

## 3.2 FIRE SUPPRESSION

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## 3.2.1 FIRE SUPPRESSION AND RISK MANAGEMENT

### PURPOSE

To have a strategy to be employed at all structure fires, for overall safety, within the risk management plan.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE

It will be the responsibility of all incident commanders as well as firefighters to recognize the risk factors and determine the appropriate course of action with regard for fire ground safety

The Risk Management Plan is as follows:

- We may risk a lot to save or protect lives.
- We may risk a little to protect savable property.
- We may risk nothing to save what is already lost.

Offensive fire attack should be employed when a structure is determined to be safe to enter, with all best-known information at the time, and will be reevaluated as the incident progresses to minimize risk to firefighters.

This should be used to protect or rescue savable lives and property. This strategy may also change with conditions or because of certain benchmarks (i.e. "ALL CLEAR") are obtained. Command must establish an attack plan that overpowers the fire with actual water application, either from offensive or defensive positions.

Command must have:

- Consideration of the level of risk to firefighters.
- The ability to write off whatever is already lost.
- A good understanding of conditions on all seven sides of the fire building: front, rear, both sides, top, bottom, and interior for good decision making.

Defensive fire attack should be used when the risk to firefighters outweighs what **MAY** be gained. I.e. property or lives that are already lost.

**REMEMBER!** Match appropriate strategy to the conditions of the structure, minimizing risk to firefighters.

## 3.2.2 STRUCTURAL FIRE RESPONSE

### PURPOSE

To ensure that initial fire ground operations will be handled by arriving apparatus on the scene as quickly and efficiently as possible.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE:

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRST ARRIVING APPARATUS

The officer of the first arriving apparatus will provide an initial scene size-up over the radio and establish Incident Command. The officer will then perform a 360 of the involved structure(s) and confer with residents/neighbors before formulating and directing an initial plan of action.

First arriving apparatus shall decide whether they are to perform truck company duties or engine company operations. This decision will be based on initial size-up or rescue requirements.

The first arriving officer should match an appropriate strategy to the conditions of the structure, intensity of the smoke/fire, and available manpower and resources to minimize risk to firefighters and civilians.

All fire ground officers should be alert to conditions that reduce the response capability to lower numbers. The officer shall see that a vacant position is covered by another individual to ensure completion of the task.

#### ENGINE COMPANY DUTIES

Full protective clothing and SCBA are required as noted in the safety guideline.

Unless otherwise directed, a supply line will be laid in from the nearest, adequate water supply. This is required on report of smoke condition or visible fire. If the length of the supply line is prohibitive, then a split layout should begin from the nearest intersection enabling the second engine or quint to extend the supply line to an adequate water supply. This supply line shall be the largest line available.

The hydrant firefighter(s), having a two-way radio, will dismount the engine, after it comes to a complete stop, retrieve the hydrant bag, pull and secure the supply line from the rear hose bed of the engine, and signal the apparatus operator that it is safe to proceed to the emergency scene.

On arrival at the scene and after spotting the apparatus, the apparatus operator shall begin water flow preparations including connecting the supply line to the pump.

The officer shall see that the first suitable attack line (pre-connected) shall be stretched to the building. The initial attack line should not be smaller than 1-3/4-inches. Dependent on manpower the officer may need to assist in this operation.

## 3.2.2 STRUCTURAL FIRE RESPONSE

### GUIDELINE: (Continued)

#### ENGINE COMPANY DUTIES (Continued)

The hydrant firefighter shall return to the engine once the water flow is established to set up accountability.

If the initial attack line is manned and operating, a back-up line that is equal or larger in size than the initial attack line will be deployed and manned by qualified firefighters as soon as available. This team will fulfill the requirement for “two-in; two-out” until the designated RIT team is in place.

At fires in large structures, or when it is called for, the high-rise pack and 2-1/2-inch leader line will be stretched to the reported fire building, or fire floor. It shall not be charged until ordered by the line officer. The intent of this evolution is to reduce friction loss and provide sufficient water supply to the attack lines at distances exceeding those of the pre-connected hose lines.

#### TRUCK COMPANY DUTIES

Where possible, the first arriving Truck apparatus should be afforded a location in front of the fire building which provides it access to at least two sides/exposures.

On arrival at the scene and after spotting the apparatus, the truck apparatus operator shall begin preparations to raise and operate their aerial device to effect immediate rescues or effect ventilation operations. Should conditions allow, the aerial device should be extended to the roof without requiring orders from command.

The truck company officer is responsible to see that the firefighters under their command perform all tasks and duties as directed by the Incident Commander. Truck company duties include but are not limited to:

1. Search and Rescue (Primary & Secondary)
2. Ventilation (Vertical & Horizontal; Natural & Mechanical)
3. Forceable Entry
4. Utility Control
5. Laddering
6. Scene Lighting
7. Salvage
8. Overhaul

#### ADDITIONAL APPARATUS OR PERSONNEL

If it is determined that additional apparatus or personal will be required, a staging area will be established for incoming apparatus and personal and overseen by a staging officer appointed by the Incident Commander.

All incoming apparatus will report via radio while in route for instructions from command, unless already tasked or ordered to report to designated staging.

## 3.2.2 STRUCTURAL FIRE RESPONSE

GUIDELINE: (Continued)

ADDITIONAL APPARATUS OR PERSONNEL: (Continued)

Incoming apparatus downgraded to Non-Emergency, or non-essential apparatus (ie. Rescues not acting as RIT or Truck Companies, Squads, Buggies, etc.) do not need to call Command for instructions. These units should stage their apparatus and send their officer and/or crew to report to Command for tasking.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY FIRE MARSHALL

At any fire larger than a contained room and contents fire, or in a situation where it is not overly apparent as to the origin of the fire, or in any case where the Officer in Charge (OIC) has concerns or evidence of arson, or is unsure, the OIC may call County Fire Dispatch and request an investigator from the Allegheny County Fire Marshall's Office to respond and investigate the origin and cause of the fire.

UTILITIES

The Officer in Charge (OIC) will notify all utilities affected by the incident such as gas, electric, etc. This may be achieved with a request through County Fire Dispatch.

