unless directed otherwise by command, perform a primary search/rescue of victims if no aerial or rescue squad is on the scene and occupants are known to be trapped. Begin checking for extension once bulk of fire is knocked down.

4. **Equipment** – All personnel must wear full **PPE**. Equipment should include portable radios, tools, hand lights, **TIC**, hose, and other hand tools appropriate for the construction of the structure and the tactics being deployed.

E. <u>Third Arriving Engine</u>

1. **Unit** – Prepare to pump the primary supply line via clappered Siamese. If the fire flow is expected to exceed 500 gpm, consider setting up a dump site in an appropriate area that will not block lane access to the structure, (Position and complete first arriving engines water supply plan if indicated)

2. **Crew Role #1 -** Water Supply – the crew will work to ensure tankers / water on wheels is quickly provided to the fire ground. As units arrive on location, this crew may transition to the fire ground.

3. **Officer -** Give a **BIR** for Side Charlie or side opposite first due engine if possible. Deploy additional attack line to side Charlie or the exposure. Complete a **360** of the structure if not completed by the first arriving officer.

4. **Crew Role #2–** Advance the appropriate size hand line to the floor above the fire or the next appropriate exposure and begin fire attack/confinement, rescue victims, protect exposures as appropriate.

5. **Equipment** – All personnel must wear full **PPE**. Equipment should include portable radios, tools, hand lights, **TIC**, hose, and other hand tools appropriate for the construction of the structure and the tactics being deployed.

F. Fourth Arriving Engine

1. **Unit** – Position away, not to impede incoming Tankers. Assume RIC. Ensure the completion of, or expand, if necessary, the water supply.
    a. Driver may assist with water supply/dump site as needed.
    *b. (If not needed for water supply, drivers must wear full **PPE** and assist with crew responsibilities.)*
2. **Unit Officer** – Become the **RIC** and perform a RIT 360 size-up of the structure to rescue downed firefighters if needed. (Unit officer will be **RIC** officer, will advise the **IC** when **RIC** is in place.)

3. **Crew** –Position where the **RIC** is assigned with appropriate RIT equipment and a hose line. (If possible hose line should be from secondary unit. Not primary attack engine.) Relieve the initial **Two-Out**. (Apparatus drivers shall dress and support crew with **RIC** duties if not needed for water supply.)

4. **Equipment** – All personnel must wear full **PPE**. Equipment should include portable radios, thermal imaging camera, tools, hand lights, hose, saws, search rope, ladders and designated RIT Tools and other equipment appropriate tool for the construction of the structure and the tactics being deployed.

G. Fifth Arriving Engine

1. **Unit -** Assist Water Supply unit with establishing the primary fill site for water shuttle or relay operations as directed by the first due engine or **IC** (Do not respond directly to the incident scene unless advised to do so by the **IC**). Must set-up supply lines with the ability to connect to two tankers at once, (filling one at a time) in the water supply shuttle. If the unit is not committed to the primary fill site once established proceed to the secondary fill site and establish secondary fill site.

2. **Unit Officer-** Become the fill site officer. **IC** or water supply officer must be notified when the primary fill site is ready.

3. **Crew -** Assist with establishing a fill site.

4. **Equipment** - Proper hose and adapters needed for primary fill site.

H. First Arriving Aerial

1. **Unit** – Position on side Alpha or side of first engine.

2. **Crew** – Provide forced entry, provide secondary/emergency means of egress with ground ladders, primary search, and rescue of occupants, provide coordinated ventilation with the attack crew, secure utilities, assist with salvage, overhaul, and lighting, utilize the aerial to gain access to the roof or most appropriate floor and communicate their conditions to the **IC.**

3. **Equipment** – All personnel must wear full **PPE**. Equipment should include portable radios, ladders, tools, hand lights, **TIC** and other equipment appropriate for the construction of the structure and the tactics being deployed.

I. Second Arriving Aerial (if dispatched)

1. **Unit** – Position on side Charlie or opposite first arriving truck if accessible

2. **Crew** – Support forced entry and coordinated ventilation, if necessary, provide secondary/emergency means of egress with ground ladders, utilize the aerial to gain access to the roof or most appropriate floor and communicate their conditions to the IC, assist with primary search of occupants, if necessary, utilities, and perform secondary search.

3. **Equipment** – All personnel must wear full PPE. Equipment should include portable radios, ladders, tools, hand lights, TIC and other equipment appropriate for the construction of the structure and the tactics being deployed.

J. First Arriving Rescue Squad (if dispatched)

1. **Unit** – Position on side Alpha, if possible, but out of the way. Provide scene lighting if necessary. Will position as the second arriving Special Service if the first due aerial is already on scene.

2. **Crew** – Perform duties of the first arriving aerial when the rescue squad is first on scene. When not first on scene, report to the command post for assignment.

3. **Equipment** – All personnel must wear full **PPE**. Equipment should include portable radios, tools, hand lights, **TIC** and other equipment appropriate for the construction of the structure and the tactics being deployed.

