

# Waterloo Vol Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

## **Firefighter Assist and Search Team (FAST)**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the FAST Team is to provide immediate assistance to a firefighter who may become injured, trapped, missing or disoriented while operating at an interior attack structure fire.

### **Definition**

The FAST Team is an extension of the OSHA 2 in 2 out rule 191.130 and NFPA 1500 Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health. Simply stated, a FAST Team is a group of firefighters, positioned outside of the hazard area of an interior attack structural fire, whose sole purpose is to rescue a firefighter who may become injured, trapped, missing or disoriented.

### **Intent**

To keep in compliance with the OSHA 2 in 2 out team and to provide a more organized rescue team the Waterloo Fire Department under the supervision of the Chief will operate an interim FAST Team.

### **Training**

FAST Team members need to perform at a higher level than basic firefighting.

Firefighters that want to participate in a FAST Team need to understand the importance and need for training. All members are encouraged to take courses applicable to structural firefighting, construction, search and rescue.

### **Personnel**

The FAST Team optimally shall consist of at least one Command Officer, two FAST Team trained individuals and two interior firefighters. If more personnel are available consideration shall be given to members in the following order - FAST Trained individuals, Interior Firefighters, Interior Firefighters in training then exterior support personnel.

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To become a FAST Team firefighter you must have:

1. Completed an approved Firefighter Survival class
2. Completed an approved FAST Team class
3. Completed an approved Mask Confidence Class and sufficient drilling on FAST techniques.
4. Been appointed by the chief officers.

A FAST Team leader shall be the most senior FAST Team member who responds to the scene.

A FAST Team group leader shall be in charge of the structure entry team.

### **Response**

When dispatched the FAST Team shall respond in Rescue 1641. Staffing permitted, the qualified driver should be someone other than one of the responding FAST Team members. It is recommended to take one non FAST Team member to be used as a runner for getting additional equipment for the FAST Team as needed. No more than seven individuals shall respond.

If there are no **FAST Team firefighters** available notify communications that a FAST Team is not available and **DO NOT RESPOND!!!!!!!!!!**.

All other members that do not respond shall stand-by in the station until released by the officer in charge.

### **Equipment**

The following equipment shall be moved to a staging location as designated by the Incident Commander:

- Radios
- Hand lights
- Ropes
- Halligan tool
- Flat head axe
- Pick head axe
- RIT air pack
- Sawzall – battery operated
- FAST bag

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Stokes basket  
Cutters Edge saw

## **Communications**

The Incident Commander (IC) shall notify the FAST Team as to the channel of operations for the FAST Team. However the FAST Team Leader shall appoint a member to monitor the fire ground operations channel for signs of firefighter distress.

The driver of Rescue 1641 shall monitor the FAST Team channel and be ready to have additional equipment out and ready for the FAST Team runner.

The FAST Team group leader shall be responsible for communications with the IC and the unit on scene.

## **Duties**

The Team leader shall retain the tags of our FAST Team members on the scene.

Upon arrival at the incident the FAST Team leader and group leader shall report to the IC (the team leader shall remain with the IC as part of the IC structure).

The team leader shall inquire from IC whether the operation is offensive or defensive.

If offensive, find out the following minimum information:

1. Who are the safety officer/s collecting tags at the entrance/s?
2. Who is the interior command officer?
3. How many interior teams are inside?
4. How many firefighters are inside?
5. What is the location of the firefighting teams inside?

Upon arrival on the incident the FAST Team shall move all necessary equipment and personnel to a staging area designated by the IC. All FAST Team personnel shall be completely dressed in turn out equipment and SCBA. No personnel of the FAST Team shall leave this staging area unless directed to do so by the group leader.

All members shall take note of all entrances and exits from the structure, location of ladders and aerial ladders on the scene.

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The group leader shall insure that all team members have an opportunity to walk around the structure for size up. All members shall be attentive to all phases of the operations and changing conditions such as - change of smoke, structural sag, loss of water, MAYDAY call etc. Report any adverse conditions to the group leader, who shall notify the IC.

When IC is aware of a firefighter who needs assistance, becomes lost, trapped or injured, the FAST Team group leader shall be notified. The FAST Team must keep the area around the firefighter – in – trouble, tenable until he/she are removed.

The FAST Team must decide whether the firefighter in trouble may be better served if the FAST Team were to properly package and stabilize him/her before they are moved. Or the need for immediate extrication of the firefighter in trouble is warranted due to fire conditions not tenable.

Once the FAST Team is engaged in any operation on the scene other than staging, another FAST Team shall be dispatched to the scene immediately.