## 3.2.3 VEHICLE FIRE RESPONSE

### PURPOSE

To ensure that initial fire ground operations will be handled by arriving apparatus on the scene as quickly and efficiently as possible.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE:

All fire ground officers should be alert to conditions that reduce the response capability of their crew to lower than optimal numbers. The officer shall see that all vacant positions are covered by another individual to insure completion of the task.

### FIRST ARRIVING APPARATUS

Full protective clothing and SCBA are required to be worn and used as noted in the Emergency Scene Safety guideline.

The operator will place the apparatus no closer than 75 feet from the vehicle if it is a passenger car, 100 feet from a pick-up truck, or in the event of a commercial vehicle the apparatus should be placed no closer than 125 feet.

The officer of the first arriving apparatus will provide an initial scene size-up over the radio and establish Incident Command. The officer will then perform a 360 of the fire (if possible) before formulating and directing an initial plan of action.

In the event a commercial vehicle is involved, the officer of the first arriving apparatus should be aware of life safety or indications that hazardous materials might be involved. I.e. placards, vehicle shape, notations on the cargo portion of the vehicle, etc.

Unless otherwise directed, two (2) attack lines no smaller than 1-3/4-inches shall be stretched; one to attack the fire and the second to protect and back up the attack line.

Fire attack approach should be made from the side of the vehicle if possible. Fire attack approach from either end of the vehicle should be avoided do to hazards present in vehicle front and rear bumpers.

Dependent on the manpower available, the line officer may need to assist in the attack.

### SECOND ARRIVING APPARATUS

Second arriving apparatus shall assist the first due apparatus as directed by command.

### ADDITIONAL APPARATUS OR PERSONNEL

If it is determined that additional apparatus or personal will be required, a staging area will be established for incoming apparatus and personal and overseen by a staging officer appointed by the Incident Commander.

## 3.2.4 TRASH FIRE RESPONSE

### PURPOSE

To ensure that initial fire ground operations will be handled by arriving apparatus on the scene as quickly and efficiently as possible. This guideline covers small ground/mulch/trash fires under 2,500 square feet and fires in trash cans, dumpsters and compactors.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE:

All fire ground officers should be alert to conditions that reduce the response capability of their crew to lower than optimal numbers. The officer shall see that all vacant positions are covered by another individual to insure completion of the task.

### FIRST ARRIVING APPARATUS

Full protective clothing and SCBA are required to be worn and used as noted in the Emergency Scene Safety guideline.

The operator will place the apparatus no closer than 50 feet from the fire.

The officer of the first arriving apparatus will provide an initial scene size-up over the radio and establish Incident Command. The officer will then perform a 360 of the fire (if possible) before formulating and directing an initial plan of action.

Unless otherwise directed, an attack line no smaller than 1-1/2-inches shall be stretched to the fire.

Dependent on the manpower available, the line officer may need to assist in the attack.

### SECOND ARRIVING APPARATUS

Second arriving apparatus shall assist the first due apparatus as directed by command.

### ADDITIONAL APPARATUS OR PERSONNEL

If it is determined that additional apparatus or personal will be required, a staging area will be established for incoming apparatus and personal and overseen by a staging officer appointed by the Incident Commander.

## 3.2.5 BRUSH FIRE RESPONSE

### PURPOSE

To ensure that initial fire ground operations will be handled by arriving apparatus on the scene as quickly and efficiently as possible.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE

All fire ground officers should be alert to conditions that reduce the response capability of their crew to lower than optimal numbers. The officer shall see that all vacant positions are covered by another individual to insure completion of the task.

### FIRST ARRIVING APPARATUS

Full protective clothing is required to be worn by all personnel as noted in the Emergency Scene Safety guidelines.

Apparatus placement should be on the road if possible.

If it is necessary for the apparatus to leave the road, before the engine goes off road the use of a spotter is mandatory. This spotter should be out in front of the apparatus to look for unseen hazards and obstructions.

Unless otherwise directed, a forestry attack line no smaller than 1-inch shall be stretched to the fire.

Fire attack should always be done from the burned side or flanks of the fire.

The line officer must maintain awareness of changing weather conditions which may affect the direction or intensity of the fire and be prepared to take appropriate action to maintain the safety of their crew.

Dependent on the manpower available, the line officer may need to assist in the attack.

Unless otherwise directed, teams should bring hand tools such as backpack portable 5-gallon fire pumps, chain saws, Pulaski tools, brush axes, shovels, brush brooms, and brush rakes.

### ADDITIONAL APPARATUS OR PERSONNEL

If it is determined that additional apparatus or personal will be required, a staging area will be established for incoming apparatus and personal and overseen by a staging officer appointed by the Incident Commander.

Unless otherwise directed, teams should bring hand tools such as backpack portable 5-gallon fire pumps, chain saws, Pulaski tools, brush axes, shovels, brush brooms, and brush rakes.

## 3.2.6 AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARMS

### PURPOSE

The following procedures will be followed when dispatched to incidents involving fire alarm activations.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE:

#### FIRST ARRIVING UNITS:

Full protective clothing and SCBA are required as noted in the safety guideline.

The officer of the first arriving apparatus will provide an initial scene size-up over the radio and establish Incident Command. The officer will then perform a 360 of the involved structure(s) and confer with occupants, if available, regarding conditions inside the structure and potential hazards, before formulating and directing an initial plan of action.

If, upon arrival, there are visible signs of smoke or fire this incident should be treated as a "Structure Fire" and the appropriate guideline used.

The driver/operator of the first arriving engine, leaving room for the truck, should position the apparatus to effect fire suppression. This includes stretching a pre-connect or leader line into the structure, supplying a fire department connection or the truck when so ordered by the incident commander. The engine crew should prepare to make entry into the structure and begin an investigation of the interior.

The driver/operator of the first arriving truck should position the apparatus so that it can access two sides of the structure. They should set up for aerial operations and extend the ladder to the roof. The truck crew should prepare to assist with forceable entry, interior building investigation and roof top investigation.

The driver/operator of the second arriving engine should locate and stand-by the nearest, adequate hydrant and prepare to provide a water supply to the first arriving engine and truck.

