

RESPONSE TO MEDICAL CALLS AT MEDICAL FACILITIES

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Purpose:

Fire personnel responding to medical emergencies at medical facilities can be detrimental to OFPD's fire protection mission because medical facility personnel have the same or higher levels of medical training and are comparably equipped. Careful consideration shall be given to the location and the nature of the emergency medical call with respect to its impact on OFPD's fire protection resources and a decision must be made whether to respond on dispatch or standby for a request to respond made by an EMS crew on the scene. It makes little sense for OFPD fire personnel to respond to a medical facility where medical facility personnel can provide the same or a higher level of medical care.

Procedure:

1. For the purpose of this policy, a Medical Facility means: Immediate Care Centers, Urgent Care Centers, nursing homes or similar providers. A Health Care Facility is considered a Medical Facility if it has a Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse or a higher level of medical licensure on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Regency Health Care, Franciscan Health Care, Wesley Manor and similar facilities are Medical Facilities.

Physician offices, dentist offices, free-standing physical therapy facilities, personal care facilities, family care homes and retirement homes are not Medical Facilities for the purpose of this policy.

Long term care facilities are state licensed and one can determine the level of care from the license displayed at the facility. The determining factor on whether a facility is considered as a Medical Facility for this policy, is whether a nursing staff is on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

2. OFPD fire personnel shall respond to medical calls at Medical Facilities where:

- a. The nature of the call is: unconscious patient, cardiac arrest or respiratory arrest.
- b. Where the patient is reported outside of the Medical Facility, such as in the parking lot.
- c. There are multiple patients at the Medical Facility.
- d. An EMS unit on the scene requests OFPD.

3. OFPD fire personnel may respond to calls at Medical Facilities where the information provided on dispatch indicates there is a life-threatening situation and OFPD intervention may lead to a favorable outcome. Whether to respond is up to the judgment of the apparatus officer based upon dispatch information.

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

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4. If, based upon the above, OFPD fire personnel will not immediately respond on dispatch to a medical call to a Medical Facility, the officer of the apparatus shall contact Radio on the assigned fire operations channel and make the following statement: 'Unit __ will be standing by in quarters.'

5. In addition to number 2 above, the apparatus officer shall contact Radio on the assigned EMS operations channel and use the following statement: 'Unit __ will be standing by in quarters until the EMS unit requests our response to (insert Medical Facility name) or updated patient information dictates our response.' The officer shall continue to monitor the EMS channel until the EMS unit leaves the scene. When the EMS unit leaves the scene, the officer shall contact radio to clear the air.

6. This policy was developed in consultation OFPD's Medical Director and EMS Director.