

**FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>RESCINDS</b>
Staging	February 18, 2009	N/A
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER</b>	<b>PAGES</b>	
<b>DCFC-010</b>	<b>2</b>	

**SCOPE:**

All incident response personnel in Delaware County. Efficient management of resources assigned to an incident may require establishing a staging area for those resources not committed to operations. Staging describes a standard system for assembling apparatus and personnel before assignment at an incident.

**PURPOSE:**

- Prevent excessive apparatus congestion at the scene and enhance the accountability of personnel.
- Allow time for command to evaluate conditions before assigning companies.
- Placement of apparatus in an uncommitted location close to the immediate scene to facilitate assignment by command.
- Maintain units until an assignment is given.
- Staging may be located inside a high-rise or other large structure if appropriate.
- Prevent repeated calls to Command to request an assignment.
- Apparatus in Staging shall consider alternate means to access the incident and the location of available resources including water supplies.
- NO FREELANCING, NO ROAMING

**DEFINITIONS:**

First-In Units – The First-In units are defined as typically the first two (2) fire apparatus. (i.e. first engine and ladder or engine and tanker).

Level 1 Staging: Staging of the first alarm assignment with exception of the first in units.

Level 2 Staging: Level 2 staging may be utilized when multiple alarms are requested; an incident has response from multiple agencies, is of long duration, or is complex in nature.

**GUIDELINE:**

***LEVEL 1 STAGING***

- All apparatus other than the first-in units shall stage at the nearest intersection that allows entry to the fire scene from at least two directions whenever possible.
- All apparatus shall position their vehicle so that they are not creating an unsafe situation. Avoid staging on main roads if possible; maintain access for vehicle travel in and out of scene.

### ***LEVEL 2 STAGING:***

- Level 2 staging requires units to respond to predetermined areas of staging dependent on function or agency. Each Staging area under Level 2 staging shall have a Staging Officer designated by Command for a particular function or agency. Example: Hazmat Staging, EMS Staging, law enforcement staging, etc.
- If an incident develops into an incident of complexity or long duration, the IC or Staging Officer may request Level 2 Staging.
- If the other members from the designated Staging Officer's company are reassigned, the accountability system procedures must be followed.
- The appropriate Command Officer shall designate the staging area location. The location shall be in an area remote from, but easily accessible to the incident scene. It may include areas for food, fuel, and rest on major incidents and should be able to reach the incident within two minutes of receiving an assignment.
- The formal radio designation for the staging function shall be: "Function or Agency Staging."

### ***STAGING OFFICER:***

- The Staging Officer shall compile a log of available apparatus and personnel
- The Staging Officer shall report to the Operations Chief or Incident Commander (IC) if the Operations Section has not been established.
- All communications involving staging shall be between "Staging" and "Operations" (when the Operations Chief is established) or "Command" (when the operations chief's position is not established).
- As the Operations Chief determines the need for resources, the Operations Chief shall contact staging and request the specific resources needed, giving the location where companies are required. The Staging Officer shall then assign the resources to respond.
- The IC or Operations Section Chief shall directly advise the Staging Officer if it is determined that a minimum number of functional units shall remain available in staging. EXAMPLE: "S. Sandusky St. Command to Staging; maintain two Engines, one Ladder, and one Rescue unit until further notice."
- When the IC or Operations Chief has identified a minimum level of resources to remain available in staging, the Staging Officer shall make a request to Central to replace any units deployed from the staging area.