Additional apparatus should refrain from requesting instructions from command over the radio. The officer and crew should stage with their apparatus until directed otherwise by incident command.

## 3.2.6 AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARMS

GUIDELINE: (Continued)

ACTIONS:

The alarm may be silenced but should not be reset until the problem triggering the alarm has been identified by the Incident Commander. Once the problem is identified the incident commander may have the alarm reset and, if the building was vacated, then they may have the building reoccupied and returned to normal status.

If the building is unoccupied, then the buildings “Knox Box” should be used as the primary means of access to enter a building. If the building does not possess such a box, then forced entry may be needed to gain access to the building.

Every effort should be made to attempt to get a company or building representative on scene to effect access to the building prior to forcing entry into a building. If a reasonable amount of time has passed, or no representative is available, then forced entry may be made.

If circumstances warrant forcible entry, the incident commander should request that a police representative respond to the scene. Upon their arrival the responding police officer will be asked to generate an incident report of how forced entry was gained and a description and estimate of the damage. The incident commander should photograph the damage and a copy of the police case number entered in the fire report.

If forced entry is used, it is the responsibility of the incident commander to see that every effort is made to gain access to the building with the least amount of damage.

If an alarm cannot be reset in a high life safety building, including but not limited to schools, nursing homes and group homes, then one fire apparatus will remain on the scene until the incident commander is completely satisfied with the arrangements that have been provided for until the alarm can be placed back in a ready status.

## 3.2.7 SMELL OF SMOKE / ODOR OF SOMETHING BURNING

### PURPOSE

The following procedures will be followed when dispatched to incidents involving a smell of smoke or odor of something burning.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE:

#### FIRST ARRIVING UNITS:

Full protective clothing and SCBA are required as noted in the safety guideline.

The officer of the first arriving apparatus will provide an initial scene size-up over the radio and establish Incident Command. The officer will then perform a 360 of the involved structure(s) and confer with occupants, if available, regarding conditions inside the structure and potential hazards, before formulating and directing an initial plan of action.

If, upon arrival, there are visible signs of smoke or fire this incident should be treated as a "Structure Fire" and the appropriate guideline used.

The driver/operator of the first arriving engine, leaving room for the truck, should place itself in position to provide fire suppression. A crew from the engine will make entry into the structure and begin an interior investigation. A pre-connect or leader line will be stretched to where entry was made to the structure and making connections to the fire department connection.

The driver/operator of the first arriving truck should position their apparatus so that it can access two sides of the structure, set up for aerial operations and extend the ladder to the roof. The truck crew should prepare to assist with forceable entry, utility control, interior building investigation and roof top investigation.

The second arriving engine should locate and stand-by the nearest, adequate hydrant and prepare to provide a water supply to the first arriving engine and truck.

Additional apparatus should refrain from requesting instructions from command over the radio. The officer and crew should stage with their apparatus until directed otherwise by incident command.

### 3.2.7 SMELL OF SMOKE / ODOR OF SOMETHING BURNING

GUIDELINE: (Continued)

ACTIONS:

Using the manpower and tools available, the incident commander should assign tasks dedicated to investigating, locating and then isolating the source of the complaint before it becomes a larger problem.

If circumstances warrant forcible entry, the incident commander should request that a police representative respond to the scene. Upon their arrival the responding police officer will be asked to generate an incident report of how forced entry was gained and a description and estimate of the damage. The incident commander should photograph the damage and a copy of the police case number entered in the fire report.

If forced entry is used, it is the responsibility of the incident commander to see that every effort is made to gain access to the building with the least amount of damage.

## 3.2.8 WATER EMERGENCIES

### PURPOSE

The following are response guidelines for an effective and safe response to flash flooding, pumping details and emergencies on the water such as assisting EMS and boats on fire on or near the water.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE:

If the water emergency involves a life safety component, refer to the Water Rescue guideline.

Emergency personnel should wear the proper equipment required to conduct tasks on the emergency scene to include but not limited to, duty boots, duty uniform, gloves, and helmet. ALL personnel are to properly wear a personal floatation device while working on or near the water.

**UNLESS PERFORMING STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING DUTIES, STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PANTS AND COATS SHOULD NOT BE WORN WHILE WORKING ON OR NEAR THE WATER.**

When working on or near the water, firefighters should be positioned with throw-bags and ready to assist should personnel fall into the water. Additional personnel may be staged with ladders or other equipment to help facilitate removal of personnel or victims from the water.

Do not enter flooded areas unless it can be confirmed that the water has not been energized. If in doubt, do not enter the water.

### RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL BUILDING FLOODING:

Residential Flooding incidents where water is reported to be at a level 4-inches or higher in the basement will be considered “EMERGENCY” responses due to the imminent danger of explosion or fire due to water entering furnaces, hot water heaters or electrical components of equipment typically found in a basement.

For all other calls, a “Non-Emergency” response is dictated.

If flooding is caused by a broken water main in the right of way, the Incident Commander should notify County Dispatch to notify the water company and have them respond to the scene.

## 3.2.8 WATER EMERGENCIES

### GUIDELINE: (Continued)

#### RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL BUILDING FLOODING: (Continued)

If flooding is caused by a broken domestic water pipe inside the structure, firefighters may attempt to shut off the water by using a valve closest to the break without entering the flooded area. If necessary, shut water off at the main building valve. If it is required to shut the water off to the structure at the street valve, Command should notify County Dispatch to send a representative from the water company respond and shut the valve off.

If flooding is caused by storms, run-off, etc, attempt to divert the water using dams, dikes, etc. if it is safe to do so.

It will be the Incident Commanders decision on whether personal floatation devices are required to be worn based on the conditions found.

Firefighters investigating the flooding condition should be monitoring atmospheric conditions with flammable gas and O<sub>2</sub> meters as part of their investigation. If hazardous conditions are found, crews should back out and treat the incident as a Hazardous Materials Response.

If utilities are threatened, shut off gas, electric, heating oil, etc., if it is safe to do so. Command should have County Dispatch notify affected utilities immediately.

If necessary, use a portable pump to remove the water from the structure. If all hazards have been mitigated and the incident is non-emergency, it is more desirable to leave the pump and hose at the location with a responsible party and return to pick it up later, than to commit apparatus and personnel just to watch the pump run.

