

Operating Guideline # 802

Apparatus Placement

September 30, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines for the safe positioning and parking of apparatus at emergency scenes.

GUIDELINE:

1. When approaching emergency scenes, emergency vehicle operators are to use caution and be prepared for the unexpected actions of other vehicles, citizens and spectators.
2. At an incident scene, fire apparatus must be placed to provide maximum protection for personnel who may be working close to traffic. Warning lights shall be used to the best advantage to make approaching traffic aware of the incident.
3. At night, apparatus mounted flood or spotlights shall be used to illuminate the scene to make operations easier and to make the scene more visible to approaching traffic. Flood or spotlights should be aimed so as to not blind approaching traffic. If the apparatus is parked facing traffic lanes, turn off the headlights. Approaching vehicles may assume that the apparatus is parked in the normal driving lane and attempt to pass it on the wrong side.
4. All personnel working in or near traffic will wear reflective protection (bunker gear and traffic vests).
5. If it is not necessary to park fire apparatus in or near traffic lanes for protection to personnel, the apparatus should be pulled off the road to parking lots, curbs etc. if prudent or possible. This should only be done by command of the Officer in charge. Extreme caution is to be exercised prior to moving apparatus onto the soft shoulder. The weight of the apparatus combined with the condition of the shoulder may result in the potential for rollover.
6. Position vehicles, whenever possible, with the tasks to be accomplished in mind. Pumpers should be located to facilitate the laying of hose lines and the possible use of vehicle mounted monitor nozzles or supplying other apparatus. Where it is anticipated that aerial devices may be required, a front corner of the building should be left unobstructed for optimal aerial ladder placement. Extrication equipped units should be positioned to facilitate the operation of tools while still keeping safe distances from the scene. (SEE ALSO MLFD OG 903 – Vehicle Extrication Scene Safety)
7. Apparatus placement in rural settings shall take into consideration the need for tanker shuttle operations, apparatus not immediately needed at the scene should be staged in an appropriate location at the direction of the Incident Commander.
8. Company Officers are responsible for the safety of all vehicle operations and for compliance with this guideline.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)
- MLFD OG 509 - Apparatus Placement
- MLFD OG 903 – Vehicle Extrication Scene Safety