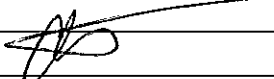


PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER	
Number: 12-0009	
Cross Reference: Emergency Operations Section 6. 10 sub-section 6.10.1	
Subject: Emergency Vehicle Response Codes	
Effective Date: Immediately	
By Order of: Pemberton Township Fire Chief	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline is to establish guidelines for emergency vehicle responses to emergency, non-emergency and general service calls.

II. POLICY

It will be the policy of the departments that the operation of emergency vehicles in response to calls for service will be conducted in accordance with applicable laws. All members while in operation of personally owned vehicles or department vehicles shall exercise due regard for the safety of all persons. No assignment shall be of such importance, and no task shall be expedited with such emphasis, that the principle of safety becomes secondary. No duty requires action that justifies a reckless disregard for the safety of others. Members will be held strictly accountable for any such recklessness.

This SOG will categorize calls for service into three general groups and assign each category a response code. The SOG will also provide for the use of reasonable discretion by apparatus officers, apparatus driver/operators and Incident Commanders in the use of emergency warning equipment. Those General groups will be;

- emergency calls (Level 1)
- non-emergency calls (Level 2)
- general service calls (Level 3)

III. PROCEDURES

A. Emergency Calls (Level 1)

1. Calls that require an urgent and immediate response to prevent serious bodily injury or death, or to prevent, stop or extinguish a fire or mitigate an incident from becoming a life threat. The types of calls which may require this type of response include but are not limited to, the following:

LEVEL 1 (Emergency Calls)

- Dwelling
- Building

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- Shed
- Mobile Home
- RIT Assignments
- Structural Collapse (Life Hazard)
- MVA's with Injuries
- Rescue Assignments
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Pedestrian Motor Vehicle Accident
- Landing Zone Assignments (Helicopter Landing Assignments)
- Water Rescue
- Aircraft Crash
- Assist EMS (Life Threat / ALS Call)
- Hazardous Material Assignment (Life Hazard)
- Elevator Rescue (Occupied)
- Carbon Monoxide Alarm (with Injuries)
- Brush (Depending upon Time of Year/Conditions/Exposures/Area)
- Rubbish (With Exposures)
- Auto/Bus/Truck (With Exposures)
- Fumes (Inside Structure)
- Explosion

2. When responding to this type of call apparatus will proceed directly to the location as quickly as is safely possible. While enroute the vehicles emergency warning equipment will be utilized. This is the most urgent response authorized by the department and will be designated as a "Level 1" response.

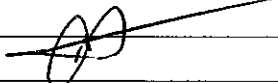
- a. Apparatus Driver/ Operators and/or Apparatus Officers will be held strictly accountable for operating their vehicles responsibly with due regard for the safety of others.

B. Non-Emergency Calls (Level 2)

- 1. Calls that require an immediate response to prevent the incident from escalating into a situation that may endanger or become a life threat. The types of calls which may require this type of response include, but are not limited to, the following:

LEVEL 2 (Non-Emergency Calls)

- Landing Zone Assignments (Helicopter Stand-By Assignments)

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- Assist EMS (General Assist)
- Lockout (Occupied)
- Assist Police (Depending on Situation)
- Auto/Bus/Truck (No Exposures)
- Hazardous Material Assignment (Hazard Increasing)
- Emergency Stand-By


2. While responding to this type of call apparatus will proceed directly to the location without unreasonable delay. While enroute the vehicle's emergency warning equipment will not generally be utilized. This is a non-emergency response authorized by the department and will be designated as a "Level 2" response.
 - a. Apparatus Driver/ Operators and/or Apparatus Officers will be held strictly accountable for operating their vehicles responsibly with due regard for the safety of others.

C. General Service Calls (Level 3)

1. Calls that require a response to assist or aid the public, provide information, or investigate a past tense or potential hazard. The types of calls which may require this type of response include, but are not limited to the following;

LEVEL 3 (Service Calls)

- Alarm System
- Carbon Monoxide Alarm (non-injuries)
- Wires/Transformer/Pole
- Cover Assignments
- Assist EMS (Lift Assist Non-Life Threat)
- Fumes (Outside Structure)
- Fire Police
- Investigation
- Wash Highway
- Rubbish (No Exposure)
- Brush (Depending upon Time of Year/Conditions/Exposures/Area)
- Stuck Elevator (Un-Occupied)
- Animal Rescue
- Lockout (Un-Occupied)
- Storm Stand-By
- Bomb Scare

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- Assist Police (General Assistance/Lighting)
- Hazardous Material Assignment (General)

2. While responding to this type of call apparatus will proceed to the call without reasonable delay but will be available to respond to calls of a more serious nature. The use of emergency equipment is not authorized. This is a routine response authorized by the department and will be designated as "Level 3" response or "Reduced Speed" response.

D. Designating a Response Code

1. The Incident Commander will be responsible for determining the appropriate response code based on the guidelines contained herein, information regarding the call provided by Central Communications, and knowledge of the location and type of incident and/or situation involved. Designation will also be based in traffic, road, weather conditions and apparatus location at time of call.
 - a. It may not be necessary for all responding units to respond under the same response code. Units coming from different locations or which may provide different types of assistance may respond differently.
 - b. It will be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to insure that each unit is responding appropriately and that the appropriate number of units are responding.
2. Once a response code is determined, that response code can be upgraded based on information provided by Central Communications that the incident or situation is worsening or may become a life threat or hazard.
 - a. Apparatus Driver/Operators and/or Apparatus Officers will be held strictly accountable for operating their vehicles responsibly with due regard for the safety of others.
3. The first unit to arrive on the scene of an incident will immediately access the situation and upgrade (request additional resources, all companies in-service, etc.) or downgrade (reduce speed, stage, recall, etc.) the response codes of additional resources accordingly. The Incident Commander will be responsible for these response codes and requests.

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E. Use of Discretion

1. Apparatus Driver/Operator and/or Apparatus Officers will be authorized to use the apparatus emergency warning equipment as described below. The use of this equipment outside the established scope of the guidelines

in

this SOG creates a liability risk that the Apparatus Driver/Operator and/or Apparatus Officers must be aware of and will be held accountable for.

2. "Level 1" Responses

- a. There may be circumstances that require an immediate and urgent response where the use of all or some of the apparatus's emergency warning equipment may not be prudent or promote firefighter or public safety. Apparatus Driver/Operators and/or Apparatus Officers who respond in this manner must be prepared to justify and clearly articulate the basis for their use of this discretion.

4. "Level 2" Responses

- a. The use of the apparatus emergency warning equipment is not authorized for this type of response code. However, Apparatus Driver/Operator and/or Apparatus Officers may utilize limited use of emergency warning equipment due to traffic volume or other conditions which adversely affect the response time or the apparatus's ability to respond. Apparatus Driver/Operators and/or Apparatus Officers must be prepared to justify and clearly articulate the reasons for the use of this equipment.

5. "Level 3" Responses

- a. There is no discretion authorized for the use of emergency warning equipment for this response code.

-END-