#### BOAT FIRES:

In the event that firefighters are called to extinguish a boat on fire on or near the water, firefighters assigned to fire suppression activities should wear full structural firefighting PPE and SCBA, without PFDs.

Additional personnel should be assigned, posted as safely as possible, and equipped to provide for the possibility of a water rescue of structural firefighters involved in fire suppression activities.

All firefighting tactics will be defensive in nature. At no time will firefighters board or enter the vessel that is on fire.

If utilities are threatened, shut off gas, electric, heating oil, etc., if it is safe to do so. Command should have County Dispatch notify affected utilities and property manager immediately.

## 3.2.8 WATER EMERGENCIES

GUIDELINE: (Continued)

### BOAT FLOODING:

**At no time will firefighters board or enter a vessel that is reported to be flooding.**

Additional personnel should be assigned, posted as safely as possible, and equipped to provide for the possibility of a water rescue of personnel involved in pumping activities.

Secure or mark location of vessel as best as possible to assist with commercial salvage operations and prevent it from becoming a navigational hazard.

If utilities are threatened, shut off gas, electric, heating oil, etc., if it is safe to do so. Command should have County Dispatch notify affected utilities and property manager immediately.

Place submersible pumps utilizing pike poles or other means if it is deemed safe to do so.

If all hazards have been mitigated and the incident is non-emergency, it is more desirable to leave the pump and hose at the location with a responsible party and return to pick it up later, than to commit apparatus and personnel just to watch the pump run.

## 3.2.9 RESIDENTIAL / VEHICLE LOCK OUT

### PURPOSE

The following are response guidelines for an effective and safe response to assist a resident gain access to their residence or vehicle.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE:

Units will be dispatched to reported lockouts in the following situations, which may be emergencies, as an **EMERGENCY** response.

#### Residences:

- A. Person(s) are locked in or out of a residence that is incapable of unlocking the residence and is in immediate danger due to a medical condition or a fire hazard inside the residence. i.e. food left on the stove.
- B. Other situation where the locked condition of a residence is an obvious threat to the safety of persons or property. i.e. small children locked inside residence.

#### Vehicles:

- A. Person(s) are locked in a vehicle that is incapable of unlocking the vehicle and is in immediate danger due to extreme cold or heat, or other medical condition, or pet(s) locked in closed vehicle without air conditioning.
- B. Vehicle locked and running **INSIDE** of a structure producing a hazardous atmosphere.
- C. Other situation where the locked condition of the vehicle is an obvious threat to the safety of persons or property.

In all other instances, units will respond **NON-EMERGENCY** to the incident and the following guidelines should be followed.

1. Upon arrival of the first responding apparatus, the officer shall make a brief on-scene report and establish incident command.
2. Have a police officer verify the identity of the person requesting entry and their relation to the residence or vehicle being opened or entered.
3. Advise the person responsible that the fire department cannot be held liable for any damage to the residence and/or vehicle.
4. Advise the person responsible that fire department personnel will attempt the safest most economical way of gaining entry.
5. Explain that although the fire department will attempt to minimize damages created from entering the residence and/or vehicle that damage may occur.
6. Select an appropriate way to gain entry into the residence and/or vehicle.

### 3.2.9 RESIDENTIAL / VEHICLE LOCK OUT

GUIDELINE: (Continued)

7. After entry is gained and the incident is stabilized, assist the person in control of the residence and/or vehicle to attempt correcting any damages to the extent possible.

## 3.3 TECHNICAL RESCUE

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## 3.3.1 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

### PURPOSE

The following procedures will be followed when dispatched to motor vehicle accidents.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

### GUIDELINE:

**Junior firefighters, under the age of 16, are not permitted to work on a highway open to the public in any circumstances, including the scene of an emergency.** (PA Child Labor Act, Section 7.)

The first priority at motor vehicle accidents is the safety of emergency responders. The second priority are protecting by-standers and other drivers from becoming involved in the current or another accident. The third priority is the safety of the patient(s).

Firefighters must wear appropriate personal protective equipment corresponding to the tasks they are assigned to carry out. Unless operating in a patient extrication or fire suppression role, reflective safety vest, duty uniform & boots, helmet and gloves must be worn at all times.

Driver/Operators should position their apparatus so that they provide ready access to tools and equipment, but also act as a safety buffer for the working area.

Traffic Control Devices and signage should be properly placed as early as possible into the incident for the safety of the crews working on the scene and other motor vehicle drivers. (PennDOT PUB 213 & PUB 208)

Use caution upon approaching the location of the incident. Other drivers may be focused on the accident scene and not on emergency apparatus approaching the incident.

### FIRST ARRIVING UNIT:

The officer of the first arriving apparatus will provide an initial scene size-up over the radio and establish Incident Command. The officer will then perform a 360 survey of the incident (if possible) and confer with witnesses/responsible parties before formulating and directing an initial plan of action.

Pertinent information to gather from the size-up of a motor vehicle accident are:

- Number of vehicles involved and conditions. (On side, On roof, On all fours, etc.)
- Types of vehicles involved. (truck, car, van, bus, etc.)
- Number and condition of potential victims. (Trapped, Outside, Unconscious, etc.)

## 3.3.1 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

### GUIDELINE: (Continued)

#### FIRST ARRIVING UNIT: (Continued)

- Hazards approaching and around the vehicle(s). (Wires down, leaning poles, leaking fluids, fire, smoke)

Apparatus should be positioned to shield emergency responders from approaching traffic, but also to best approach affected vehicles for extrication.

Stabilization of the vehicle(s) should be performed before any rescue personnel enter or work on vehicle(s).

If EMS is not on scene, assign firefighters to begin patient assessment and provide basic patient care.

Access must be gained to the battery compartment.

A fire extinguisher or hose line should be in place before attempting to disconnect the vehicle battery. The negative terminal should be disconnected first, then the positive terminal.

Dry granule absorbent material may be spread on leaking fluids (oils, gasoline, anti-freeze, etc.).

Debris in the roadway may be cleared to the side of the roadway only after given approval by the lead law enforcement officer on scene.

