

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Standard Operating Guidelines

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, *Fire Chief*

3300.010

Response Mode

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PURPOSE

The Fire Service is a diverse organization that is called upon to respond to many different types of incidents. Some responses warrant the use of emergency lights and sirens, while others do not.

OBJECTIVE

To prioritize the response of emergency vehicles to ensure maximum utilization of resources and that units respond in a mode that corresponds with the prioritization level of the emergency request.

SCOPE

All personnel

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The following incidents shall be considered true emergencies and shall warrant the use of lights and sirens while responding:

- Plane Crash
- Train Derailment
- Brush Fire
- Boating Accident / Swimmer in Trouble
- Structure Fire
- Dumpster Fire Threatening Structure
- Vehicle Accident
- Vehicle / Machinery Extrication
- Activated Carbon Monoxide Detector
- Activated Fire / Sprinkler Alarm (First due unit only, unless additional information indicates an actual fire exists)
- Fuel Spill
- Gas Leak
- Hazardous Materials Incident
- Helicopter Standby (Emergency incidents only)
- Power Lines Down
- Medical Emergencies
- Emergency Manpower Assistance to EMS or other Agency
- Trash Fire Threatening a Structure
- Tornado Touchdown / Weather Related Emergency
- Vehicle Fire
- Child Locked in Automobile (If information indicates child is in distress)

NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The following incidents shall not be considered true emergencies and shall not warrant the use of emergency lights and sirens while responding:

- Dumpster Fire not Threatening a Structure
- Non-emergency Helicopter Standby
- Non-emergency Manpower Assistance to EMS or other Agency
- Non-emergency Public Assistance
- Trash Fire not Threatening a Structure
- Non-emergency Event Standby
- Washdown / Cleanup of Roadway
- Child Locked in Automobile (If information indicates child not in distress)
- Smoke in the Area
- Obvious Death

TRUE EMERGENCIES

The types of incidents listed in this guideline may not be all-inclusive. Fire department personnel may be dispatched to an incident that is not necessarily identified here. In addition, response modes may need to be changed as additional information is received and relayed to responding personnel by dispatch. Therefore, company officers must use all available information and available resources to determine the mode of response warranted.

Emergency lights and sirens should only be utilized when responding to a true emergency. A true emergency can be defined as, "An incident where there is threat of serious injury, sickness, or death, or where significant or viable public or private property is jeopardized."

RESPONDING – ENROUTE

If an emergency vehicle or apparatus is traveling to an incident in an emergency mode utilizing emergency lights and sirens, the vehicle or apparatus shall notify the dispatcher they are "**Responding**".

If an emergency vehicle or apparatus is traveling to an incident in a non-emergency mode without utilizing emergency lights and sirens, the vehicle or apparatus shall notify the dispatcher they are "**Enroute**".