

Hiawatha Fire & Rescue

Policy 602.01
Emergency Operations
Rural Water Supply
09/15/99

PURPOSE: Define operational guidelines to be used in situations where the use of a tanker shuttle is required.

SCOPE: Applies to all operations when water must be delivered to the fireground in tankers. All personnel are responsible for applying this procedure.

BACKGROUND:

It is essential that adequate water be delivered to the fireground at a rate which is sufficient to meet the minimum flow required to control a fire, and at the quantity that is sufficient to extinguish the fire. Simply Put; **"small fire, small water; big fire big water."**(Brunacini: Fire Command, 1985)

PROCEDURE:

After formulating the initial strategy at the scene of an incident, the initial responding officer shall establish an adequate water supply. If the incident will require the use of a tanker shuttle, the following procedure shall be used.

Requesting of Additional Resources: Upon the first indication of the need for an extended water supply, The officer responding on the initial unit shall request mutual aid in the form of tankers.

Common indicators may include:

1. Dispatch information (IE: **"HOUSE FIRE"**)
2. Pre-arrival indicators (IE: **BIG SMOKE COLUM**)
3. Pre-plan information (IE: **"THE OLD SCHOOL"**)

Initial Tanker Mutual Aid request shall consist of a minimum of 2 tankers and 1 engine. When requesting tankers, never request more than 4 tankers per alarm level. This is to avoid scene and hydrant congestion.

Initial Arriving Apparatus. The initial FCG shall determine the placement of the folding tank. A determination shall be made if the initial engine will draft, or if the operation will be relay. The following conditions should be met in order for the first engine to draft.

1. There must be adequate space for the folding tank.
2. There must be adequate room for the tankers to maneuver.
3. Tanker operations must not interfere with fireground operations or affect the safety of personnel.

If these conditions can not be met then, a relay operation shall be set up.

The first engine shall lay Large Diameter Hose from a location near the scene that allows for the above conditions to be met, without interfering with scene access. The initial Fire Ground Commander shall announce the "mode" as part of their initial on scene report.

Initial Tanker: The first responding tanker crew shall be responsible for setting up the folding tank. The folding tank(s) shall be set as to normal practice. During a relay operation, it is likely that the initial tanker may set their folding tank up prior to the arrival of a relay engine. Care must be exercised to allow for that engine to set up draft, without interfering with tanker traffic flow. The tanker shall dump, determine the fill site, and leave to fill.

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During the placement of the folding tank, and the determination of the fill site, it should be recognized that backing and maneuvering of tankers should be kept to the minimum. It may be wiser to drive extra distance or lay more hose, if it will save scene turn around time.

Water Supply Officer: The person riding in the officer seat of the tanker shall become Water Officer.

The water supply officer shall:

1. Coordinate the arrival and departure of all tankers.
2. Advise the Fire Ground Commander of water shortages or surpluses. The Fire Ground Commander will make the decision and request for additional tankers, or release tankers, based on information they receive from Water Supply.
3. Coordinate with fire ground engines during relays.
4. Maintain a record of water used.
5. During major extended incidents, they shall work with command and surrounding jurisdictions to insure that tankers are available to respond to other incidents as needed.

The Water supply officer shall remain near the dump point during operations. The Fire Ground Commander may appoint another officer to assume the role of Water Supply as staffing permits. This would normally be a Chief level officer from a mutual aid department.

Fill Site: The initial tanker crew will determine a fill site that allows for tankers to move in and out of the site quickly, without interfering with each other, and with a minimum of maneuvering. Water Supply will notify units of the location of the fill site. Water Supply may also need to designate additional fill sites.

Traffic Flow: During an extended shuttle, water supply shall determine a route to be followed by tanker that is the most expedient, and allows for a minimum of backing. A staging area should be established so that tankers may wait in a location that allows for quick dumping, and leaving without interfering with the arrival of additional units. Command may request Law Enforcement to aid in the control of traffic to expedite the flow of water.

Radio Traffic: Radio traffic between Command and Water Supply will be on the primary channel. Communications between relay engines, tankers, and Water Supply will be on State Mutual Aid Frequency. Normally, the tankers will only need to report that they are setting in staging and full.

Winter Operations: During winter operations, all persons shall be cognizant of the effects of cold. Drivers shall drive at a pace to maintain control of their vehicle, and allow for additional stopping distance. Firefighters operating near tankers shall be aware of the dangers of slipping on ice and falling under a moving vehicle. Command should request that street or road departments provide sand and salt at the scene, at the fill site, and along the route of travel.

Release of Units: The Fire Ground Commander shall release resources as no longer needed. Water Supply should check with Command when it becomes apparent the water supply flow exceeds that needed for fire flow.