Removal of debris and contaminated absorbent materials is the responsibility of the tow company representative. Firefighters may assist with clean up and collection if ordered to do so by Command.

#### PATIENT EXTRICATION:

Upon determination that extrication tools will be needed for the removal of patient(s) from one or more vehicles, the Incident Commander will advise the rescue apparatus and EMS.

The Officer in Charge of the first arriving rescue apparatus will assume Operations command and direct all personnel during extrication operations.

All emergency personnel involved in extrication operations must wear NFPA approved goggles or safety glasses in addition to PPE.

Patient care must begin as soon as possible. Emergency responders assigned to patient care are responsible not only for caring for the patient(s), but also for protecting the patient during extrication operations.

### 3.3.1 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

#### GUIDELINE: (Continued)

#### PATIENT EXTRICATION: (Continued)

In the event that extrications operations are required, a hose line of not less than 1-3/4-inches must be deployed and charged. At least two qualified interior firefighters in full structural firefighting PPE with SCBA will be assigned to stand-by with this hose line.

#### INCIDENT TERMINATION:

An incident will not be terminated until all patients are in EMS care, the vehicle(s) are no longer posing a hazard to public safety, and all personnel and equipment are returned to and properly stowed on the apparatus.

Termination of the incident will be determined by the Incident Commander in coordination with other agencies operating on the accident scene.

## 3.3.2 ELEVATOR EMERGENCIES

### PURPOSE

The following procedures will be followed when dispatched to incidents involving an elevator emergency.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE:

#### FIRST ARRIVING UNITS:

**If time and circumstances allow, it is safer for emergency responders and the victims to protect them in place and wait for a trained, certified technician to address the problem and return the elevator back to service.**

Unless information is conveyed by County Dispatch indicating a medical emergency or a person trapped in the mechanism of the elevator, response to elevator emergencies should be non-emergency. Any officer may, at their discretion, upgrade the response to emergency.

Upon arrival of the first responding apparatus, the officer shall make a brief on-scene report and establish incident command. The incident commander should then begin compiling information from the complainant, building security or maintenance to determine if there is a person trapped in the stalled elevator and how many persons are affected.

If this is determined to be a person trapped in the mechanism of the elevator this incident becomes a technical machinery rescue and that SOG should be followed.

Upon the determination that there are occupants trapped in the stalled car, or a rescue is necessary, the incident commander should request that a certified elevator technician respond to the scene.

**A safety officer should be assigned to each floor/division where rescue operations are being conducted and hoistway doors are blocked open.**

If the elevator is equipped with a Phase 1 recall service, firefighters may attempt to recall the elevator. If this is not available or does not free the elevator continue as below.

Firefighters may be sent to the elevator mechanical room to shut down the power to the effected elevator(s). The power source should be locked and tagged out, or a firefighter stationed there to assure that no one turns the power back on.

## 3.3.2 ELEVATOR EMERGENCIES

### GUIDELINE: (Continued)

#### FIRST ARRIVING UNITS: (Continued)

Determine the position of the car in the hoistway. It may be necessary to open the hoistway door to determine the cars position.

Firefighters should attempt to establish contact with the occupants of the stalled car and determine if any medical conditions are present.

Request that the occupant of the car activate the car's STOP switch.

Car occupants should be advised that rescue operations are in progress and they are safe, and they should refrain from moving around and stay away from the elevator doors.

Open the hoistway doors closest to the stalled car using a hoistway key.

All door openings should be blocked open using a door wedge.

Every effort should be made to protect emergency responders and building occupants from falling into blocked open hoistways.

#### OCCUPANT REMOVAL:

If occupant removal is deemed necessary due to a medical emergency, unreasonable delay in the arrival of a certified elevator technician, or at the incident commander's discretion, the following guidelines should be used to remove occupants from the stalled elevator.

Any occupants who cannot walk without assistance shall be removed with the aid of a stair chair, backboard or stokes basket.

Any occupant who can walk out will be assisted to do so if the car floor is within twelve inches, above or below, the building floor.

If the car floor is greater than (12) twelve-inches above or below the building floor, a firefighter should board the car and the car occupants shall be assisted from the care using a folding attic ladder with a firefighter in the car and a firefighter at the floor level assisting the occupants. Anytime an occupant must climb more than (4) four feet from the car floor, a safety line shall be secured to the car occupant as fall protection.

If the cars doors cannot be opened normally, or do not provide adequate access for occupant removal, the elevator roof hatch may be used to affect the rescue. When a roof hatch is used to evacuate the car's occupants, safety lines should be attached to all firefighters operating within, and around the open hoistway, and to the occupants, as fall protection.

### 3.3.2 ELEVATOR EMERGENCIES

GUIDELINE: (Continued)

OCCUPANT REMOVAL: (Continued)

Once the rescue has been completed, the hoistway doors should be closed and kept closed.

Any disconnected power supplies should be left in the off position.

The building's representative should be advised to leave the elevator out of service until it can be repaired by an authorized service company.

### 3.3.3 WATER RESCUE

#### PURPOSE

The following are response guidelines for an effective and safe response on surface or swift water rescue assignments where life safety is the primary component of the emergency.

#### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

#### GUIDELINE:

Upon arrival of the first responding apparatus, the officer shall make a brief on-scene report and establish incident command. The incident commander should then begin compiling information to determine if this is a rescue or a recovery. Then they should examine the hazards present:

- Traffic.
- Weather Conditions.
- Type of Rescue. (Water/Ice)
- Method of Rescue. (Land based or not)
- Number of victims.
- Additional Resources needed.
- Secure and isolate the area.

If assets on hand lack the training or equipment necessary to successfully affect victim rescue without compromising the safety of the emergency responders, bystanders and the victim(s), then it is acceptable to use available manpower and equipment to only perform such duties that they can perform safely.

Rescue Sequence: The following rescue sequence should be used on all water rescues to ensure the lowest risk rescue is attempted before moving to higher risk rescues.

1. Self-Rescue – Encourage the victims to rescue themselves when possible.
2. Shore Based Operations –
  - a. Use Reach (Extend an arm, pike pole or ladder)
  - b. Use Throw (Use a throw bag, coiled rope or toss a life ring.)
3. Go Rescue – Use a boat or enter the water and wade/swim to victim.

