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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** | | |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** | |
| **SOG Number:** | |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** | | |

**Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender Task Force**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Purpose:**

To provide uniform operations with departments participating in tanker shuttle and water supply operations. These guidelines are intended to be followed to eliminate confusion and provide an understanding of what should happen when the need arises for a tanker shuttle.

**Procedure:**

**Activation**

* **GOAL**: To establish and maintain continuous water supply for rural fire ground operation using primary tankers to deliver water to the fire ground.

**INTENTION**: To provide uniform operations with departments participating in mobile water supply/tanker/tender shuttle and water supply operations. These guidelines are intended to be followed to eliminate confusion and provide an understanding of what should happen when the need arises for a mobile water supply/tanker/tender shuttle.

* **PROCEDURE**: The officer in charge of the hosting department will notify the communication center and request the mobile water supply/tanker/tender task force for the incident. Communication center will then dispatch five (5) mobile water supply/tankers/tenders and two (2) additional engines companies to respond to the incident. (Template attached).
* The officer in charge should request the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE WATER SUPPLY/TANKER/TENDER TASK FORCE as soon as possible due to distances and travel time of the mutual aid mobile water supply/tanker/tender and Engine Company. The mobile water supply/tanker/tender task force should be activated anytime a continuous water supply is need in a rural application or when a pressurized source will not meet the needed fire flow requirements. The officer in charge of the first responding department will appoint a water supply officer who will establish command of the water supply operations at the dump site. The water supply officer should be familiar with the surrounding locations as to where fill sites (within a two mile radius) can be established, whether from a static source or a pressurized source. The water supply officer will appoint a fill site officer to establish command at the fill site. Communication center will notify the water supply officer what mobile water supply/tankers/tenders and engines will be responding. Anytime the fire location is within two thousand feet (2000’) of a water source it is recommended that a supply line be laid instead of utilizing mobile water supply/tankers/tenders unless the water source does not meet needed fire flow requirements. When responding mobile water supply/tankers/tenders there should only be two (2) with the mobile water supply/tanker/tender unless the officer in charge is requesting additional firefighters. If additional firefighters are requested they need to dismount the mobile water supply/tanker/tender on the first dump and proceed to the staging area for firefighters.

**Dump Site for Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender Operations**

* **GOAL**: To establish and maintain continuous water supply for rural fire ground operation using primarily mobile water supply/tanker/tender to deliver water to the fire ground.
* **INTENTION**: To provide uniform operations with departments participating in mobile water supply/tanker/tender shuttle and water supply operations. These guidelines are intended to be followed to eliminate confusion and provide an understanding of what should happen when the need arises for a mobile water supply/tanker/tender shuttle.
* **PROCEDURE**: The water supply officer will be in charge of the dump site area and will be designed as water supply on the radio to all responding units. Staging, if not already employed, shall be designated by water supply, remote from the dump site. Staging will not be used when more full mobile water supply/tanker/tender s are available then can be placed at the dump site alleviating congestion and accident potential at the dump site.

*Considerations for the dump site shall include:*

* *Accessibility for incoming mobile water supply/tankers/tenders. The area shall large enough for maneuvering and should have access to a minimum of two (2) dump tanks. The dump tanks location. The sump tanks shall be setup with the ability to position two (2) mobile water supply/tankers/tenders dumping at once.* The draft engine shall use one of the main intakes for maximum volume. Draft engine shall use two (2) lengths of hard suction hose, preferably with a low level strainer. A third (3rd) hard suction hose will be needed to transfer water to the main dump tank. The distance to the fire ground should be less than one thousand feet (1000’). The department having jurisdiction shall lay a line with the first due attack engine. The draft engine is to lay from the end of the line laid by the first in engine to the dump tank site. Before choosing a dump site, consider routing and direction of travel of travel to the fill site. Avoid setting dump tanks in the congestion of the immediate fire ground. The dump tanks should be set up do the mobile water supply/tankers/tenders stay on the hard surface and the drafting engine is set up off the road.
* **Water Supply** will designate personnel for backing operations and opening dump valves on all mobile water supply/tankers/tenders. When placing the dump tanks in relationship to the draft engine, consider all of the possibilities for setup. Use either a square setup or a triangle setup. The type of setup will depend on several factors:
  + The amount of room at the dump site
  + Width at the dump site
  + Width of the road
  + Type of dump valve on mobile water supply/tankers/tenders

Once the dump site is setup, the pump operator shall establish the initial draft pump pressure of 75 PSI. The water supply officer or pump operator shall establish communications with the attack engine. Water supply is to notify the incident commander that “water supply is in operation”. Maintain a minimum of fifteen hundred gallons (1500) reserve in the dump tanks with the booster tank in the engine full at all times. At any time the minimum reserve is reached, notify the incident commander. Mobile water supply/tankers/tenders should dump in the primary dump tank as much as possible. Water supply will notify the mobile water supply/tankers/tenders, which tank to dump into. Dispatch the mobile water supply/tankers/tenders back to the fill site with partial loads after their most efficient portion of the dump is completed. Use the most effective means of dumping for each mobile water supply/tanker/tender. Mobile water supply/tankers/tenders must be equipped with a rapid dump device (jet assist or Newton dump valves).

