

## **Additional Resource Management**

**# A-031**

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The decisions required to provide for adequate resources are an important factor in effective fireground management. Command must balance the tactical problems with the resource required to control those problems and stay ahead of the situation through effective forecasting. Beware of "Crisis Management": situation grows at a rate faster than the response rate to that situation; Command ends up with an out of control situation and inadequate resources to control it.

Many times a point will be reached where Command begins to debate whether to call for additional resources or not. In such cases, call for it. If the extra resource is not needed, it can easily be put back in service.

In most cases, Command should utilize the mutual aid mechanism; it is the quickest, provides for automatic move-ups, and indicates in a standard manner that the fire problem is in an expanded mode.

It is the continuing responsibility and function of Command to determine the resources required to control the situation and to provide for the timely call for any additional resources required. The early call for additional resources will tend to consistently save the day.

Command must be aware of both the capability and response time of additional resources and effectively integrate these facts into calls for additional resources.

Some tactical situations move slowly, while some move very quickly. Command must call for additional resources at a rate that stays ahead of the fire.

Some situations require the categorical call for mutual aid upon knowledge of particular characteristics or conditions; in other situations, Command will initiate some fire control activities, ask for reports, and based upon receipt of bad news, will call for mutual aid.

When calling for additional resources, Command must build a corresponding command organization structure to manage those additional resources. Command cannot encounter a big fire situation, call additional resources, and then expect to effectively manage those additional resources in a Level I command mode.

### **WHEN TO SUMMON ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

1. An actual or potential fire situation exists and the life hazard exceeds the rescue capabilities of initial alarm resources.
2. The number, location, and condition of actual victims exceed the rescue/removal/treatment capabilities of initial alarm resources.
3. An actual or potential fire situation exists, and the property protection demand (both internal and external) exceeds the fire control capabilities of initial alarm resources.
4. Fire conditions become more severe or the situation deteriorates significantly.
5. All resources have been committed, and the fire is not controlled.
6. Forces are depleted due to exhaustion, injury, trapped, or missing: Command must forecast the effect the fire will have on personnel and provide for the support of such personnel in advance.
7. Command runs out of some resource (men, apparatus, water, equipment, command, etc.).
8. There is evidence of significant fire, but are unable to determine location and extent.

9. The commitment of resources is not effective.
10. Firefighters cannot effectively perform early salvage operations.
11. Situation becomes so widespread and complex that Command can no longer effectively "cope"; the situation requires larger command organization and more sector functions.
12. Command instinctively feels the need to summon additional resources (do not disregard fireground hunches).

### **TANKER RESPONSE**

1. The following policy regulates the request, response, and use of tanker apparatus:
2. All drivers & officers will use their discretion in calling for tanker assistance and should be alert to areas in their response zones that will require the additional water carried on tankers.
3. A tanker/tankers may be called to any incident where required. Command may specify which mutual aid department to call or may leave it up to dispatch.
4. Command should assign a Water Supply Officer who will set up a tanker shuttle including routes and a fill site.