

VCFD Engine



The fire engine is the basic component of an emergency fire response. The crew's primary purpose is to attack the fire with hose lines supplied by the engine.

It is referred to as a "triple-combination pumper" because it has a fire pump, water tank and fire hose. The urban/structural engine is designed for stationary pumping at a water source, normally, a fire hydrant.

The pump is capable of delivering 1,500 gallons per minute (GPM) of water through the hose lines. The engines have a built-in 500-gallon water tank and fire hose of varying

sizes and configurations ready to deploy for immediate use.

A built-in foam system can treat the water for specific firefighting applications such as a fire involving flammable liquids. A built-in monitor, or water cannon, is designed to direct very large quantities of water onto a fire and is capable of delivering 1,000 GPM of water to help suppress large fires.

Engines also carry basic ground ladders (10- and 14-, plus 24- or 35-foot), EMS (emergency medical service) equipment and various tools and equipment to perform firefighting tasks and provide safety for the firefighters.

All firefighters are seated inside the air-conditioned cab and have hearing protection. For safety reasons, firefighters no longer ride in outside "jump-seats" or on the tailboard.

The newer vehicles in the fleet are designated as first-run engines and always staffed at the fire station (see reserve engine).

At large incidents, engines may operate together as a "strike team." A strike team is made up of five engines with the same capabilities (structure protection, wildland, etc.) and a leader in a command vehicle. The strike team responds and works together as a cohesive unit within the Incident Command System (ICS). When a strike team of engines, either structural or brush, are sent out of the county, one of the engines will be a Medic unit for the safety of the Firefighters on the assignment.





At times, a strike team can be made up of units from different agencies.

Staffing: Normal staffing on an engine is three people: a Fire Captain in charge of the crew, a Fire Engineer who drives the apparatus and operates the pump and a Firefighter. Staffing may be increased when emergency or potential emergency conditions warrant.

Radio designation:

Engine + station number.
i.e.: Engine 25.

For variations on the basic engine, see:

- Brush Engine
- Medic Engine
- Rescue Engine
- Reserve Engine

