

	<b>Terryville Fire Department Best Practices</b>	
	<u>Subject</u> <b>EMS Alarm Response</b>	<b>BP# 4-01</b>
	<u>Authority</u> <b>Chief of Department</b>	Initiated 9/1/2017  Revised 3/6/2024

### A. PURPOSE

- To establish the best practices for responding to EMS alarms including those received as a mutual aid request.

### B. DEFINITIONS

- Emergency Mode: Response using a combination of emergency warning lights and siren.
- Signal 4: Response with no use of emergency warning lights or siren.

### C. POLICY

- The on-duty district Duty Crew will generally be the primary response to EMS alarms.
- If an in-house EMS standby crew is available, they will respond in conjunction with the Duty Crew.
- The medical provider with the highest certification will oversee patient care. Transfer of care may occur when appropriate dependent upon the level of care required.
- For 23-EMS alarms, the desired crew is a Driver, EMT, and one (1) additional aid person. As a minimum, the crew will consist of a Driver and EMT.
  - Members responding to 23 EMS alarms are required to call-in their response within 2 minutes of alarm activation. The preferred method is the Red Alert Responder App. Alternately, members may telephone the dispatcher and advise of their qualification and station response location.
    - Members already in the station that immediately staff and respond on the ambulance do not need to call-in to the dispatcher.
    - Members in the station that are awaiting additional personnel should notify the dispatcher of their status and availability.
    - Under no circumstances should members having no intention to respond to an EMS alarm sign in for said EMS alarm.

- The front passenger seat of the ambulance shall normally be occupied by the highest ranking member as specified in Chiefs Policy #2-02 (Chain of Command). When staffing allows, EMTs should respond in the rear of the ambulance to allow for patient care prep as necessary.
- Alarm response shall normally be guided by the prioritization of the alarm in accordance with the correct use of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) when provided by Suffolk County Fire Rescue & Emergency Services (SCFRES).
- Alarms received directly and not prioritized in accordance with MPDS, shall be treated as a CHARLIE response as indicated in Section D below.
- Firefighting gear, such as bunker pants, jackets, helmets, gloves, etc., should not be worn in the patient compartment area of any ambulance. Exigent circumstances may necessitate an exception to this practice but only when directed by the Incident Commander or the EMT in charge of patient care.
  - Recognizing the desire for firefighters to have their gear with them when out on an alarm, gear may be stored in an outside compartment.
- Patient hospital transports will be Signal 4 unless otherwise directed by the Paramedic/EMT in charge of patient care.

#### **D. RESPONSE**

- For initial EMS alarms, regardless of location, the district Duty Crew shall respond as indicated. If an in-house EMS crew is available, they shall also respond as indicated. Response may be upgraded or downgraded based on initial patient size-up.
  - ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE, & DELTA ALARMS
    - Duty Crew ambulance in emergency mode.
    - In-House Standby Crew in emergency mode.
    - First Responder, when staffed, shall respond in emergency mode if only one ambulance is responding.
  - ECHO ALARMS
    - Same as CHARLIE & DELTA response in addition to fire department response in emergency mode. The preferred response will be an engine; however, manpower and staffing may dictate a different apparatus or combined response.
- For subsequent EMS alarms, if the District Duty Crew Ambulance or In-House EMS crew is unavailable, they shall be dispatched as 23-EMS alarms and crews shall respond as indicated.
- Response may be upgraded or downgraded based on initial patient size-up OR at the discretion of the responding OIC.

- For Motor Vehicle Accidents, the First Responder and all responding ambulances will respond in emergency mode unless otherwise indicated by the OIC.

## **E. MUTUAL AID REQUESTS**

- All Mutual Aid EMS Alarms will be dispatched as a General Alarm.
- The District Duty Crew ambulance will respond when available on Mutual Aid EMS alarms to assist our neighboring departments ONLY after it had been determined that a volunteer crew is unavailable. The established time to call in is 2-minutes.
- If a volunteer crew has not called in at the 2-minute mark, the Duty Crew Ambulance shall respond if available.
- If at least a Driver and EMT have called in prior to the 2-minute mark, the District Duty Crew Ambulance shall remain in quarters.
- If the alarm has been prioritized as a CHARLIE, DELTA, or ECHO response, the 80-Operator shall respond in the first responder vehicle only upon after a volunteer crew has called in their response.
- If no volunteer EMTs have called in at the 2-minute mark, but at least a driver is available, the District First Responder shall respond with the ambulance. The District Duty Crew Ambulance will remain in quarters.
- If no crew is available after 2 minutes, and the district duty crew is unavailable, the alarm shall be returned to SCFRES or the originating department.

## **F. STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL EMS**

- The Terryville Fire District has an agreement with Stony Brook University Hospital EMS in which they will provide an ALS ambulance to assist with alarms on an as-needed basis.
  - The designated ALS ambulance will utilize the call sign “Medic 60.”
  - The ambulance will ordinarily be posted at Coram Fire Department’s Station 2
  - Availability will be between 0700 – 1900 hrs. (7 days a week).
  - Medic-60 will call on and off duty with the Terryville FD dispatcher.
  - Medic-60 may be requested by our dispatcher or the Incident Commander.
    - Medic-60 is prohibited from self-dispatching to alarms.
- For 23 EMS alarms designated as ALPHA or BRAVO:
  - Medic 60 shall be requested to respond if no crew has called in within 2 minutes following a Signal 3.
- For 23 EMS alarms designated as CHARLIE or DELTA:
  - Medic 60 shall be requested to respond when a Signal 3 is transmitted.
- For 23 EMS alarms designated as ECHO:
  - Medic 60 shall be requested immediately and respond in conjunction with the department.

## **G. UNIFORM / PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

- The District Duty Crew shall wear their district provided uniform and maintain a neat and professional appearance when responding to alarms.
- In-House EMS Standby members shall wear their district provided uniform and maintain a neat and professional appearance when responding to alarms.
- Members responding to 23-EMS alarms must be dressed appropriately so as not to wear clothing that would reflect negatively upon the department. Although it is not mandatory, members are encouraged to wear dark pants, black boots, and a Terryville Fire Department shirt when responding from home. Open-toed shoes/sandals are prohibited for EMS response. Members, when available, may wear the bunker-style PPE over their civilian attire.
- All personnel are reminded to use the appropriate PPE as necessary when on EMS alarms.

## **H. BUNKER-STYLE PPE/ SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

- HELMET- As issued. Blue (EMT/Paramedic) indicating level of certification.
- Personal Protective Ensemble (PPE)- weather resistant bunker-style coat and pants, and gloves. All components of the ensemble provide protection against blood-borne pathogens (BBP). The PPE also provides limited splash protection to common chemicals and physical environment hazards.
  - PPE Shall be carried in the responders assigned apparatus e.g. ambulance (in exterior compartment) or fire apparatus.
- Members shall wear their bunker-style PPE on the following types of alarms and may also be worn in inclement weather.
  - All multiple casualty incidents (MCI)
  - All motor vehicle accidents, including pedestrian struck, and any other assignments on roadways where the reflectorized and highly visible material of the PPE enhances members safety (e.g., low light levels).
  - All hazardous materials incidents
  - Any assignments requiring BBP precautions, whenever a potential for exposure to significant amounts of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be reasonably anticipated.
  - Any alarm involving a fire, structural collapse, or other extenuating circumstances where the member should be afforded the additional protection provided by this PPE.