



Division 06 **Fire and Rescue Operations**

Chapter 05 – Emergency Vehicle Operations and Levels of Response

March 2009

POLICY

This General Order shall establish the procedure to be used by the Initial Incident Commander, reducing the level of response to emergency incidents when conditions on the emergency scene permit.

DEFINITIONS

Emergency Response Level – (Respond) – level which requires the use of all audible and visible emergency warning devices, to include lights and sirens. During an emergency response, a unit may exceed the posted speed limit or proceed through a red traffic light; however, it must be done in accordance with General Order 08-05, Driving Regulations

Non-Emergency Response Level – (Proceed) – level that requires that units continue to the dispatched or designated location at normal traffic flow, obeying all traffic laws, speed limits, signals, signs and devices. Emergency apparatus and vehicles in this level of response do not utilize their emergency warning devices. Thus, a unit that has been directed to “Proceed” is to yield to other traffic accordingly, and stop at all red lights and stop signs, obeying all traffic laws.

PROCEDURES

On every emergency incident, the Initial Incident Commander shall be responsible to conduct an initial size-up including building size, occupancy, access, etc., to determine if a continuation of the emergency response by

other responding units is necessary. Based on the initial size up, the Initial Incident Commander shall provide a radio report of the conditions found and the level of response of the units not already on the scene. The Initial Incident Commander should consider weather conditions and traffic patterns when reducing the response of Responding Emergency Apparatus.

The Incident Commander may direct specific units to continue responding if their services are needed (i.e., the closest special service to assist with checking several floors of the building or the roof). Any unit that is directed to proceed shall continue to the scene using the most direct route of travel. However, the unit shall immediately discontinue the emergency response.

Example:

Engine XXX - “On the scene with nothing evident. Have the remaining units proceed.”

Public Safety Communications – “Communications to the units responding to 1234 Easy Drive by authority of Engine XXX on the scene, *all units are to proceed.*”

Public Safety Communications shall not dispatch or redirect any unit to another emergency call or incident while the unit is proceeding in the non-emergency response level, prior to the approval of the on-scene OIC.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

The above listed policies and procedures of the Department, in addition to the laws of the State of Maryland, are to be strictly adhered to by all members/personnel. All officers/supervisors and command officers operating under the laws of Prince George's County, the State of Maryland, and the authority granted via the existing chain-of-command shall be held both accountable and responsible to unilaterally carry out enforcement.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A