

	<b>GRAFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>	
Section: Operations	Subject: Brush Fire	
Approval: William Q. Rice	Effective Date: 04/02/2015	Revision Date:

**PURPOSE:**

To effectively suppress and extinguish brush fires in a safe and orderly manner with a minimum risk involved to citizens and firefighters.

**SCOPE:**

This guideline shall cover all department members responding to and operating at a brush fire.

**SAFETY:**

One of the Departments main concerns is the safety of its personnel. All firefighters working at the emergency scene are required to wear full protective gear. Anyone who is not wearing the required safety equipment will be relieved of duty until they are in compliance. All non-emergency personnel should be kept out of the affected area and unburned areas in which the fire may travel. All members will use the accountability system when in the hot zone. There will be no riding on the tailgate or in the back of the vehicle while it is in motion. Personnel should also:

- A. Know the location and direction of the fire travel
- B. Escape Plans shall be known to all fire personnel
- C. Be cautious for Spot fires
- D. Be cautious for Flare-ups
- E. Be aware of wind direction and velocity
- F. Be aware of topography
- G. Monitor crews for exhaustion
- H. Be aware of down wires, electric fences, etc.
- I. Be aware of equipment and personnel working above or around teams

**INCIDENT COMMAND:**

The first firefighter arriving at the emergency scene will-

- A. Provide a scene size-up, assume command, and develop a suppression plan
- B. Complete a 360 degree viewing of the incident site to determine exposure issues, resources needed and parking locations.
- C. Ensure that a proper communication system has been coordinated for incident activities

**RESPONSE:**

Brush Truck: Will provide attack with the charged pre- connected hose line or brooms stored in back of the vehicle. The truck will respond with a driver and passenger only. The pump will be started and running prior to leaving the station.

Primary Attack Engine: Will provide additional attack manpower armed with brooms and water vests unless Command advises otherwise.

Primary Supply Engine: Will provide additional manpower for fire suppression and act as a water source for Attack Engine and Brush Fire Truck unless Command advises differently.

Ambulance(s): Will stage in an area close to the fire which is accessible for the firefighters, but clear of the other fire units. The crew will assist in rehab. If additional personnel are required to work in the rehab area, Emergency Medical Technicians who are already at the scene can be assigned. If a subsequent EMS call is received, the ambulance may respond from the fire scene with a full crew upon orders from Command.

Additional Apparatus: Additional apparatus will only respond by order of Command and will await assignment.

#### **ARRIVAL ON SCENE:**

The Brush Truck should make their way to the affected area on the upwind and highest, driest ground available. The vehicle should be engaged into 4-wheel drive before going off-road. All other responding apparatus should remain on the roadway unless otherwise directed by Command.

#### Incident Actions:

- A. Base all actions and strategy on current and expected fire behavior
- B. Establish staging area for additional arriving apparatus and personnel
- C. Life safety and structural protection take priority over extinguishment of forest, brush, or ground cover
- D. If offensive attack is indicated, the head of the fire is to be attacked first. If that is not possible, the flanks should be attacked while working toward the head of the fire.
- E. If the fire is large and fast moving, then a direct attack may not be possible. In such cases, an indirect and/or parallel attack may be utilized by creating a fire line a distance ahead of the fire to halt the progress of the fire.
- F. Different methods of attack may be used simultaneously according to the situation
- G. Teams assigned to structural protection must keep hose lines flexible enough to be able to quickly break away in the event of being over run
- H. Collaborate with the DNR, specialists/technicians as needed
- I. Communications and accountability of all incident personnel shall be maintained at all times.