

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

MV-04 - BOOSTER OPERATIONS

1.0 SAFETY FACTORS

1.1 Booster 101 is designed for utilization during wildland/urban interface fires.

1.2 Safety considerations

- A. Attempt to keep apparatus in the burned portion of the fire especially when hand lines are deployed off the unit.
- B. Always leave an avenue of escape during fire suppression activities. Do not over commit.
- C. Check the surrounding areas for foliage hazards (i.e. weakened or fallen trees)
- D. Environmental Factors-
 - Wind direction and speed
 - Relative humidity
 - Temperature
 - Topography- Fire moves faster uphill
 - Fuels- Ground, Surface, Crown
- F. If driving while hand lines are deployed, always keep hand line personnel in line of sight. If hand line personnel cannot be seen, the apparatus will be stopped immediately.

2.0 OPERATION

2.1 When responding to an in-district incident, boosters will respond non-emergency. Initial arriving company officers may upgrade the booster to emergency traffic if needed.

2.2 Off road operation- anytime a booster is off-road, the manual hubs will be locked and the four wheel drive engaged just prior to leaving the roadway.

2.3 Start pump- make sure tank to pump valve is open

2.4 Winch Operation

- A. Identify a strong object to connect the winch cable to (i.e. large tree). Make every attempt to use the winch in a straight line. There are 4 receivers (3 front and 1 rear) on the apparatus.

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- B. Turn Auxiliary Power switch on (located on the floor board just inside the driver's door).
- C. Connect the winch control cable to the winch.
- D. With someone pulling tension on the winch, release the clutch and pull the winch cable to the desired point. (Remember there is only 95 feet of cable)
- E. If attaching to a tree or other cylindrical object, wrap the tow strap around the object and connect it to the winch cable. Do not wrap the cable around a tree.
- F. Make sure parking brake is released and the unit is not in park.
- G. Place a bunker coat over the cable halfway over the span of the cable.
- H. Raise hood on vehicle to protect the driver should the cable break.
- I. Whenever possible, use the pulley (snatch-block) at the anchor point to increase the mechanical advantage of the system.
- J. All personnel will remain well away from the cable whenever it is under tension (at least the distance of the cable extension), or protected behind a suitable shield.
- K. It is a good practice to have the driver place the transmission in first gear or reverse (depending on direction) and easily accelerate to assist in moving the apparatus. (BE SURE not to spin the tires while accelerating)
- L. Stowing the winch requires one person to wind the cable (make sure the cable plays evenly) and one person to hold tension on the cable (ensure that the cable is wound tight around the spool). Remove remote control cable, disengage clutch, and turn off auxiliary winch power.

2.5 Return to normal road operation

- A. Disengage 4-wheel drive
- B. Unlock Manual Hubs
- C. Turn off pump (leave tank to pump valve open). Stow remote monitor.
- D. Make sure all equipment and hose is properly stowed.
- E. Check undercarriage to ensure it is free from debris
- F. Check tires.
- G. Fill water and foam tanks.