



**Division 10** **Logistics and Supply**

**Chapter 10– Heavy Duty Construction Cranes**

January 2009

**POLICY**

This General Order shall establish procedures for Incident Commanders when acquiring heavy-duty cranes and bulldozers for assistance during emergency and non-emergency fire/rescue operations.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Structural member** – A distinct part of a building, bridge, etc.

**PROCEDURES**

**1. Requesting Heavy Duty Machinery**

The Incident Commander may request heavy-duty machinery to abate possible hazardous conditions of a non-life-threatening situation. In such instances, he/she should ensure that the property owner or insurance carrier is aware that all expenses associated with the equipment are their responsibility.

Examples: Removal of structural members to facilitate investigation of a fire; uprighting a vehicle or debris clean-up following the incident.

After determining the need for heavy-duty crane service or other heavy-duty machinery, the Incident Commander shall request that Public Safety Communications (PSC) contact the appropriate vendor with the following information:

- Emergency or non-emergency response

- Description of the incident (i.e., building collapse, overturned vehicle, cave-in, etc.)
- Conditions
- Specific items the machinery will be required to lift or move
- Approximate size of heavy-duty machinery needed (refer to Attachment 1 for examples of various items and material weights)

Moreover, in the event that there is an immediate life-threatening situation that is beyond the limits of Fire/EMS Department resources, Incident Commanders may request the services of heavy-duty cranes or machinery at or near the scene.

Example: An automobile with injured occupants is pinned beneath a dump truck that is fully loaded. In this instance, the Incident Commander may secure a crane (at or in close proximity to the scene) that has the capability to lift the truck.

**2. Responsibilities**

After receiving the Incident Commander's request for heavy-duty equipment, along with all pertinent information, PSC shall notify the nearest contracted crane service that is capable of performing the specified need.

PSC shall relay the following information to the alerted crane service:

- Location of staging area
- Travel routes for approaching the incident



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- Space requirements for the machinery, both en route and for setup
- Approximate setup time and any assistance needed from on-scene personnel

Whenever necessary, PSC shall coordinate police escorts for certain machinery. However, due to National Transportation Safety Board regulations, commercial transportation vehicles should not be moved, except when necessary for lifesaving efforts. In these instances, PSC shall make appropriate notification to Logistics and Supply personnel advising them of the circumstances involved.

Example: Railroad companies typically will bring in rail car mounted cranes to move railroad cars.

#### REFERENCES

N/A

#### FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1 - Responsibility for Expense for Heavy Duty Crane Service (PGC Form #4542)



**Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department**  
Fire Investigations

Fire Report #

CCN #

*Dear Occupant/Owner:*

*On \_\_\_\_\_, approximately \_\_\_\_\_ units from the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department responded to your residence/business, or roadway located at \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of extinguishing a fire or the mitigation of an emergency in your residence/business, or transport vehicle. During the extinguishment phase moderate to severe damage will and often do occur; whereas structural stability has been so compromised it would be unsafe to allow fire personnel to enter or examine the structure in order to determine the origin and cause of the fire or other emergency.*

*It is often necessary to enlist the services of a heavy duty crane service. You as the occupant/owner and/or your insurance company/representative are responsible for all cost/fees associated with and incurred for this service.*

*These provisions are in accordance with Prince George's County Code, Subtitle 11, Sections-151 (a), 11-152, 11-162 and Subtitle 4, Section 4-119. In the event no one is available on the scene to meet with you, you may contact a member of the Fire Investigations Unit for information at (301) 306-5685.*

Owner/representative: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date:

Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

P.G.C. Form #4542(11/98)