



# PROCEDURES MANUAL

**SUBJECT:** Structure Fire Operations – Apparatus Placement Considerations

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203.01.11

**APPROVED:**

*RW*  
FIRE CHIEF

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## 203.01.11 Structure Fire Operations – Apparatus Placement Considerations

A. Purpose

To establish best practice guidelines for apparatus placement at structure fire incidents

B. Apparatus function should regulate placement.

C. Effective placement must begin with the arrival of the first units, based on initial size up, pre-fire plans, and general conditions upon arrival.

1. In large, complex, and lengthy fire ground operations additional alarm Companies should be staged.

2. Think of fire apparatus as an expensive exposure. Beware of putting apparatus in places where it cannot be repositioned easily and quickly. Beware of overhead power lines that may fall on apparatus.

3. Medic Units

a. Medic units should be placed in a safe position that will provide the most effective treatment of fire victims and firefighting personnel, while not blocking movement of other apparatus or interfering with firefighting operations.

b. Medic Units should not get blocked in.

4. Engine Company Placement

a. Engine Companies should not block Ladder Company access, or place pumper in position that hinders removal of ground ladders.

b. Engines should not be placed in front of the fire building, unless the layout of the street or parking areas allows for easy access of ladder companies.

c. Consideration should be taken when laying supply lines to not block access for other apparatus if possible.

d. Engine Companies should be positioned to utilize their apparatus mounted master stream for well involved fires or exposure protection as they are capable of providing the most rapid high GPM stream at such incidents.

- e. On narrow or dead-end streets where access will be limited, Engine Companies should consider utilizing a reverse lay (Crossfire) to a hydrant past the address to allow unimpeded access for the first arriving Ladder Company.
  - f. The first in Engine should generally pull past the structure.
  - g. The second arriving Engine should consider approaching the scene from an opposite direction than the first due engine to secure a water supply and then attempt to get as close as possible to the first in engine – remaining on the same side of the street.
5. Truck Company Placement
- a. The first arriving truck company should generally position the apparatus in the front of the fire building or in a position to take greatest advantage of the aerial ladder for rescue, ventilation or eventual ladder pipe operations.
  - b. The second arriving truck company initially shall Level 1 Stage then when needed shall place the apparatus in the best position to utilize the aerial ladder for rescue or as a secondary exit from the roof. This may require positioning the aerial on the opposite side of the building from the first arriving Truck Company.
6. Heavy Rescue
- a. The Heavy Rescue Company should be positioned in a manner to not impede access to the scene for the first alarm Engines or Trucks
  - b. Position the apparatus at the nearest cross street or on the fire street as far to one side as possible.
  - c. Second arriving Heavy Rescue Company should be positioned to be able to rapidly leave the scene if necessary to respond to another emergency.
7. Safety Engine
- a. The Safety Engine shall position in a manner not to block other apparatus or extra alarm Companies.
  - b. Do not secure a water supply.
8. RAT Truck
- a. The RAT Truck initially shall Level 1 Stage.
  - b. Upon declaration of a working fire and after the arrival of the second truck, position as close to the scene as possible and utilize the aerial device to provide secondary egress to upper floors where companies are operating or secondary egress from the roof if another ladder isn't in place.
9. District Vehicle
- a. The District vehicle shall be placed as close to the fire building as possible without impeding the placement of the first arriving Engine or Truck.

- b. Good placement of the District vehicle will allow a view of two sides of the building.
  - c. Positioning the District vehicle may require parking in a driveway of a house on the opposite side of the street from the fire building.
- D. First arriving companies should approach in a manner to allow visualization of at least two (2) sides of the building.