Emergency personnel should wear the proper equipment required to conduct tasks on the rescue scene to include but not limited to, duty boots, duty uniform, gloves, and helmet. ALL personnel are to properly wear a personal floatation device while working on or near the water.

**UNLESS PERFORMING STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING DUTIES, STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PANTS AND COATS SHOULD NOT BE WORN WHILE WORKING ON OR NEAR THE WATER.**

## 3.3.4 TECHNICAL RESCUE

### PURPOSE

The following procedures will be followed when dispatched to incidents involving technical rescue. This section includes guidelines for Industrial Machinery Rescue, Structural Collapse, Confined Space Rescue, Rope Rescue, and Trench Rescue.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### GUIDELINE:

#### GENERAL:

Upon arrival of the first responding apparatus, the officer shall make a brief on-scene report and establish incident command. The incident commander should then begin compiling information from the complainant to determine the type of rescue, the location of the victim(s), the victim(s) medical condition, is this a rescue or recovery, and the level of entrapment.

The incident commander should then assess the resources he has on scene and those still in route to the emergency scene and determine what actions can be taken and what other resources need to be requested to affect a successful rescue or recovery.

If assets on hand lack the training or equipment necessary to successfully affect victim rescue without compromising the safety of the emergency responders, bystanders and the victim(s), then it is acceptable to use available manpower and equipment to only perform such duties that they can perform safely.

Initial tasks include:

1. Establish Command.
2. Designate Safety Officer(s).
3. Secure and isolate the area.
4. Identify and secure utilities, if possible.
5. Determine Rescue vs. Recovery.
6. Secure responsible parties, if possible.
7. Request additional resources.
8. Don appropriate PPE for the situation.

### 3.3.4 TECHNICAL RESCUE

GUIDELINE: (Continued)

#### INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY RESCUE:

When possible obtain technical assistance from foreman, supervisor, local dealer, factory or another knowledgeable person.

Utilize special tools or equipment that may be kept on hand in the shop or facility for such emergencies.

Attempt deliberate disassembly of the machinery in order to get the trapped person out. In general, do not spare the machinery.

Bolt cutters, reciprocating saws and hack saws may be useful in removing parts.

If using pneumatic or hydraulic equipment for lifting, be sure to insert cribbing as you go.

In spring-wound devices, place bar through sprockets to prevent further rotation.

Soap, grease or lard may be of help in freeing the trapped person.

#### STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE:

While operating at a structural collapse incident take care to ensure that no personnel are committed to an unsafe structure or position.

Be alert for the potential for secondary collapse.

Control and extinguish fires.

Establish an elevated observation platform by placing an aerial platform at the front and strategic positions around the building.

Assign police or emergency responders to perimeter control and to assist with victim accountability.

Assess structural stability of adjoining structures.

Perform initial reconnaissance to identify type of structure, use and possible number of victims and their likely locations.

Remove surface victims first.

If using pneumatic or hydraulic equipment for lifting, be sure to insert cribbing as you go.

### 3.3.4 TECHNICAL RESCUE

#### GUIDELINE: (Continued)

##### CONFINED SPACE RESCUE:

Attempt an initial contact with victim(s).

Deploy a non-entry reconnaissance team to evaluate opening, number of victims and entrapment.

Begin continuous non-entry air monitoring of the confined space and at the opening. If determined safe to do so, begin to ventilate the confined space.

If possible, undertake non-entry rescue of trapped victims.

Entry with standard SCBA may be made if NFPA 1670 operations level requirements are met.

Gather information on the location, number and position of additional victims who may be out of sight.

Obtain blueprints, maps or sketches of the space if possible, from site resources.

##### ROPE RESCUE:

Only engage in rope rescue as a last resort. Consider all other means of access and egress first.

Gain access to a location above the victim.

If possible, place an aerial ladder or platform in a location to access the victim(s).

Contact victim(s) to advise them that help is imminent.

At the incident commander's discretion either prepare to access the victim and stabilize prior to removal or await arrival of a technical rope rescue team and support their operation as needed.

##### TRENCH AND EXCAVATION RESCUE:

Always approach trench from the ends.

Consider the effects of vehicles/heavy equipment on the stability of the trench and spoil pile.

Under no circumstances should anyone enter an unprotected trench.

Assess the number of victims and their location.

Begin continuous, non-entry air monitoring of the space.

If determined that it is safe to do so, begin ventilation of the trench.

Place at least one ladder into the trench for emergency egress.

Place ground pads around the perimeter of the trench.

### 3.3.4 TECHNICAL RESCUE

GUIDELINE: (Continued)

TRENCH AND EXCAVATION RESCUE: (Continued)

Place and secure shoring panels against the sides of the trench wall around the victim(s).

Assist victims in self-rescue if possible.

Once the scene has been made safe for entry, safety lines should be attached to all emergency responders performing victim rescue and stabilization.

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## 3.4 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE

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## 3.4.1 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCIES

### PURPOSE

The following procedures will be followed when responding to alarms for hazardous materials, not already addressed in these guidelines.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### DEFINITION & DATA:

Hazardous Materials: Products or articles or substances that are capable of posing a significant risk to health, safety, property or the environment.

### GUIDELINE:

#### FIRST ARRIVING UNIT:

Full protective clothing and SCBA is required to be worn by all personnel as noted in the Emergency Scene Safety guidelines.

The officer of the first arriving apparatus will provide an initial scene size-up over the radio and establish Incident Command. The officer will then perform a 360 of the incident (if possible) and confer with witnesses/responsible parties before formulating and directing an initial plan of action. Only actions that are **defensive** in nature shall be initiated.

The first unit must consciously avoid committing itself to a dangerous situation. When approaching, slow down or stop to assess a visible activity taking place. Evaluate effects of wind, topography and location of the situation.

The objective of the size-up is to identify the nature and severity of the immediate problem and gather sufficient information to formulate a valid action plan. A hazardous materials incident requires a more cautious and deliberate size-up than most fire situations.

Avoid premature commitment of units and personnel to potentially hazardous locations. The Incident Commander should advise all other units and personnel to stage until instructed to take specific action. Incoming units and personnel must stage in a safe location, taking into consideration wind, spill flow, explosion potential and similar factors in any situation.

