

Okolona Fire Department
Standard Operating Procedure
INTERIM

RESCUE 8081

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Purpose: *The purpose for Rescue 8081 is to allow the Okolona Fire Department to provide necessary public safety services in such a fashion that reduces wear on fire apparatus, thus minimizing maintenance and fuel costs as well as extending the service life of fire apparatus. It must be recognized that the Rescue 8081 concept is new to the department and changes to this procedure should be anticipated when they become necessary. This procedure should be evaluated monthly to determine if changes are appropriate.*

Procedure:

STAFFING:

1. Rescue 8081 shall be staffed by two (2) firefighter/EMTs on a 24/7 basis. The person in charge of a given shift shall have the final authority to make assignments to this unit based upon the anticipated activities for the given day.
2. It is the intent of this procedure to spread the assignments to Rescue 8081 around in a fair and equitable manner and to avoid, whenever possible, unreasonable disruption in a firefighter's routine. There are several means to accomplish this, such as assigning firefighters from either station 2 or 3 in blocks of days. Amicable accommodations should be made to the extent reasonably possible.
3. The person in charge of a shift may assign firefighters to Rescue 8081 for an entire shift, or for portions of a shift.
4. It is the intent that all career firefighters below the rank of lieutenant participate in the staffing of Rescue 8081 fairly and equitably. This does not, however, preclude persons at or above the rank of lieutenant, from taking turns staffing Rescue 8081.
5. Volunteer members who are EMTs may also volunteer to staff this unit. When a volunteer member wishes to volunteer to staff this unit, he or she is to coordinate available time with the person who will be in charge of the shift.
6. In the event one member of Rescue 8081 is asked to accompany the ambulance when transporting a patient, Rescue 8081 shall recover the member from the hospital. If both members have gone with the ambulance, the crew shall be returned to Rescue 8081 by EMS or this may be done by the department duty officer (8009).

INCIDENT RESPONSE:

1. Rescue 8081 shall be the primary response unit to the following incidents, regardless of location: EMS Assist Incidents, Mitigations, Wires Down, Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounding, Children Locked in Cars, Lock-in/Lock-out and Water Leaks/Broken Pipes.

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

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2. Rescue 8081 shall also respond to the following incidents, regardless of location: Reported Structure Fires, Auto Accident Extrications, Hazardous Material Releases and Technical Rescues within the district and any other *emergency* incidents to which more than one station has been dispatched. Rescue 8081 *may* respond to Alarm Sounding incidents if it is the closest unit to the incident's location.
3. If an assist EMS incident occurs that is clearly a life threatening situation (such as a full arrest, respiratory arrest) and a fire apparatus is likely to be the closest unit to the incident, then the fire apparatus shall respond in addition to Rescue 8081. (*Firefighters may be needed to accompany EMS to the hospital, and those firefighters should be the Rescue 8081 crew, thus leaving the company available for service*)
4. In the event of a concurrent incident to which Rescue 8081 would be the primary response unit and Rescue 8081 is committed to an incident the following guidance is to be applied:

A. Fires and other Emergency Incidents:

Radio shall be instructed to dispatch the incident as they normally would. *Examples of Emergency Incidents are: carbon monoxide alarms with sick persons, children locked in cars in distress, lock-in/lock-out involving persons in distress, and wires down resulting from traffic accidents.*

C. EMS Assist Incidents:

For unconscious persons and persons not breathing, Radio shall be instructed to dispatch the incident as they normally would.

For other EMS Assist Incidents such as motor vehicle accidents and the response is only medical in nature, then Radio shall be advised there are no available resources to respond to the incident.

D. Public Service Calls:

Mitigations, wires down (not resulting from traffic accidents), carbon monoxide alarms with no distress, children locked in cars with no distress, lock-in/lock-out with no distress and water leaks/broken pipes, if Rescue 8081 is able to complete the original incident within ten (10) minutes, then Radio shall be advised Rescue 8081 will respond to the subsequent incident upon completion of the original incident. If Rescue 8081 is unable to respond within ten (10) minutes, Radio shall be instructed to dispatch the incident as they normally would.

It must be noted that these are merely Public Service Calls and are not emergencies therefore a minor delay in response is unlikely to have an adverse result.

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5. If there is any doubt in the mind of the Rescue 8081 as to whether the response of another station is appropriate, then Radio shall be instructed to dispatch the incident as they normally would.
6. In the event that Rescue 8081 informs Radio to dispatch a subsequent incident as they normally would, Rescue 8081 shall request that Radio informs the affected station that Rescue 8081 is committed to another incident.
7. It is the responsibility of the officer of the station that is originally dispatched to an incident to monitor the operations channel to ensure that 8081 is responding. If 8081 has not called responding within one minute of dispatch, then the initially assigned station shall respond. *(8081 is advised to have a portable radio close by, even in the dormitory, so it can call responding as soon as practical thus eliminating the "Are they responding?" question.)*

DUTIES WHEN NOT RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS:

1. When not responding to incidents, the crew of Rescue 8081 shall be assigned to fire hydrant maintenance (painting, inspection and testing), incident pre-planning, street-book map validations, fire prevention inspections, in-district errand running, smoke detector/battery installation and other tasks as directed.
2. It is preferred that Rescue 8081 remains generally in the center of the district and task assignments are made accordingly.
3. It is *not* the intent of this procedure that Rescue 8081 is solely dedicated to incident response.
4. The crew of Rescue 8081 shall attend regular training as scheduled.

MEALS AND QUARTERING:

1. The crew of Rescue 8081 shall take its meals at the station/location of its choice or as otherwise directed by the person in charge of the shift, noting the desire to have this unit remain generally in the center of the district.
2. When Rescue 8081 is not performing tasks as previously described, it shall remain at station one, unless otherwise directed by the person in charge of the shift or the department duty officer.

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