

18. Firefighter Assist Search Team

18.1 Purpose

18.1.1 A Firefighter Assist Search Team (FAST) plays a vital role in the protection of firefighter's life and safety. The purpose of FAST is to provide personnel for the rescue of firefighters if the need arises.

18.1.2 In accordance with the Two In, Two Out rule, a FAST will be established at all structural fires, or when deemed necessary by the IC, in Wall Township, Fire District #3. This team, after the incident has become established, will consist of firefighters from mutual aid companies.

18.1.3 The FAST will initially consist of South Wall firefighters. This will include the initial arrival, Two In, Two Out. That preliminary team will be replaced once the assigned FAST unit arrives.

18.2 Operation at South Wall Fire Incidents

18.2.1 After the IC has confirmed a structural fire, he/she shall make plans for the establishment of a FAST. There will be at least 1 (one) team established, consisting of a minimum of 5 (five) firefighters. Depending on the situation at hand, the IC may determine that more than one team is needed and shall take appropriate actions in establishing a second or third team.

18.2.2 The team will consist of mutual aid companies. It is preferred that Point Pleasant Beach Fire Company be used for the FAST assignment. When this situation occurs, the FAST must be explained that their only task is to rescue firefighters when the need arises. They are not to operate in any other capacity until the incident has been terminated.

18.2.3 In the event the FAST is placed into service for a rescue, a second team will be created immediately.

18.2.4 If the need arises for additional FAST companies, outside municipalities may be called for service. When this occurs, a plan must be established for the mutual aid FAST to communicate with the IC. It is preferred that the out of town company provide a commanding officer at the command post and they remain on their own radio channel and communicate face to face with the IC.

18.3 Radio Communication

18.3.1 As stated in 18.2.4 and 18.3.2, the FAST will remain on a separate operating radio frequency and the FAST IC will remain at the command post, monitoring radio transmissions of the operating firefighters.

18.3.2 The universal alert for the FAST to deploy is the call for a "**MAYDAY**". Once this transmission has been communicated, the FAST IC will closely monitor the operations frequency and radio to the FAST, information that will assist in their search for the trapped or injured firefighter.

18.3.3 Once a "MAYDAY" message has been transmitted, all unnecessary radio traffic will cease.

18.3.4 During the search, the emergency broadcast "EMERGENCY OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS", may be transmitted over the operations channel to assist the FAST in locating the firefighter inside the structure.

18.4 Termination

18.4.1 The IC shall deem when it is no longer necessary for the FAST and will release them from their assignment. No other Officers will release the team unless specifically instructed by the IC.

18.4.2 When the FAST consists of mutual aid companies, upon their release, that company will exit the scene. The mutual aid company will receive further orders from their IC and shall not be obligated to assist South Wall Fire Rescue with clean-up operations.