

BLACKWOOD FIRE COMPANY OPERATING GUIDELINE

1.18 INCIDENT RESPONSE - COVER ASSIGNMENTS

- 1.18.1 Requested apparatus shall respond at reduced speed.
- 1.18.2 Minimum crew for cover assignment shall be 4 SCBA qualified firefighters. When TL-84 is requested, the crew shall include at least 2 qualified tower operators.
- 1.18.3 The maximum recommended crew during weekday hours (M-F 6A-6P) is 5 firefighters. The maximum recommended crew during all other times is 6 firefighters. The company officer may exceed the recommended maximum staffing levels if adequate personnel are available for subsequent calls in District 4.
- 1.18.4 An officer should respond with the requested apparatus whenever possible.
- 1.18.5 When possible, crews should be assembled from both stations.
- 1.18.6 Members volunteering to respond to a cover should be prepared for an 8 hour commitment. Members available for less than 8 hours shall bring that fact to the attention of the company officer prior to boarding the apparatus.
- 1.18.7 When an engine company is requested for a cover assignment, E-841, or E-842 shall be used. The senior officer will determine which apparatus to send, based on the location of the cover, station staffing, and any other relevant factors.
- 1.18.8 Upon arrival at the station to be covered, the officer shall notify the appropriate communications center, and insure that either a guide, or maps of the district being covered are available. The officer shall also ensure necessary adapters are available for hydrant hookups, when necessary.
- 1.18.9 If multiple apparatus are covering a station, the officer from this company shall confer with the other company and/or command officer(s) regarding pre-planning of responses, tactical considerations, interoperability concerns, etc....

- 1.18.10 If it appears the cover will last longer than 4 hours, the company officer should contact the Chief or the highest ranking available officer of this company, as soon as possible, so arrangements for relief can be made.
- 1.18.11 While in the cover station, members shall adhere to all rules which apply to this company's stations, in addition to any rules applicable to the cover station. Members shall not enter or occupy any unauthorized areas of the cover station, and shall not operate or move any equipment owned by the cover company.
- 1.18.12 Apparatus committed to a cover assignment in a station not immediately adjacent to FD #4 will not respond to incidents in District 4 unless dispatched by Camden County Radio or directed by a responding officer. If the apparatus does respond, the OIC of the district being covered shall be notified via the appropriate communications center.
- 1.18.13 With the exception of the circumstances described in 1.18.12, apparatus assigned to a cover shall not depart until released by the IC of the company being covered or other competent authority.
- 1.18.14 If the local company returns to their station prior to the release of the cover company, the cover company officer should offer any necessary assistance to the local company in restoring their apparatus to service.
- 1.18.15 When released from the cover assignment, the OIC of this Company shall inform the District OIC of any incidents handled and/or any problems which arose during the cover.

Revised January 2009