

EMERGENCY/NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSES

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Purpose: *Responding to incidents using red lights and sirens creates a greater degree of hazard to the motoring public and members of the department in vehicles, as well as leading to greater wear and tear on vehicles resulting in higher maintenance costs. The purpose of this procedure is to establish a list of incidents to which emergency or non-emergency response is indicated.*

Procedure:

- For the purposes of this procedure, the following definitions are made:
 - Code 3: Responding to either the fire station or incident location using red lights and sirens on vehicles (also referred to as “Emergency”)
 - Code 1: Responding to either the fire station or incident location without the use of red lights and siren and compliance with all traffic laws and regulatory devices (also referred to as “Non-Emergency”).
 - Discretion: The ability of either the apparatus officer or duty officer to exercise judgment on whether a response is made as Emergency or Non-emergency. Generally incidents where response discretion is used, the “default” mode shall be non-emergency unless additional information has been gained that suggests emergency response is more appropriate.
 - First Due apparatus: The first responding apparatus of the station listed first during a dispatch.
- The district Duty Officer (“8009”) (or officer of the first due apparatus if the Duty Officer is not responding to an incident), has the discretion to upgrade or downgrade any response listed below based on information learned subsequent to the dispatch of an incident.
- Any unit responding non-emergency when making its responding radio transmission shall state “Unit 80xx is responding Code 1”.
- In some situations, it may be appropriate for responding units to contact radio to determine if additional information is known.
- Except as modified below, all Medical Assist incidents shall be made on a Code 3 basis.
- When EMS requests the fire department for lifting assistance, unless a response level was noted during the dispatch, the officer of the apparatus shall contact radio to ask the on-scene EMS unit the desired level of response of fire equipment.
- When police are responding to a Medical Assist incident because of potential trouble at the scene, fire apparatus shall initially respond on a Code 1 basis. The apparatus officer may upgrade the response to Code 3 based on the following considerations: if the police have declared the scene secure and apparatus is still en-route, whether police are responding on a Code 3 basis, traffic conditions (such as during rush hour and traffic is extremely heavy and associated delays may off-set police response time).

Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.

Okolona Fire Department
Standard Operating Procedure

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8. The chart listed below is applicable to fire department apparatus and command cars:

Nature of Incident	Code 3	Code 1	Discretion	Considerations to upgrade to Code 3 response
Assist Police (Meth labs, SWAT, special tools)			All	As requested by police
Brush/grass/field fires	All			
Car Fires	All			
Carbon Monoxide Alarms			All	Sick persons; EMS responding
Children locked in cars			All	Child is reported to be in distress; weather conditions
Dumpster fires			All	Proximity to building
Electrical Transformer Fires		All		
Electrical Wires Down			All	Resulting from accidents
Fire Alarm Sounding	First Due Apparatus Duty Officer	All others		
Haz. Mat. in district (after level is declared)	All			
Haz. Mat. outside district (after level is declared)	Team members		All others	As directed by Incident Commander
Lap-ins		All		
Lock-in/Lockout			ALL*	
Medical Calls	All except as noted	Potential Trouble Lift Assist		Secure Scene EMS requests Emergency Lift Assist
Mulch fires			All	Proximity to building
Odor of or smoke in the area		All		
Release of Hazardous Material (Initial release, no units on scene)	All			
Rescues	All			
Structure Fires	All			
Technical Rescue in district	All			
Technical Rescue outside district	Team members		All others	As directed by Incident Commander
Trash fires/illegal burns		All		
Vehicle leaking fuel (gas or diesel)	All			
Vehicle Fluid Mitigations (resulting from accidents)			All	fuel spill (gasoline, diesel)
Water Flow Alarm	First Due Apparatus Duty Officer	All others		
Water leaks/broken pipes		All		

*Discretion due to weather conditions being hot/cold with young children in cars and in possible distress.

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9. The chart listed below is applicable to volunteer members and off-duty career firefighters having personal vehicles equipped with red lights and siren:

Nature of Incident	Code 3	Code 1
Assist Police (Meth labs, SWAT, special tools)		X
Brush/grass/field fires	X	
Car Fires		X
Carbon Monoxide Alarms		X
Children locked in cars		X
Dumpster fires		X
Electrical Transformer Fires		X
Electrical Wires Down		X
Fire Alarm Sounding		X
Haz. Mat. in district (after level is declared)	X	
Haz. Mat. outside district (after level is declared)	Team Members	Non Team Members
Lap-ins		X
Lock-in/Lockout		X
Mulch fires		X
Odor of or smoke in the area		X
Release of Hazardous Material (Initial release, no units on scene)	X	
Rescues	X	
Structure Fires	X	
Technical Rescue in district	X	
Technical Rescue outside district	Team Members	Non Team Members
Trash fires/illegal burns		X
Vehicle leaking fuel (gas or diesel)		X
Vehicle Fluid Mitigations (resulting from accidents)		X
Water Flow Alarm		X
Water leaks/broken pipes		X

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