

# SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

<b>SOG #:</b>	6.135	<b>Effective Date:</b>	7/14/2005
<b>Title:</b>	Staging Areas	<b># of pages:</b>	4
<b>Category:</b>	General Operation	<b>Classification:</b>	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for staging responding apparatus and resources and the associated staging areas.
2. **PROCEDURES:** Staging shall be classified into two levels of staging.

**Level One Staging:** Level One Staging shall be automatically established on all Box Alarms without further reference. In Level One Staging, the first arriving engine, ladder and rescue shall respond to the scene and locate as appropriate unless otherwise directed. All other responding apparatus shall stop clear of the immediate scene and locate so as to be available for deployment to the scene while attempting to minimize disruption of area traffic.

This means that other engines should locate a nearby hydrant which could be used to supply water to the incident. Ladders and rescues should stage at a position which allows access to the scene if needed. These positions should also leave the option of being easily rerouted to another incident.

**Level Two Staging:** Level Two Staging shall be implemented at the direction of the Incident Commander. Level Two Staging means the establishment of a designated staging area(s). A single staging area may initially be established which may involve sub section or separate areas as an incident progresses.

The officer in charge of the first arriving unit at a Level Two Staging area shall automatically assume the position of Staging Officer until relieved.

Command shall determine the level of resources to be kept in Staging and the Staging Officer shall communicate with Fire Alarm to maintain those levels.

Command shall determine the number and location of staging areas.

The Staging Officer may organize their staging area into as many sub units as they feel appropriate.

The Staging Officer shall coordinate with Command on the need for additional staging areas and their establishment.

The following are examples of multiple staging areas or sections of staging areas which may be established based on the incident.

### **Fire Vehicles Staging Area**

Location for suppression type apparatus. Should be established at a site large enough to stage engines and ladders.

### **EMS Staging Area**

Location for EMS response and transport units.

### **Police Staging Area**

A Police Department Supervisor or Officer will be assigned to oversee this staging area. It should consist of extra cruisers for traffic control and evacuation if needed. The police frequency will be used for communication with Command.

### **Public Works Staging Area**

A Public Works Supervisor will be assigned to oversee this staging area. This area may contain trucks with sand, a back hoe, bulldozer or front end loader and fuel trucks with diesel and gasoline. This supervisor will also control the dispatch of any private contractors to the scene if they are needed. The public work frequency will be used to communicate with Command.

### **Foam Trailer Staging Area**

A Fire Department member will be assigned to oversee this staging area. A vehicle will be assigned to transport foam trailers from their storage area to the staging area. Another vehicle will be assigned, by the staging officer, to move the trailers from the staging area to the foam pumper(s).

### **Bus Staging Area**

Buses may be assigned to either the Police or Fire Department staging areas, depending on space available. Upon being dispatched to the scene, the Fire Dispatcher will inform the Bus Service of the radio frequency they are to communicate on.

### **Waterfront Equipment Staging Area**

A Fire Department member or a Coast Guard member, with a radio, will oversee this staging area. This area will include tug boats, Coast Guard vessels, and Pollution Control vessels with booms and will be located at a pier or site remote from the incident.

### **Haz Mat Staging Area**

Location for dedicated Haz Mat resources from fire depts., other government agencies and private contractors.

### **Personnel Staging**

A fire Department member, or a mutual aid officer, will oversee this staging area and will maintain contact with Command. Personnel staging should be established for incidents that require large numbers of personnel to provide for frequent crew rotations, or extended operations (Example: *Multiple alarms, Hazardous Materials incidents, etc.*) This area should be within walking distance of the Command Post and remote from the incident.

Personnel rehab sector and Canteen Units should be incorporated into this area. The Personnel Staging Officer should coordinate with the Rehab Officer for proper resting and to assure the readiness of personnel.

3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

*Kevin W Guimond*

Kevin W. Guimond  
Fire Chief