

ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY

PURPOSE

To establish a protocol to provide continuous water supply for non-hydrated areas and to supplement areas with weak or insufficient water systems.

PROCEDURE

1. First-in Company

- A. Drives directly to the fire scene and assesses the need for an alternative water supply.
- B. Communicates lay-in needs to second-in company.
- C. Orders additional companies if needed and relays directions to third-in company to establish a Water Supply Group (WSG) if needed.

2. Second-in Company

Lays in hose to fire scene as directed from first-in company and supplies attack engine with tank water.

3. Additional companies (**RESPONSES may vary**) as assigned by command.

- A. Sets up to pump to tail from road-way and prepares to draft from fold-a-tank if required. **First in Water Tender may also act as nurse tender and set up to draft and pump to the tail in replacement of an Engine.**
- B. Command will designate the Water Supply Group Supervisor but will initiate and operate WSG operations until relieved.
- C. An additional engine company may be needed to establish Fill Site operations. That officer will become the Fill Site Manager and report to the Water Supply Group Supervisor.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider traffic control needs early
- Keeps water continuously flowing up the tail to the attack engine.
- **Keep one traffic lane open on the road-way at the Dump Site if at all possible!**
- Order resources early to staff Alternate Water Supply positions.
- Run Water Supply Group on a separate radio channel.

1ST ARRIVING TENDER:

- Nurse or Pump to Tail w/ correct pump pressure.
- Set-up Porta-Tank if needed & determine need/location for hard suction—OR—
- Head to Fill Site when empty.
- If the fill site is a hydrant, it is the duty of the first arriving Tender to set up the hydrant for quick access.

SUBSEQUENT TENDERS:

- Dump or Pump depending on water delivery mode.
- Head to Fill Site when empty.

SUBSEQUENT ENGINES:

- Report to Command for assignment.

WATER SUPPLY GROUP SUPERVISOR DUTIES

DETERMINE FIRE FLOW:

- Small Outbuilding, Shed = 250 gpm
- Small Residence, Propane Tank, Mobile Home = 500 gpm
- Medium Residence = 750 gpm
- Large Residence, Barn – Big Fire = 1000 gpm

DETERMINE WATER DELIVERY MODE

- 250 gpm = Direct or Nurse
- 500 gpm = Direct or Nurse
- 750 gpm = Port-a-Tank
- 1000 gpm = Port-a-Tank

GROUP POSITIONS:**Establish a DUMP SITE WATER SUPPLY OFFICER:**

- Normally Officer from 3rd arriving Engine or from subsequent Engine as IC orders.
- Supplies water to scene, directs Water Tenders, determines water flow needs and number of Water Tenders required.
- Assistance may be needed to make connections, set up Port-a-Tanks, and operate Dump Valves.

Establish FILL SITE MANAGER:

- Fill site manager position is optional
- First arriving W/T or assigned Engine Officer.
- Operate Pump Panel of Engine at Fill Site.
- Will establish a Fill Site & setup Fill Site.
- Makes connections to Tenders.

KEY TERMS:

- **Dump site:** Located at or near the fire scene to establish a constant supply of water to a fire in an area with a lack of an adequate water source via;
 - *Port-A- Tank(s)* Operations
 - *Nurse Pumping:* Water Tender supplies a relay pumper with tank water.
- *-Or-*
- *Direct pump:* Water Tender pumps directly to the attack pumper.
- **Fill site:** water supply located near the fire that will adequately fill Water Tenders in the least amount of time, with the least amount of effort.
- **Shuttle only Water Tender:** A Water Tender that either doesn't have a pump or the pump is inadequate.

DIRECT/NURSE KEY POINTS

- Pump correct pressure for hose lay.
- Pump has capacity for hose lay.
- Spot Tender to leave room for others.
- Get Fill Site/access/direction of travel from WSGS.
- Head for water when empty.

PORTA-TANK KEY POINTS

- Use tarp/sizing template to spot Porta-Tank.
- Maintain drive-by access to tank.
- Utilize side dump – watch exhaust.
- Water Tender driver stays in cab.
- Follow Dump Site Manager's direction.
- Head for water when empty.
- Get Fill Site/access/direction of travel from WSGS.

WATER TENDER SHUTTLE KEY POINTS

- Drive Water Tenders completely empty or full
- Code 1 response ONLY (unless directed by IC, Company Officer, or Chief Officer)

