

Chesapeake Fire Departments Response To The Spirit of Norfolk Fire

June 7, 2022

CFD Incident #2022-15275

Incident Precursors

The Chesapeake Fire Department does not have a current training program solely for fighting fires onboard a commercial, passenger or cargo vessel. However, we have had individuals who have participated in the Marine Incident Response Team Firefighting Symposium provide by MIRT, which does provide this firefighting training.

Our personnel are trained in NIMS 100,200,300,400,700 and 800. We have participated in drills with Federal, State, and Local Agencies. Our department has participated in joint training exercises sponsored by the US Coast Guard. There is a contingency plan for the Hampton Roads area that addresses marine fire response. Our department provides the necessary personnel and equipment to meet the specific needs of our regional partners when requested.

Incident Response

The Chesapeake Fire Department responded to the Spirit of Norfolk Fire at the request of Norfolk Fire Rescue, for our foam assets. Our role was solely to provide foam for suppression operations being conducted by Norfolk Fire Rescue, and Mid Atlantic Navy Regional Fire Department.

Our equipment consisted of Battalion 1, Engine 1, Engine 2, Foam 1, Foam 2, and Rehab 3. The initial command structure was in place and we were not assigned any function other than providing Foam support in the form of specialized equipment and foam concentrate. BC1 and all Chesapeake units were operating in the same geographical area. We utilized one of our Tac channels and I monitored the Norfolk Fire Rescue tac channel.

Incident Response cont.

Battalion 1 was dispatched at 13:22:57, was on scene at 13:51:57 and cleared at 20:00:57. Engine 1, Foam 1, and Foam 2 arrived closely behind. Engine 2 arrived last due to going to our warehouse to get additional foam.

First CFD asset on scene, CFD BC1, met with the Incident Commander from Navy Regional Fire Department, and identified CFD was on scene with our foam assets. BC1 asked what unit we would be supplying with foam and he identified Navy Regional Engine 21. CFD provided the necessary handline, foam nozzle, and mixed foam solution for suppression operations to the Navy Regional Engine. Chesapeake Fire Department personnel were not part of the command structure. We did not determine the strategy or tactics employed during the incident; we received our orders and assignments and carried them out as detailed in CFD's reports. Our units remained on scene until approximately 2000 hrs June 7, 2022.