K. First Arriving EMS Transport Unit

1. The first due medic unit shall be fully prepared to supplement the first due engine as staffing.

2. **Unit** – Shall be parked out of the way in a position to transport patients.

3. **Crew** – Identify and assess the welfare of any occupants, provide aid and shelter if needed. Prepare to transport injured firefighters and/or civilians if needed. Establish a Rehab Station if directed by the **IC**. Support the **IC** as required. Crew may be assigned as the "**2-out**" team if qualified.

4. **Equipment** – Litter, oxygen equipment, **AED**, Aide-Bag, towels, ice packs, water cooler and cups, appropriate level of **PPE**.

L. First Arriving Water Supply Unit

1. **Unit** - Establish the primary fill site for water shuttle or relay operations as directed by the first due engine or **IC**. (Do not respond directly to the incident scene unless advised to do so by the **IC**).

    a. Must set-up supply lines with the ability to connect to two tankers at once, (filling one at a time) in the water supply shuttle. (Work with the fifth due engine). If the unit is not committed to the primary fill site once established, proceed to the secondary fill site and establish the secondary fill site.

2. **Crew** – Assist in setting up the fill site

3. **Equipment** – Proper hose and adapters needed for fill site operations.

M. EMS Chase Cars, Medic Units & POV responses

1. **Unit** – Position out of the way not to impede responding apparatus.

2. **Crew** – If arriving first, provide a BIR and 360 Report. If assuming command members will be held to the same expectations as other command officers.

3. **Cancelling Units** –If cancelling or downgrading units prior to the arrival of an officer, a situation report must be provided to the responding command officer, along with a request for approval.

4. Additional arriving duty officers, utilities and POV's will not engage in incident operations without being included in an entry report or reporting to the command post for assignment.

I. First Arriving Command Officer (with command vehicle)

1. **Stationary Command Post** - Must attempt to position in a way that allows a view of at least two sides of the structure from the command post.

2. Chief Officers will not assume command until a transfer of command has been conducted. The transfer of command shall include confirming where companies are operating and the number of personnel in the crew. This can be accomplished through CAN reports.

3. Must use a tactical worksheet to track the incident objectives, resource allocation, number of personnel in the structure and progress towards established objectives.

4. Must ensure that the changes in strategy are deliberate and communicated.

5. When assuming command announce the location of the command post and provide a verbal transfer of command radio report listing the current incident operations.

6. For complex operations, delegate a Water Supply Group Manager.

N. Water Supply Group Manager (WS)

1. Establish a water supply group manager early in the incident for non-hydrant areas.

2. The group manager will be assigned by incident commander (when established) or the first due command officer during response.

3. The primary focus of the WSis to determine the most appropriate strategy to move water from the water supply source to the fire ground. Due to the number of complex variables, the following is a list of actions the WSO must consider:
    a. Determine the distance from the LDH appliance (attached to the supply line) to the water source.
    b. Measure using Active 911, or
    c. Request distance from Carroll ECC

4. Based on the distance, announce either relay operations or shuttle operations
    a. Shuttle operations will either be nurse tanker or dump site
    b. Folding tanks should not be used for fire flows under 500 GPM.
    c. Distances less than 3000 feet should be considered for relay operations.

5. Request a water supply channel through command and direct all water supply resources to that channel.

6. Begin coordinating the overall water supply plan by directing each water supply resource to specific locations and/or giving them specific tasks.

7. Establish a tanker shuttle route. (In a circle direction to eliminate backing up if possible.)

O. Rapid Intervention Dispatch Assignment

1. Engine and Special Service

a. **Units** - Position out of the way and report to the **RIT** officer and fill out the **RIG**. The fourth arriving engine officer shall be the **RIG** officer.

b. **Crew** - Report to the **RIT** and assist with filling out as the **RIG.** (All personnel arriving on the **RID** will be used for the **RIG**).

c. **Equipment** - All personnel must wear full **PPE**. Equipment should include portable radios, **TIC**, tools, hand lights, hose, RIT pack for emergency air, tools for RIT, stokes basket, saws, and other equipment appropriate tools for the construction of the structure and the tactics being deployed.

2. Rapid Intervention ALS Unit

a. **Unit -** Position out of the way in a location where the crew can transport an injured firefighter if necessary.

b. **Crew** -Report to the **RIG** officer (Fourth arriving Engine)

c. **Equipment** – Full **PPE** as needed, Litter (Stretcher), oxygen, ALS equipment, **AED**, Aid Bag, and other appropriate equipment.

IV. RECISION

This Standard Operating Procedure rescinds all directives regarding Non Hydrant Running Assignment or similar content previously issued for personnel of the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS.

V. RELATED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES / DOCUMENTS

A. Policy 4.2.1 Structural Firefighting
B. Policy 4.1.1 IMS
C. Policy 4.1.2 Communications
D. Policy 4.2.1 Structural Fire Fighting

VI. ATTACHMENTS

A. Non Hydrant Q Card
B. Water Supply Officer Worksheet