

Subject:	STANDARD RESPONSE TO EMEGENCY SITUATIONS
Section:	PPG# 4400.24
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1** The maximum number of Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 members to be dispatched as a single Engine Company shall be six.
- 1.1.1** The minimum manning for an engine company crew is one, this member may respond after waiting one minute for additional members.
- 1.2** The maximum crew on an aid vehicle shall be three members.
- 1.2.1** The minimum crew on an aid vehicle shall be one who may respond after one minute. The departure of a medic van shall not be delayed to fill out a crew if the first two manning the vehicle are qualified.
- 1.2.2** At least one responder on the aid vehicle shall possess valid E.M.T. certification.
- 1.2.3** If qualified members are not available for all positions, any qualified driver may drive the aid vehicle provided at least one member on the crew has a valid E.M.T. card. Certified E.M.T. member shall have priority as responders.
- 1.3** The maximum crew on mutual aid and automatic engine company response shall be five members.
- 1.3.1** A minimum of two members, may respond after making sure the station is manned with a minimum of one member whenever possible.
- 1.4** All other apparatus may be manned and driven by a qualified driver if after waiting one minute additional personnel are not available. The maximum crew for these types of apparatus is limited by the number of seats available that are equipped with seat belts.
- 1.4.1** Only the emergency apparatus called for by the dispatcher will respond to emergency scenes.
- 1.4.2** The exceptions to policy 1.4.1 shall be as follows:
- (a)** Staff vehicles driven by paid members who are within the area

of the emergency; and

- (b) Emergency apparatus already on the road that are close enough to arrive first on the scene to render assistance.

1.5 While in response to any emergency, the officer aboard the vehicle is in charge. The driver and crew shall follow his/her orders. If there is no officer, the senior member shall be in charge.

Drivers shall observe established driving safety standards and shall obey pertinent laws.

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The officer or senior member in charge of the vehicle shall direct all persons aboard to

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wear the appropriate safety belts or harnesses and be watchful of the crew to insure that established standards are observed.

1.8

The first-in officer or senior member shall set up and assume a command position of Incident Commander. A command post shall be established which is centrally located for ease of operation with a view of two sides of the incident. In the event that the first-in officer must assist with the initial problem, he/she shall, whenever possible, instruct the driver to set up and assume command post at that first-in vehicle. As soon as relief is available, the first-in officer shall relieve the driver and assume command.

1.8.1 Officers senior to the officer-in-charge may upon their arrival assume that position, provided they announce their intention to the person presently in charge.

1.8.2 Combat orders (except under extreme conditions) shall not be issued without coordinating with the Incident Commander.

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Responding companies shall comply with the dispatch center's request and use the assigned radio frequency. Responding companies shall maintain radio silence whenever possible, allowing the officer-in-charge at the scene the use of the assigned frequency so assignments of arriving companies are communicated.

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Upon arrival at the emergency scene, the Incident Commander shall observe the following order of action:

1.10.1 Examine the scene, taking into account the general conditions, which exist.

1.10.2 Call for help if manpower or equipment is not sufficient for containment.

1.10.3 Effect life saving efforts as soon as possible.

1.10.4 Limit the possible extension of the fire or aid work.

1.10.5 Keep the fire from extending by covering perimeter with sufficient hose lines.

1.10.6 Begin fire extinguishment and treatment.

1.10.7 Begin ventilation and overhaul whenever adequate manpower and equipment are available.

- 1.10.7.1** Charged hose lines must be in place before the opening is completed to allow the rapid extinguishment immediately after.

1.11 Safety equipment provided must be in proper use. Self-contained breathing apparatus must be worn and in full use when crews are on roofs or in close proximity to the fire area.

- 1.11.1** Roof ladders shall be used to ensure the best possible footing and to aid in bridging weakened roof areas.

- 1.11.2** Members shall not venture forth onto untested roof areas without the aid of a roof ladder.

- 1.11.3** The officer in charge of the ventilation shall observe the crew to ensure that no one slips from view, watch for possible signs of collapse, and identify likely escape routes.

- 1.11.4** The officer in charge of the ventilation crew shall coordinate the effort with the officer-in-charge to help ensure that the actual venting is not done prematurely.

1.12 If the officer in charge has any doubt concerning the capability of on-scene resources to safely conduct interior operations without undue reasonable risk (large volume fire, impending structural collapse, HazMat presence) to personnel, defensive operations should be the course of action until arrival of additional resources.

- (i)** Examples of situations that pose potential undue or unreasonable risk to personnel safety.
- (ii)** Evident of significant potential that lightweight structural support members have been exposed to direct flame contact for more than six to eight minutes.
- (iii)** Explosion potential
 - LPG pressurized vessels
 - Backdraft conditions
 - Flammable vapors
 - Explosives present
- (iii)** HazMat presence
- (iv)** Energized (electrical) environment which cannot be isolated.

1.13 If a member receives a conflicting order from an officer he/she shall, as quickly as possible, advise the officer issuing the conflicting order of previous orders he/she was given.

1.14 Members entering any hazardous areas to include burning buildings shall work in teams of two with a standby team available to assist when the need arises in accordance with PPG 4400.35.

- 1.15** A fire attack should be made from the interior of structures to cut off fire travel and confine the fire in order to achieve quick extinguishment, unless fire intensity, structural weakness, or entry and location will cause a delay that will result in needless further damage.
- 1.15.1** A transitional attack from the exterior of the building utilizing a solid stream pattern is an acceptable tactic for the initial knockdown of fire when inadequate resources are available at the scene or other factors prohibit the implementation of an interior offensive attack.
- All members shall be watchful of others working on separate fronts of the attack.
- 1.16** Second arriving officers shall observe the general conditions of the scene and park their vehicles where ordered. When second or later arriving vehicles are not being used on the attack, the officer-in-charge shall park these vehicles in a manner that will cause the least congestion at the scene. Vehicles shall always be located in such a manner to allow the quickest possible movement. Staff vehicles and private vehicles shall park as far away from the scene as practical.
- 1.17**
- 1.17.1** Members arriving on second or later vehicles shall report to the Incident Commander for orders or direction to temporary staging/staging area.
- Members shall wear and use all the Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment provided for them by Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9.
- 1.18**
- 1.19** Companies shall attach lines to sprinkler systems or standpipes when ordered and shall maintain such unless directed otherwise by the officer-in-charge. Members assigned to watch sprinkler valves shall not secure the watch until ordered by the Incident Commander or officer-in-charge of their activities.
- 1.19.1** Sprinkler systems or wet standpipes shall be pressurized to 150 psi to start operations.
- 1.20** