



# ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Standard Operating Procedures

### 3.23 Working Fire Assignments



#### WORKING FIRE ASSIGNMENTS

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Effective: March 13, 2026  
Scheduled Review: March 13, 2028  
Approved: Fire Chief Mike Kennedy

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#### I. PURPOSE

Pre-assignment for all box alarm companies creates efficiency and reduces the complexity of decision making by the initial incident commander. This SOP applies to incidents where a “working fire” is declared as defined in SOP 3.05 Communications. This SOP does not apply to high-rise incidents. These assignments are the basis for fire ground operations at single-family and apartment fires, which are the bulk of structure fires within the City of Ann Arbor. Deviations to this SOP need to be clearly articulated via radio by the incident commander.

#### II. STANDARD ENGINE COMPANY FUNCTIONS

An engine company’s primary responsibility is to extinguish fires by applying water onto what is burning as quickly and as safely as possible.

- Establish water supplies
- Stretch hoselines
- Operate nozzles
- Search, rescue, and treatment
- Open up concealed spaces
- Deploy ground ladders
- Pump supply lines
- Supply master streams
- Loss control activities

#### III. STANDARD TRUCK (TOWER OR LADDER) COMPANY FUNCTIONS

- Fire control
- Search and rescue
- Ventilation (post fire control)
- Forcible entry
- Raise ladders
- Provide access into concealed spaces/check for fire extension
- Utility control
- Provide lighting
- Deploy aerial devices
- Operate ladder pipes (aerials and platforms)
- Perform overhaul
- Loss control activities
- Provide roof reports on smaller commercial and strip mall occupancies



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Each company is expected to perform all basic functions safely within the limits of their capability. It is the on-going responsibility of Command to integrate company tasks and objectives as required with the capability of on-scene units.

#### IV. ASSIGNMENTS

These assignments are the default actions of responding companies. Only changes need to be communicated. The second and third arriving engines shall announce their arrival order, so everyone is clear on which of the below functions they will fulfill, e.g., “Engine 1-6 arrival, second due engine.”

##### First Arriving Engine

- The most important job of the first arriving engine is putting water on the fire.
- After viewing as many sides as possible, the first engine company should park in a position to allow for rapid advancement of hoselines into the structure, leaving priority position for the truck company.
- Primary actions will be deployment of initial attack line, search as the line is advanced. Commence fire attack off of booster tank water. The first arriving engine should not delay with a forward or reverse lay.

##### Second Arriving Engine

- Establish a hydrant water source for the first arriving engine.
- The company officer shall ensure the driver / operator of the second arriving engine is able to complete the establishing of a hydrant water source to the first arriving engine prior to engaging in other assignments. The first arriving engine running out of water is a serious threat to civilian and firefighter safety.
- Unless otherwise assigned, the company officer of the second arriving engine shall determine a forward lay, reserve lay, or hand stretch to secure positive water supply.
- Upon the establishing of a water source or confirmation it is in progress, the second arriving engine company officer and firefighter will proceed with a second hoseline, back-up hoseline, or other duties as assigned by the incident commander.

##### Third Arriving Engine

- Park where it is not blocked in and can leave the incident for response to other incidents.
- Unless otherwise assigned, the entire crew (lieutenant, driver/operator, and firefighter) will dress-out with SCBA and proceed to be on-deck. As part of being on-deck, crew will
  - Secure gas and electric utilities.
  - Provide for forcible entry and egress. Ensure egress paths are clear for interior crews.
  - Place ground ladders to windows if not already done by first or second truck company.



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#### First Arriving Truck (Tower or Ladder)

- Preferred position is normally in the front of the structure. This will allow for rapid deployment of aerial and ground ladders (front and rear) as a primary concern. Other duties will be to force entry, conduct a primary search, and coordinated ventilation.

#### Second Arriving Truck (Tower or Ladder)

- Attempt to position on the opposite side of the building (usually C-side) as the first arriving truck.
- If there is not opposite side access for the apparatus, position as close as possible to the scene and assist the first truck with forcing entry, search, coordinated ventilation, and ladders. Ground ladders and truck operations in the rear will remain a priority.
- Unless the aerial ladder is being used or there is another need for the truck, the driver/operator will dress-out with SCBA and join their crew.

#### Tower 1-1

- Tower 1-1 should not lay LDH in support of an engine company's water supply.
- Unless exigent circumstances, fire attack hoselines should not be stretched off of Tower 1-1.

#### Ladder 1-5

- When arriving first, Ladder 1-5 will function as the first arriving engine assignments.
- When arriving in any other order, it will function as ladder / truck company.

#### Rescue (Ambulance)

- Park where it is not blocked in. Effort shall be made to "back in" or otherwise position the rescue so the rear, patient compartment doors are facing the incident. This will allow for rapid loading and transport of a victim or firefighter.
- If there is a report of a victim(s), the priority of the rescue crew is patient care / transport. The rescue crew will not dress out until the patient(s) is transported.
- If there are no patients / patients have been transported, the rescue crew will dress out and be assigned by the incident commander to an officer as part of that officer's crew. This assignment shall be announced via the assigned fireground talk group.
- The rescue crew shall not operate independently within the hazard zone.
- Rescues shall be prioritized for release from the incident for citywide coverage.