



## **TRAINING NEWSLETTER**

**DATE: JULY 2017 SUBJECT: APPARATUS PLACEMENT**

Apparatus placement is one of the most important tasks to be completed on the fire ground; consequently, it is one of the first tasks too.

Chief Avillo always preaches that we have one shot at getting it right, otherwise, the entire operation is compromised.

Let's start easy...**Rescue Company**: On the fire scene, park it far away. For motor vehicle/traffic incidents, remember that we work off the rear. Just like pulling past the house on fire with an Engine, we pull past the wreck with the Rescue. Engine Companies- make sure you aren't blocking that access for the Rescue Company; stop short if possible. Keep in mind, there are exceptions to every rule.

**Ladder Company**: How many times have we heard, "ladder gets the front,"? It is always true, but there are better ways to think about it. Let's say that the Ladder Co gets the corners. That way, we can fit at least two, maybe three Ladder Companies in the front. It also keeps us out of the collapse zone, or at least almost out of it. Remember not to block the back of ladder trucks, otherwise we cannot get the ground ladders out.

**Engine Companies**: How often does the Engine pull up and take the front of the house? "Split the house with the crosslays," as I often heard as a probie. That is terribly WRONG. How about commercial structures? Engine Companies should position off to the side leaving plenty of room for people to get out and more trucks to get in. With commercial structures, we are stretching a 2 ½ inch line anyway, which should be 300 feet long or more. The Engine Chauffer has a hand in estimating the stretch here. Do not park 25 feet away from the building and expect your crew to stretch the 300+ feet or line in, especially when the building is only 100 feet deep. You can break the line, but instead this gives you a chance to park far away...which is good.

I always like the Engine parking in front of the neighbor's house. We can always extend the stretch with courtyard lays and high rise packs. If you see the hydrant directly in front of the house on fire, keep going. Back stretch the length or two of hose you need from there.

Too often I see an engine or auxiliary/private vehicle blocking the way. Practice makes perfect, so start placement right on all calls.