

# Spartanburg Public Safety Department Fire Division

Standard Operating Procedure	No. 100.07
<b>Staging Levels</b>	Page 1 of 3
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## **I. PURPOSE**

Staging levels provide a standard system of for the orderly arrival, assignment, and placement of responders. Effective utilization of these procedures will:

- Prevent excessive apparatus congestion at the scene
- Allow time for command to evaluate conditions prior to assigning companies
- Place apparatus in an uncommitted location close to the immediate scene to facilitate a more effective assignment by command
- Reduce radio traffic during the critical initial stages of the incident
- Allow command to formulate and implement a plan without undue confusion and pressure
- Provide a resource pool from which command may assign units and resources at his/her leisure

## **II. PROCEDURE**

Staging brings order and accountability to initial incident command by keeping companies in one of four active modes:

1. Responding (on the way to the incident)
2. Staged (arrived on scene, ready to go to work)
3. Assigned to perform a task by the Incident Commander
4. Completed work, going available

Staging procedures are always in effect for all personnel responding to an incident. There are three levels of staging: Level I, Level II and Level III.

## **II. LEVEL I STAGING**

Level I staging should be implemented when: apparatus access is limited, a water supply may be needed, the ladder is utilized, or the Incident Commander deems it necessary.

The Incident Commander should notify apparatus where they should stage while enroute to the incident. Responding units normally locate one to two blocks away from the incident site. In some instances, preplanning has identified pre-designated staging areas for specific units (i.e. – FDC, last turn-around, closest hydrant). If a unit has a pre-designated staging area, the unit should report directly to that staging area.

After arrival to the designated staging area, the unit should notify command that they have arrived at the staging area. **The crew will standby their unit with crew intact until assigned incident site duties or released from the scene.**

#### **IV. LEVEL II STAGING**

Level II staging should be implemented for large incidents, hazardous materials incidents, or other incidents in which command desires to centralize resources, or simply to park apparatus in a central, unobstructed location. This level of staging is used to stage apparatus and personnel as a strategic reserve in the event that additional resources are needed to control and stabilize the incident.

Command should consider announcing level II staging when requesting additional resources. Companies already on scene will stay on scene unless otherwise directed by command. All other responding units will proceed to the designated level II staging area.

The staging area should be some distance away from the command post and the emergency scene to reduce site congestion, but close enough for prompt response to the incident site.

Command may designate a staging area and Staging Officer who will be responsible for the activities outlined in this procedure. In the absence of such an assignment, the first fire officer to arrive at the staging area will automatically become the Staging Officer and will notify Command on arrival. Once level II staging is implemented, all communications involving staging will be between the Staging Officer and Command.

After arrival to the designated staging area, the unit should notify Command or the Staging Officer, when applicable, that they have arrived at the staging area. The crew will standby their unit with crew intact until assigned incident site duties or released from the scene.

#### **V. LEVEL III STAGING**

Level III staging is used for units assigned as third due engines to alarm activations or for units standing by to cover another station's or department's response area. For example, if the incident commander from the Roebuck Fire Department asks Engine 641 to

standby for calls in the Roebuck Fire District, Engine 641 would be Level III staged at Fire Station 4. Crews will remain at their station and monitor radio traffic until such time that a fire or other emergency is confirmed by the first arriving unit or they are notified they can stand down.