

Emergency Response

301.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and appropriate response to emergencies while maintaining the safety of district members and the public by requiring operators of district vehicles to conform to applicable Arizona laws and regulations during an emergency response (ARS § 28-624).

301.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Emergency lighting equipment - A minimum of one red, or red and blue, light on the front of the vehicle visible under normal conditions 500 feet from the vehicle (ARS § 28-624).

Emergency response - Any call for service or assistance involving fire, explosion or violent rupture; human rescue; human entrapment; illness or injury; hazardous materials release or threat of contamination; flooding; threatened or actual acts of violence; any explosive, bomb or threatened bombing; any act of terrorism; any natural disaster; or any other circumstance that presents a threat to life-safety or to property.

301.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District to appropriately respond to an emergency call.

301.3 EMERGENCY CALLS

Fire personnel dispatched to an emergency shall proceed immediately, shall continuously operate emergency lighting equipment and shall sound the siren as reasonably necessary (ARS § 28-624).

Responding with emergency lights and siren does not relieve personnel of the duty to continue to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons. The use of any other warning equipment without emergency lighting equipment and siren does not provide any exemption from the Arizona traffic laws (ARS § 28-624).

Personnel should only respond with emergency lights and siren when dispatched to an emergency or when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is required.

Personnel not authorized to respond with emergency lights and siren shall observe all traffic laws and proceed without the use of emergency lights and siren.

301.4 MULTIPLE EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESPONSES

When more than one apparatus responds to an emergency, emergency vehicle operators should remain alert to the presence of other emergency vehicles and exercise due caution. Personnel must further exercise due caution in recognizing that traffic yielding to one emergency vehicle may not expect other emergency vehicles to follow.

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301.5 INITIATING AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

If a Captain believes an emergency response to any call is appropriate, the Captain shall ensure Dispatch is immediately notified.

301.6 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING PERSONNEL

Emergency response vehicle operators shall exercise sound judgment and care, with due regard for life and property, while operating a vehicle en route to an emergency response. Emergency vehicle operators shall reduce speed at all street intersections to the extent that the vehicle operator feels is necessary to ensure complete control of the vehicle. It may be necessary to come to a complete stop to ensure other vehicles have the ability to yield.

The decision to continue an emergency response is at the discretion of the emergency vehicle operator or Captain. If, in the judgment of either individual, the roadway conditions or traffic congestion do not permit such a response without unreasonable risk, the response may be continued without the use of emergency lighting equipment and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event, the Captain should ensure Dispatch is promptly notified. Personnel shall also discontinue the emergency response when directed by any supervisor.

301.7 FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the vehicle operator must terminate the emergency response and respond accordingly. In all cases, the Captain shall notify Dispatch of the equipment failure so that another apparatus may be assigned to the emergency response.