The major problem in most cases is to identify the type of materials involved in a situation, and the hazards presented, before formulating a plan of action. Look for labels, markers, and shipping papers, refer to pre-fire plans, and ask personnel at the scene (plant managers, responsible parties, truck driver, specialist). Utilize reference materials carried on the apparatus (ERG).

## 3.4.1 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCIES

### GUIDELINE: (Continued)

#### FIRST ARRIVING UNIT: (Continued)

Identify a hazardous area based on potential danger, taking into account materials involved, time of day, wind and weather conditions, location of the incident and degree of risk to unprotected personnel.

At any time, the OIC may request to have a Hazmat Team notified to respond to the incident through County Fire Dispatch.

Take immediate action to evacuate and/or rescue persons in critical danger, if possible, providing for the safety of the rescuers.

#### ACTION PLAN:

Based on the initial size-up and any information available, command shall formulate an action plan to deal with the situation.

Action Plans must provide for:

1. Safety of Citizens.
2. Safety of Emergency Personnel.
3. Evacuation of endangered areas, if necessary.
4. Control of the Situation.
5. Stabilization of hazardous materials.

Avoid committing personnel and equipment prematurely or experimenting with techniques or tactics. Many times, it is necessary to evacuate and wait for special equipment or expert help.

Only actions that are **defensive** in nature shall be initiated. The Hazardous Materials Team shall accomplish any **offensive** actions.

## 3.4.2 CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) EMERGENCIES

### PURPOSE

The following procedures will be followed when responding to alarms for a structure with a carbon monoxide alarm activated.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

### DEFINITION & DATA:

Carbon Monoxide (CO)(UN 1016): Is an odorless, colorless, flammable gas, which can cause sudden illness and death, is produced any time a fossil fuel is burned.

- Vapor Density of .97 (slightly lighter than air=1)
- LEL of 12.5%, UEL of 74% and Ignition Point of 1120 F.
- Recommended exposure limits (REL) is 35ppm over 8 hours.
- Disabling affects/symptoms begin to appear when exposed to 83ppm for an hour, or 150ppm for a half hour, or 420ppm for 10 minutes.

(National Research Council, Carbon Monoxide Acute Exposure Guideline Levels, 2010)

### GUIDELINE

All carbon monoxide incidents will be a non-emergency response unless there is a confirmed patient(s) with symptomatic conditions existing inside or evacuated from the structure.

Full protective clothing and SCBA is required to be worn by all personnel as noted in the Emergency Scene Safety guidelines.

The officer of the first arriving apparatus will provide an initial scene size-up over the radio and establish Incident Command. The officer will then perform a 360 of the building (if possible) and confer with residents/occupants before formulating and directing an initial plan of action.

The use of SCBA will be dictated by the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the scene if he/she deems their use necessary after assessing the situation for potential hazards or existing patient conditions.

Prior to testing the structure with a four-gas meter from the apparatus, or other CO meter, the meters will need to be zeroed in fresh outside air. A sample shall then be taken at the entrance of the structure and the level of CO noted by the meter operator.

The meter operator will need to continue to sample the structure's atmosphere at various heights upon entering the structure. Again, the level of CO will be noted by the operator.

## 3.4.2 CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) EMERGENCIES

### GUIDELINE: (Continued)

Samples will need to be taken near the location of the CO alarm and appliances that use or can cause combustion. The following will need to be checked and cleared as not being the source of CO production:

- Natural Gas Fueled Kitchen Stoves and Ovens
- Heating Furnaces
- Natural Gas Fired Hot Water Heaters
- Natural Gas Fired Clothes Dryer
- Other Natural Gas Fueled Cooking Appliances
- Fossil Fuel Fired Space Heaters
- Improperly Vented Open and Enclosed Fireplaces
- Chimneys (In the event of blockages)

The following locations will need to be sampled in the above appliances:

- Heat exchanger exhaust ports of furnaces
- Under draft diverter of gas fired water heaters
- Warm air register of home HVAC systems

The following Parts per Million (PPM) levels will be used as a guideline in determining further actions during CO alarms:

- 0 PPM No CO condition exists in the structure
- 1-9 PPM Maximum acceptable level of CO in a structure
- 10-34 PPM Possible problem exists; Have County Fire Dispatch notify Utilities to respond; Investigate to determine origin of CO.
- 35-50 PPM Immediately have County Fire Dispatch notify Utilities to respond; Monitor and Limit Time and Exposure of Firefighters while continuing to Investigate to determine origin of CO; Consider monitoring exposures to the structure.
- 50+ PPM SCBA's MUST be Used by ALL Firefighters Investigating the origin of CO; Have County Fire Dispatch notify Utilities to respond; Monitor CO readings in exposures to and outside the structure.

At any time, the OIC may request to have the utility company notified to respond to the incident through County Fire Dispatch, or at the request of the homeowner.

If a PPM reading is near or over 35 PPM, the proper utilities will need to be notified and the possible origin of the CO will need to be identified. The interior crews will don SCBA or supplied air respirators. The homeowner will need to be advised that a possible CO problem exists in the structure. All occupants shall remain outside the structure until the source is located or the utility company clears the structure.

### 3.4.3 NATURAL GAS (METHANE) EMERGENCIES

#### PURPOSE

The following procedures will be followed when responding to alarms for a structure where natural gas is sensed by the occupants and there is no fire or explosion.

#### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department operating on the scene of an emergency.

#### DEFINITION & DATA:

Natural Gas (UN 1971): Is an odorized (with trace amounts of Sulphur compounds), colorless, flammable gas, consisting largely of methane and other hydrocarbons, occurring naturally underground and used as a fuel. It is a simple asphyxiant with no systemic toxicity.

- Vapor Density of 0.7 - 0.9 (lighter than air=1.0)
- LEL of 5%, UEL of 15% and Ignition Point of 1004 F.
- Recommended exposure limits (REL) is 5300 ppm, at 10% of LEL, over 8 hours.

#### GUIDELINE:

Full protective clothing and SCBA is required to be worn by all personnel as noted in the Emergency Scene Safety guidelines.

