

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY FIRE and RESCUE ASSOCIATION	NUMBER: 604
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	PAGE 1 of 2
SUBJECT: Rural Water Supply Operations	EFFECTIVE DATE:02/20/09
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PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for rural water operations.

BACKGROUND: To assist the Incident Commander a water supply system must be established to mitigate incidents in a timely manner.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **Attack Pumper** The pumper supplying the fire attack lines.
2. **Dump Site** The location for shuttle apparatus to dump their water. A portable tank set up at the supply pumper.
3. **Dump Site Pumper** The pumper supplying the attack pumper.
4. **Fill Site** The location where shuttle apparatus fill for transport to the incident location. A pumper at draft or a pumper at a fire hydrant
5. **Relay Evolutions** Process utilizing two or more pumps to supply the attack pumper directly from the water source with hose lines.
6. **Shuttle Operations** A process utilizing pumps and tankers to move water from a specified source to the incident grounds.
7. **Shuttle Route** The most efficient route possible for shuttle apparatus to utilize in transporting water.
8. **Water Supply Group** A group that is established by the Incident Commander. This section shall be responsible for supplying available water supplies to the incident grounds in the most safe and productive manner allowed.
9. **Water Supply Officer (WSO)** The individual responsible for the development of adequate water supplies required to implement that tactics outlined by the Incident Commander. The WSO shall be in charge of the Water Supply Group.

POLICY: On incidents when it apparent that water requirements may exceed the amount carried by the first arriving units, the first in officer-in-charge shall initiate the following:

1. Upon arrival, establish command and assume the role of Incident Commander.
2. Lay out supply line from the roadway to the incident and follow the **Rural Hitch SOG 602**.
3. After assuming the position of Incident Command, appoint the Water Supply Officer (WSO).
4. Incident Command shall designate the fill site at the same time as establishing the WSO and shall notify the WSO of the same. The Incident Commander may delegate the designation of the fill site to the WSO.
5. Request the fourth due engine to go to the closest fill site while enroute to the incident. Upon arrival, establish a fill site for shuttle apparatus.

6. All in-coming units, i.e.; trucks, EMS units, Utilities, and POVs shall locate or stage in areas that do not hinder accessibility to the portable tank or block the shuttle route.
7. The WSO shall be located at the Dump Site for non hydrant operations.
8. The WSO shall request an alternate channel (**14 George**) for the Water Supply Group.
9. On incidents where the Incident Commander has failed to request the dispatch of a Fill Site pumper, the WSO shall make the request through Command.
10. The Dump Site pump operator shall keep the WSO apprised of the amount of water on-hand, upon request.
11. Personnel assigned to the Dump Site shall:
 - Wear a Safety Vest at all times in Dump Site area
 - Assist the pump operator with their set up;
 - Assist the shuttle apparatus with backing up to off-load;
 - Operate dump valves, discharges, jet-siphons,
 - Assist connecting/disconnecting hose lines, and other duties as assigned by the WSO.
12. When operating in areas where accessibility to the Dump Site is hindered, a staging area shall be designated for shuttle apparatus. The apparatus shall report to the specified area after returning from the Fill Site and will notify the WSO of their availability.
13. Two or more portable tanks may be needed to be utilized depending on the size and/or severity of the incident.
14. The rated capacity of the Dump Site pumper may not be available if the front intake is utilized.
15. All assigned apparatus shall utilize the same shuttle route designated by the WSO.
16. Shuttle apparatus operators shall **remain in the cab** of the apparatus during off-loading operations.
17. The Fill Site shall be designated by the WSO and located at the water source. Some operations may require more than one Fill Site.
18. The officer-in-charge of the Fill Site pumper will be assigned as the Fill Site Officer. The Fill Site Officer shall keep the WSO advised of the adequacy of the established system to supply the needed fire flow.
19. Personnel assigned to the Fill Site shall assist with setting up the site, operating fill lines, and connecting/disconnecting hose lines.
20. If more than one Dump or Fill Site is utilized, the individual site(s) shall utilize the street name or other landmark for identification. (Porter Fill Site)
21. In areas where the shuttle route consists of heavily traveled "blind or dangerous" intersections, the WSO shall request assistances from Law enforcement through Incident Command for traffic control to ensure safe passage of shuttle apparatus.
22. During winter operations, the WSO should consider the need for assistance from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for applications of abrasives in areas that may be subjected to water spillage in the shuttle travel route.