

FIREHOUSE[®]

Weekly Drill

DRILL #83: FUNCTIONS OF A QUINT

Introduction

A quint is a specialty apparatus in the fire service that brings five major operational components to the fire-ground on only one piece of apparatus. Normally, you would require at least two pieces of apparatus to deliver a fire pump, a tank of water, hoses, ground ladders and an aerial. The quint, however, contains all five.

One Part Pumper...

The quint is a unique piece of fire apparatus that functions as both an engine and a ladder truck. As an engine it brings its own water supply with an onboard water tank. The water tank is in many instances smaller than that found on an engine company, holding only 300 gallons of water. The reason for the smaller tank is to accommodate for the aerial and complement of ground ladders being carried.

In addition to the water tank, the quint also has a pump, not usually found on the typical truck company. The pumps used on the quint are either a 1,250 gallons per minute (gpm) or 1,500 gpm pump. An assortment of hose, both supply lines and attack lines, are carried on the quint.

Not having a very large hose bed, a quint can hold only a minimal amount of supply hose. Many departments are using large diameter hose on these quints, allowing them to move large volumes of water. The attack lines are carried in two or three crosslay beds and can each accommodate 250 feet of pre-connected 1¾-inch hose.

The above-mentioned engine capabilities allow the quint the ability to perform as an engine company at an incident scene. As an engine, the firefighter's responsibility will be to locate the fire and advance a handline to confine and extinguish the fire. Keep in mind that selection of the proper size hoseline can be limited because the quint has less hose carrying capacity. In some cases supply hose has to be reduced if a department wants to place 2½-inch hoselines on the truck.

Another feature to be aware of that gives limited access when being used is the deluge or deck gun. If the aerial has not been raised out of the ladder bed, this appliance will only have operational functions on one side of the apparatus.



...One Part Ladder

Features on the quint that have been taken from the truck company are the ground ladders and aerial device. Like any truck company, the quint will carry a complement of portable ground ladders of various sizes. These ground ladders allow firefighters the ability to place them in critical positions on the fire building. They can be used for rescues, firefighter egress, ventilation and for removing glass from windowpanes. Keep in mind that anytime ladders are being used, the firefighter needs to focus on safety. Overhead obstructions and power lines are just two items that have to be considered.

The last feature is the aerial ladder. As a driver of these quints, it is important that you realize even though you may be using the quint as an engine or pumper, you have to constantly be thinking as a driver of a truck company. Placement becomes important as you have to think about locating the aerial for maximum operations, keeping in mind wires and other overhead obstructions that could limit or deny usage altogether.

—Prepared by Russell Merrick