



## Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

<b>Policy Title:</b>	Staging and Rehabilitation		
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<b>Approved By:</b>	Tom Jenkins	<b>Last Updated:</b>	March 2009
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### PURPOSE

This policy provides information on the staging and rehabilitation functions as they relate to incident command.

### POLICY

#### Scene Rehabilitation

Command shall ensure all personnel operating at an incident take periodic breaks for rehabilitation. "Rehab" is paramount in situations where inclement weather conditions deteriorate fire fighter abilities faster than usual. A system shall be established at each incident where fire fighters encounter prolonged work activity. Command should provide a rehabilitation area for members after using two complete SCBA cylinders or before fatigue becomes a factor.

An area of rehab shall be established at all incidents where members operate in an IDLH environment. Examples of a suitable rehab area and setup include a salvage cover in a shaded area with water for rehydration. Members reporting to rehab shall be accounted for through the accountability system and report to the incident commander prior to returning to duty.

#### Staging

Personnel reporting to the scene of an incident shall report to a designated staging area, unless otherwise instructed by Command. When the IC has not defined an assignment for on-scene or responding resources, staging shall be established. For structure fire responses, staging shall be at the closest and most productive hydrant in the event the on-scene apparatus require a continuous water supply. Upon determining a continuous water supply is not needed, Command shall move-up or release the staged resources.

Large incidents may require a formal staging area under the direction of a Staging Area Manager. If Command does not assign an individual to this function, it shall be performed by the first arriving officer in Staging.

When an incident is escalating or has not yet been stabilized, sufficient resources to meet potential incident development should be available in Staging until the incident has been stabilized.

Command shall establish Staging by defining its location and communicating this information to the Dispatch Center. The Dispatcher shall inform all responding resources of the location of staging.

The Staging Area should be established in such a manner that resources can respond immediately when assigned. Apparatus shall not be in a position that requires movement of other units or personnel to respond.

The Staging Area Manager shall check in resources (individuals or companies), respond to requests for resources, keep Command or Operations informed of the status of resources (including availability) in staging and maintain status of resources in staging.

Resources in Staging shall retain integrity (remain with their company) and be available for immediate assignment and deployment.

Personnel in Staging shall be assigned to an apparatus or formed into crews. Establishment of a leader or officer is essential in order to reinforce the “unity of command” concept. All personnel should know to whom they report.

To reduce communication loads on Command, the Staging Area Manager shall verbally dispatch resources when requested by Command.

Command or Operations shall request on-scene resources through the Staging Area Manager and shall specify where and to whom those resources shall report.

If a formal staging area is established, a separate radio channel shall be assigned for the incident to minimize interference with other incidents.

Staging can also facilitate the formation of Task Forces or Strike Teams. Task Forces and Strike Teams should have common communications and an identified leader. If the leaders do not have communications capability with Command or Operations, a radio should be provided if available. This is particularly important when mutual-aid companies are operating.