

Grand Forks Fire Department

Standard Operating Procedures

SOP# 603.01	Section Emergency Operations	Title Emergency Vehicle Placement
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I. Scope

This standard regulates the placement and positioning of emergency vehicles at emergency incidents.

II. General Rules for Positioning Emergency Vehicles

- A. Apparatus function shall regulate placement. The first-arriving companies should position themselves to maximum advantage and go to work. Later arriving units should place themselves in a manner that builds on the initial plan and allows for expansion of the operation. However, at no time shall apparatus be positioned in a manner as to place it in an unnecessarily dangerous position.
- B. Apparatus that is not being used should be staged in an uncommitted position that will not congest the incident site and will facilitate performing a maximum number of evolutions.
- C. When placing or positioning an emergency vehicle at an incident, consider the following items:
 - 1. Leave an access lane open down the center of the street.
 - 2. Do not park in such a manner as to make the emergency vehicle an exposure.
 - 3. At fires, avoid heat and smoke. Guard against possible building collapse.
 - 4. Do not become trapped. Allow adequate room to reposition the vehicle if necessary.
 - 5. Be aware of overhead power lines.
 - 6. Try to use hoselines and equipment off of apparatus at the immediate scene to maintain better control and not strip all the apparatus.
 - 7. On multiple alarms, an officer shall be assigned to stage apparatus and deploy them per the incident commander's request.

8. Take maximum advantage of key hydrants to avoid excessive lays and to ensure maximum use of the water supply.
 9. Do not park too close to another emergency vehicle. Allow sufficient room to deploy hoselines and to remove stretchers, ladders, and other equipment from the vehicle.
- D. The first arriving Engine Company at a fire should normally proceed just past the front of the fire, laying a supply line if necessary. ("Front" does not necessarily mean the front of the building. It may mean the area of heaviest involvement or primary access.) Driving past the structure this way will enable its crew to see three sides of the building.
 - E. Position the engine to use its deck guns, floodlights, etc. Take care to leave room for ladder or support companies. If the building has a wide frontage, position the engine at the entrance that provides the best access to the fire.
 - F. Unless otherwise directed, the second-arriving Engine Company at a working fire should refer to the department's Initial Attack SOP.
 - G. If nothing is showing, the second-arriving engine should stage at the nearest hydrant and await orders if the first-arriving company did not lay hose.
 - H. Truck companies should initially stage in such a position as not to congest the incident scene. A truck company should position itself for maximum use as ordered by the incident commander.
 - I. Additional arriving companies should stage at least one block away and request orders from the incident commander or the staging officer. Companies should commit only when ordered to do so. These companies should report the number of personnel in their respective companies, as well as their staging location. Example: "Engine Company Two staged one block south with three personnel." Staged companies should check their map books to locate key hydrants, etc.

III. Medical Incidents

- A. If an engine or truck company arrives before the medic unit, the company should leave clear access for the medic unit and not block the incident site.
- B. Due to the danger of oncoming traffic at motor vehicle accidents, the engine or truck should be parked so as to provide a barrier for personnel.

IV. Staging

A. Level I Staging begins on arrival of the first company.

1. First engine to scene gives a brief initial report (BIR) and advises the action to be taken.
2. Second engine and additional engines should stage one block away and report location. Check their map books.
3. First truck company to scene.
4. Additional companies advise staging location.

B. Level II Staging: Multiple Alarms/Mass-Casualty Incidents.

1. Command designates the staging area and staging officer.
2. All companies and personnel report to the staging area and await assignment.
3. IC shall designate a channel for staging.
4. "Staging" shall be used as the radio identifier. Staging maintains a log of the personnel and apparatus available.
5. Staging should maintain a reserve of apparatus and personnel unless instructed otherwise by the IC.

C. Level III Staging: Multiple Alarms/Mass-Casualty Incidents

1. To be used when severe weather makes Level II staging inadvisable, such as during floods, tornadoes, and winter storms.
2. Companies will wait at a fire station or other covered facility and await orders.
3. IC shall designate a channel for staging.
4. "Staging" shall be used as the radio identifier. Staging shall maintain a log of the personnel and apparatus available.
5. Staging should maintain a reserve engine and ladder company unless instructed otherwise by the IC.