



Firefighter Response to Call

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. When responding to an emergency call, it is important that firefighter response levels be determined as quickly as possible to assist in dispatching equipment to the scene. Individuals responding directly to the scene give a false indication of the number of firefighters responding and may result in slowing the dispatching of equipment. In addition, firefighters reporting directly to the scene without their personal protective gear pose a safety hazard to themselves and other firefighters at the scene.

2.0 Purpose

- 2.1. To define the conditions under which a firefighter shall respond to the station and/or direct to the emergency scene.

3.0 Policy

- 3.1. Firefighters will obey all North Carolina highway laws when responding to all fire incidents. No one has the authority to break these laws regardless of the circumstance.
- 3.2. All firefighters **will respond directly to the station** for the manning of equipment as outlined in the Dispatching Apparatus and Personnel (SOG-204). Responding directly to the scene is approved only under the following conditions:
 - 3.2.1. Only when authorized by the Chief and/or Assistant Chief.
 - 3.2.2. When in a **DIRECT PATH** between your present location and the fire station.
 - 3.2.3. All apparatus that is required for the emergency incident has left the station.
- 3.3. Firefighters and Officers not adhering to this policy will be subject to disciplinary action on an individual basis. The Fire Chief and Assistant Chief will take the type of incident, situation found and incident outcome into account.



4.0 Procedure

- 4.1. When responding directly to an emergency scene in a private vehicle, the following procedure should be observed:
 - 4.1.1. Have headlights on LOW beam.
 - 4.1.2. Approach with extreme caution.
 - 4.1.3. STOP at road block (if it exists) and identify yourself as a firefighter.
 - 4.1.4. Park away from the emergency scene. **DO NOT BLOCK TRAFFIC**
 - 4.1.5. Report to the Incident Commander/Accountability Officer for assignment.
 - 4.1.6. Firefighters will stay with their responding equipment until ordered to assist by the Incident Commander.
- 4.2. Firefighters will return to the station with the same equipment in which they arrived.
- 4.3. Firefighters will return to the station to prepare equipment for the next emergency.
- 4.4. Firefighters not returning to the station or not returning with the same equipment must inform the Incident Commander/Accountability Officer prior to leaving the scene.
- 4.5. Firefighters will obey all traffic rules and regulations when responding either to the station or directly to the scene.
- 4.6. A timely response will be required for credit at an emergency call.
- 4.7. All firefighter vehicles should have a fire department sticker and/or state issued firemen's license plate to aid in the identification of firefighter vehicles at an emergency scene.