

	Terryville Fire Department Best Practices	
	<u>Subject</u> Brush Fires	BP# 3-09
	<u>Authority</u> Chief of Department	Initiated 9/1/2016 Revised

A. PURPOSE

1. These best practices have been established to ensure the proper response and safety of our members when dispatched to dumpster and debris fires.

B. GENERAL GUIDELINES / CONSIDERATIONS

1. All members shall comply with all safety related best practices.
2. Reflective safety vests should only be worn by support personnel (traffic, EMS, etc.) and not by personnel conducting fire suppression activities.

B. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

1. Establish Command
 - a. The first arriving officer should transmit a brief size-up report and conduct the following:
 - Determine the actual location and size of fire.
 - Determine direction of fire travel.
 - Determine type of fuel burning (light grass, leaves, heavy brush, etc.).
 - Determine actions needed by first arriving brush truck or engine.
 - b. The Incident Commander (IC) should first determine whether or not the fire may be extinguished without committing apparatus into a wooded area.
 - c. Request additional resources early on, when needed.
2. Water Supply
 - a. Determine closest hydrant location and assign an engine to stand-by on the hydrant.

3. Fire Attack

- a. Base all actions and strategy on current and expected behavior of the fire.
- b. Life safety and structure protection take priority over the extinguishment of brush, grass, etc.
- c. When attacking the fire directly, attack the flanks of the fire first, if possible. If not possible, attack the back and work toward the head.
- d. If the fire is large and fast moving, then a direct attack may not be possible. In such cases, an indirect attack may be utilized by using natural fire breaks, such as paths and roadways to halt the progress of the fire.
- e. Different methods of fire attack may be used simultaneously based on the situation.
- f. Crews assigned to protect structures should keep hose lines flexible enough to be able to quickly break away in the event of being over run.
- g. Fire attack crews have the best eyes on the situation. If additional resources are needed, notify the IC sooner rather than later.

4. Hazard & Safety Considerations

- a. Brush trucks shall normally be the only apparatus to be driven off road. Chiefs may use their 4x4 vehicle to assist them in scene size-up but should retreat and establish command.
- b. Before taking vehicles off-road, the location and direction of the fire should be obtained.
- c. Brush truck operators and officers should determine a means of escape should the original position be over run.
- d. Be cautious of soft or unstable ground where apparatus may become stuck.
- e. Brush trucks should not be used to knock trees down.
- f. Crews working on hose lines should:
 - Be cautious of spot fires below the working area
 - Be cautious of frequent flare-ups.
 - Be cautious of equipment and personnel working around you.
 - Be cautious of changes in wind direction and velocity.

- g. All personnel should be aware of the location and direction of the fire.
- h. Personnel should consider L.C.E.S. during operation
 - L – Lookouts
 - C – Communications
 - E – Escape Routes
 - S – Safety Zones
- i. The IC should not allow fire personnel to become exhausted. Rest and rehab should be provided on a rotating basis during extended operations. Frequency will depend on current conditions.
- j. Be alert to the possibility of downed electrical lines which may result in energized fences, ground, etc.
- k. When at all possible, avoid attacking brush fires downhill.