

FARMINGTON HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION/RESPONSE PROCEDURE

PRIORITY: 1

EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESPONSE

NO: 1000.2

EFFECTIVE: 08/01/05

(Rescinds version 11/29/04)

PAGE: 1 OF 3



FIRE CHIEF APPROVAL:

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PURPOSE

To provide general response guidelines for the response of apparatus, equipment, and private owned vehicles.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Department to respond apparatus and equipment in a manner most appropriate for any given situation. Based on these general guidelines, the senior officer/fire fighter shall be responsible to ensure that the most appropriate piece of apparatus with its specialized equipment respond when available.

PROCEDURE

I. Definitions

A. The following are recommendations for the response type:

1. Priority 1 – Is an incident which indicates an urgent emergency. The response will include use of lights and siren in accordance with PA 300 of 1949.
2. Priority 3 – Is an incident which is urgent and the vehicles/apparatus responding shall not use lights and/or sirens. The responding unit shall follow all provisions of "normal traffic."

II. Response shall be appropriate to the needs of the incident. The following items should be considered:

A. The number of apparatus shall only be those necessary to handle the incident.

B. Additional apparatus and personnel may be requested due to the incident. This may include:

1. Apparatus used to protect members on a road or highway
2. Assist with patient care
3. Staffing used to handle the incident
4. Additional equipment is necessary on the incident

C. The OIC shall also consider "back-to-back" or additional calls when assigning apparatus.

III. Vehicle Response Priority

- A. Fire related incidents:
 - 1. Priority 1
 - a. Any fire or reported fire that involves a structure
 - b. Car fires
 - c. Large grass fires, or grass fires with exposures
 - d. Outside fires in close proximity to a building
(Example: Car or dumpster next to a building.)
 - 2. Priority 3
 - a. Dumpster fires without exposures
 - b. Small grass fires without exposures
 - c. Open burn complaints
 - d. All fire alarm calls shall be Priority 3 unless additional information is received that would indicate a fire is present.
- B. EMS response will be based on the priority given by Dispatch. Only initial responding apparatus from the respective station shall respond Priority 1 unless otherwise directed by the OIC on scene.
- C. Smoke/Odor Investigation
 - 1. Priority 1
 - a. Smoke or odor of smoke in a structure
 - b. Odor investigation with possible injury/illness
 - 2. Priority 3
 - a. General odors (no smoke) in a building with no signs/symptoms
 - b. Smoke/odor outside or not involving a structure
- D. Reports of broken natural gas lines where there is a possibility of the gas entering a structure shall be a Priority 1 response. All other broken natural gas lines shall be Priority 3.
- E. Carbon Monoxide
 - 1. Priority 1
 - a. Carbon monoxide incidents with medical signs or symptoms of poisoning.
 - 2. Priority 3
 - a. Carbon monoxide incidents without medical signs or symptoms of poisoning.
- F. Hazardous Materials Incident
 - 1. Priority 1
 - a. Injury/illness due to an unknown/known substance.
 - b. Release of an unknown substance, respond Priority 1 to an appropriate area to evaluate the hazard.
 - 2. Priority 3
 - a. Control of fluids leaking at a motor vehicle response.

- G. All other incidents not listed in Sections A - F above shall be responded to at the most appropriate priority and is at the discretion of the officer/senior fire fighter of the responding unit.

IV. Vehicle Response

- A. Based on the type of call, the most appropriate vehicle with its specialized equipment shall respond. If a unit is in service in district and not in quarters, it shall respond to the incident.
- B. On all fire related calls when the crews are in quarters, the engine shall be the first vehicle to respond.
- C. During the duty day, satellite stations shall utilize their rescue (ALS) for inspections and other non-emergency assignments unless directed otherwise by the Battalion Chief.
- D. If an apparatus is out of the station and is not the appropriate apparatus to respond to an incident, the senior member shall request through the Battalion Chief the next due station to respond as well. (Example: If a Rescue is out on inspections and a fire alarm is dispatched, the next in-service engine shall respond also.)

V. General Considerations

- A. Structure Fires – Priority 1 until cancelled or directed otherwise by the OIC. Privately owned vehicles shall respond to the station first until all required apparatus is enroute.
- B. Vehicle Fires, Miscellaneous Fires outside a Structure, Wires Down, and Odor Investigations – Priority 1 to the station until the first due district apparatus is enroute, then reduce response to Priority 3.
- C. Medical Emergencies and injury accidents dispatched as Priority 1 – Privately owned vehicles may respond Priority 1 up to and until the first in district vehicle leaves the station.
- D. Privately owned vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to all Department vehicles responding Priority 1.
- E. Department members are responsible for maintaining their vehicles in a safe operating condition with insurance coverage.
- F. At no time shall a POV respond Priority 1 with a non-City employee in the vehicle.

- VI. The routine response of POVs directly to the incident scene must be recommended by the District Chief and approved by the Fire Chief. In those cases where a POV must pass directly by an emergency incident scene, the POV may stop at the incident if such action will not place personnel at additional risk or hinder operations or disrupt the scene.