



TRAINING NEWLETTER

DATE: August 2017 SUBJECT: First and Second Due Engine

Last month, we covered apparatus placement; to review, we have one chance at getting placement correct. If we fail at placement, the operation will likely fail.

This month, we are focusing on responsibilities of the arriving apparatus *after they are placed correctly*.

FIRST DUE ENGINE: Locate, confine, and extinguish the fire. – we've heard that before, but let's relate it to us. For the house or building fire, we select the best attack line considering the **building construction and location and extent** of the fire. We locate the fire, stretch to its seat if possible, and put it out. If we cannot successfully extinguish it, we will confine it to the involved area until we can extinguish it.

In a perfect world, the chauffer will have established a primary water supply, thrown the ladder compliment from the engine (14 and 24 ft), and will start staging equipment. Additionally, with our shortage of firefighters on scene, the engine chauffer will act as the OV (outer vent). A good engine chauffer can leave the engine's side and still monitor it by sound. He or she will know something has changed just by listening. The modern engine chauffer is a very dynamic position, as he or she is no longer able to be glued to the pump panel. Most maydays occur on the initial stretch; the chauffer is the only one left outside during this operation, as it occurs in the first 5 minutes. The chauffer should be ready, willing, and able to take action. This means put a mask on and do the job.

SECOND DUE ENGINE: Establish a secondary water supply, stretch a back up line. – *what?* Establishing a second water source is great, as long as you are not stealing it from the same loop as the first due. Know your hydrants and your water main sizes to estimate your capabilities

What does the back up line do? First, it should be equal to, or greater than, the line already stretched. This includes size, length, and nozzle. This line can be used to extinguish other parts or extensions of the fire (different floors or the same spot, wherever it is needed). It can also be used to protect the firefighters on the initial line by protecting their egress (i.e. interior stairs, hallways, etc.) Sometimes we stretch the second line in and watch the first crew extinguish the fire; that is part of the job.

Don't discount *standpipe operations*; first or second due engine must hook to the FDC.

Fun Fact: Ladder 290 is giant engine, and has the 2nd strongest pump in the district.