**Fill Site for Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender Operations**

* **GOAL**: To establish and maintain continuous water supply for rural fire ground operation using primarily mobile water supply/tankers/tenders to deliver water to the fire ground.
* **INTENTION**: to provide uniform operations with departments participating in mobile water supply/tanker/tender shuttle and water supply operations. These guidelines are intended to be followed to eliminate confusion and provide an understanding of what should happen when the need arises for a mobile water supply/tanker/tender shuttle.
* **PROCEDURE**: Either the incident commander of the water supply officer will appoint a fill site officer. The fill site officer will need to have communications to talk to the mobile water supply/tankers/tenders and the water supply officers. The fill site officer will be designated as (Fill Site) on the radio. Staging should be designated remote from the fill site. It is to be used when more empty mobile water supply/tankers/tenders are available than can be placed at the fill site. This will alleviate congestion and accident potential at the fill site. The nearest water source to the fire ground can be determined by preplan data or the water supply officer.

Considerations for picking the fill site will include:

* + The volume of water available by known test results.
  + The travel distance, routing (road surfaces and conditions) and traffic control.

Whenever possible try to achieve a loop route rather than a one-way turn around route. Try to keep the site accessible.

Equipment needed at the water source will include:

* + A draft engine
  + Any special required fittings
  + Suction hose and/or portable pumps

The fill location shall use the largest available (gallons per minute) engine when possible. The engine shall set up four (4) large lines. They should be paired so two (2) mobile water supply/tankers/tenders can be connected at the same time. Only one (1) mobile water supply/tanker/tender is to be filled at a time. Fill with the best possible method, i.e. highest volume for the shortest amount of time. It is preferable to use an engine on a hydrant, but when only a hydrant is used setup two (2) large lines. Consider using a second hydrant for multiple fill sites using the same setup.

When large volume mobile water supply/tankers/tenders (2,000 gallon or larger) are utilized they should be sent to a different fill site so the fill operation for the smaller mobile water supply/tankers/tenders will not be slowed down. Another fill site officer may be required at this site.

**Water Supply Officer**

* **GOAL**: To establish and maintain continuous water supply for rural fire ground operations using primarily mobile water supply/tankers/tenders to deliver water to the fire ground.
* **INTENTION**: To provide uniform operations with departments participating in mobile water supply/tanker/tender shuttle and water supply operations. These guidelines are intended to be followed to eliminate confusion and provide an understanding of what should happen when the need arises for a mobile water supply/tanker/tender shuttle.
* **PROCEDURE**: The officer in charge of the department requesting the mobile water supply/tanker/tender task force shall appoint a water supply officer. This position will be from the requesting department or from a mutual aid department and will be in charge of the dump site. The water supply officer shall be designated as (Water Supply) on the radio to all units responding.

Water supply officer shall check with the incident commander to find out the required flow in gallons per minute needed at the fire scene. If a ladder or quint has been requested the flow should be a minimum of five hundred (500) gpm. If the required flow is unknown, water supply will try to achieve a minimum of four hundred (400) gpm. This flow will adequately flow two (2) 1 ¾ hand lines.

Water supply officer will coordinate the dump site setup and the supply lines to the fire ground. Water supply will set up staging for the mobile water supply/tankers/tenders at a remote location from the dump site to alleviate congestion and accident potential at the dump site. Water supply officer will need to have radio communication to talk to the mobile water supply/tankers/tenders and the incident commander.

Mobile water supply/tanker/tender radio traffic is to be held to minimum. Do not advise status of location unless asked by water supply officer. Water supply will advise incoming mobile water supply/tankers/tenders which dump tank to use in a timely manner so tanker drivers can respond and react accordingly.

**General**

**DEPARTMENT MOBILE WATER SUPPLY/TANKERs/TENDERs** **ENGINES**

**EXAMPLE:**

**My Town Fire Department**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1st Call** | **2nd Call** |
| Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender, Engine | Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender |
| Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender | Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender |
| Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender | Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender |
| Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender | Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender |
| Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender, Engine | Mobile Water Supply/Tanker/Tender |

Engines should proceed to the nearest fill sites to load tankers.

Contact Command or the Water Supply Officer for directions.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**