The driver/operator of the first arriving apparatus should position their apparatus a minimum of 100 feet away from the location of the incident.

The officer of the first arriving apparatus will provide an initial scene size-up over the radio and establish Incident Command. The officer will then perform a 360 of the building (if possible) and confer with residents/occupants before formulating and directing an initial plan of action.

The second arriving Engine should stand-by with their crew at the nearest hydrant, unless re-directed by the Incident Commander.

Additional units should position themselves a minimum of 100 feet away from the location or the incident and send their crews to report to Command, or stage with their crews at a designated staging area as directed by the Incident Commander.

The use of SCBA will be dictated by the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the scene if he/she deems their use necessary after assessing the situation for potential hazards or existing patient conditions.

Prior to testing the structure with a four-gas meter from the apparatus, or other natural gas meter, the meters will need to be zeroed in fresh outside air. A sample shall then be taken at the entrance of the structure and the Percent (%) of LEL noted by the meter operator.

### 3.4.3 NATURAL GAS (METHANE) EMERGENCIES

GUIDELINE: (Continued)

The meter operator will need to continue to sample the structure's atmosphere at various heights upon entering the structure. Again, the Percent (%) of LEL will be noted by the operator.

Samples will need to be taken near the location appliances that use natural gas. The following will need to be checked and cleared as not being the source of the natural gas leak:

- Natural Gas Meter
- Natural Gas Fueled Kitchen Stoves and Ovens
- Natural Gas Fueled Heating Furnaces
- Natural Gas Fired Hot Water Heaters
- Natural Gas Fired Clothes Dryer
- Other Natural Gas Fueled Cooking Appliances
- Natural Gas Fired Fireplaces or Inserts
- Natural Gas Piping, Turns and Connections

The following Parts per Million (PPM) levels will be used as a guideline in determining further actions during CO alarms:

- 0% LEL No Natural Gas condition exists in the structure.
- 1-25% LEL Possible problem exists; Have County Fire Dispatch notify Utilities to respond; Investigate to determine origin of Natural Gas Leak.
- 25-50% LEL Immediately have County Fire Dispatch notify Utilities to respond; Monitor and Limit Time and Exposure of Firefighters while continuing to Investigate to determine origin of CO; Consider the evacuation of exposures to the affected structure.
- 50-75% LEL SCBA's MUST be used by ALL Firefighters Monitoring and Investigating the origin of Natural Gas Leak; Have County Fire Dispatch notify Utilities to respond; Start evacuation of exposures to the affected structure. Consider ventilation of affected structure to keep levels of Natural Gas below the LEL.
- 75%+ LEL SCBA's MUST be used by ALL Firefighters Monitoring and Investigating the origin of Natural Gas Leak; Have County Fire Dispatch notify Utilities to expedite response; Consider effecting evacuation distances per current ERG and mitigating vapors with fog streams; Manually control utilities at the meter if accessible and safe to do so.

At any time, the OIC may request to have the utility company notified to respond to the incident through County Fire Dispatch, or at the request of the homeowner.

## 3.5 EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE

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### 3.5.1 ASSIST EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS)

#### PURPOSE

This guideline addresses responses to the scene of Medical Emergencies for the purpose of assisting EMS with patient access or lifting.

#### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department.

#### GUIDELINE:

The fire department rescue apparatus should respond to any Assist EMS incident.

The fire officer in charge should instruct the apparatus operator to position the unit in such a way as it does not impede the departure of the EMS unit.

The fire officer in charge should verify that the scene is safe and meet with EMS to determine what is required of fire personnel to assist with patient access and care. A plan of action should be devised and agreed upon by EMS representatives.

Fire department personnel should don Medical PPE prior to engaging in assisting EMS with patient care.

Members of the fire department are, at all times, accountable for their actions or lack thereof. At no time is it acceptable for any fire personnel to act outside of their scope of training.

After any Assist EMS detail, it is imperative that equipment is replaced, properly cleaned or decontaminated, or properly disposed of. If equipment cannot be replaced at that time, a notification shall be made to the Officer in Charge.

## 3.5.2 QUICK RESPONSE SERVICE (QRS)

### PURPOSE

To ensure that properly trained personnel, quickly respond to provide Basic Life Support (BLS) care until Advanced Life Support (ALS) units arrive or assist ALS units with patient care until they can be transported to an emergency medical facility.

### SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to all members of the department with Emergency First Responder credentials or higher, attached to the QRS Team.

### GUIDELINE:

The members of the Aspinwall Fire Department's Quick Response Service (QRS) team shall, at all times, abide by the most current standards and protocols set forth and governed by The Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Members of the Quick Response Service team, at all times, are accountable for their actions or lack thereof. Having stated that, QRS team members may have to face a Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Board of inquiry, should it be found necessary.

At no time is it acceptable for any member of the QRS team to act outside of their scope of training. Should any victim refuse medical care, the team member should ask the victim to wait until more advanced help arrives and allow them to complete and accept an EMS refusal form. The team member should also notify the Paramedics, through dispatch, of a possible patient refusal so as to make the Paramedics aware of the situation and allow them to make an emergency, non-emergency response decision, or even disregard EMS response to the incident, if they so choose.

### RESPONSE TO MEDICAL/TRAUMA EMERGENCIES:

With the exception of the Driver/Operator of our apparatus, only qualified Emergency First Responders, or higher, shall respond to these emergencies.

A responding apparatus to a dispatched medical/trauma emergency, should at a minimum, have a driver and three qualified members of the QRS Team. This will ensure that the apparatus is properly crewed, should another incident arise at the conclusion, or upon the proper release by EMS from the QRS detail.

The members of the QRS Team shall have their full turnout gear with them on the responding apparatus.

Firefighters who wish to respond and otherwise cover the station at the time of a QRS dispatched detail, may come to the station in a non-emergency manner. This means no lights or warning devices need to be used while responding to the station. They shall report to dispatch as to how many members are standing by for station coverage.

After any QRS detail, it is imperative that equipment is replaced, properly cleaned or decontaminated, or properly disposed of. If equipment cannot be replaced at that time, a notification shall be made to the Officer in Charge and/or the department's Medical Officer.