

JOINT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

MODEL STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ALARMS

REVISED:

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This guideline provides a uniform response for various emergencies involving mutual aid departments.

POLICY

- All responses to emergency details shall endeavor to conform to the policies and procedures contained herein.
- All initial assignments will have the minimum number of personnel aboard.
- Assignments to apparatus will be furnished by the AHJ or the primary responding unit.

RESPONDING TO THE ALARM

- Types of emergencies:
 1. Structure Fires, Smoke in the building (smoke visible), Appliance Fires, Chemical Fires, and Electrical Fires.

Response: All units dispatched will respond Code 3 with due regard for traffic and weather conditions.

2. Fire Alarms, Water flow Alarms, General Fire Response.

Response: The primary response unit will respond Code 3 with due regard for traffic and weather conditions. All other units will respond Code 2 and with the normal flow of traffic.

- All units dispatched to the aforementioned emergencies will respond according to the Minimum Staffing for Apparatus Standard. If a unit cannot provide the minimum staffing, they must inform their communications center that they are not available for response.

1. Ladders – 3
2. Quints – 3
3. Engines – 3

4. ALS Units - 1-2 Paramedics
5. BLS Units - 2 EMT-B's

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- The primary unit will utilize the appropriate response, advise their communications center they are responding, and acknowledge the assigned Fireground channel.
- Additional units responding will advise their communications center that they are responding to the alarm and acknowledge the Fireground channel.
- Apparatus will be positioned at the scene in such a manner as to facilitate actions that are necessary to control the emergency.
- The primary engine must be positioned so as not to hinder aerial/truck operations.

COMMUNICATIONS

- The primary unit upon arrival will establish the IMS and advise their communications center they are on the scene; followed by a brief size-up.
- Incoming units, while en-route, will acknowledge that they are aware of the assigned Fireground channel by announcing on the assigned Fireground channel, i.e. "E61 on 4". This will clarify that the primary unit or command is aware of units responding to the incident and that communications will occur on the assigned channel.
- The primary unit will also notify incoming units of special instructions (use the assigned Fireground channel) regarding the alarm (i.e. position of apparatus, deployment of supply line, location of nearest hydrant, disregard detail, etc.)
- After the initial size-up and instructions have been delivered to incoming units, a secondary size-up should be conducted. This will include a confirmation of the initial size-up in regards to the occupancy, type of structure, exposures, and actions taken. The OIC should consider requesting a "need for additional resources" at this time.
- In the event that mutual aid units are dispatched to a jurisdiction that has been exhausted of all their resources, the AHJ's command unit will advise their communications center to notify units responding that they are unavailable to send a unit. The AHJ's communications center should advise responding units (through their communications center) of this condition and the units responding should acknowledge. The closest unit to the incident should become the primary unit and assume that role. Communications will take place on the assigned Fireground channel.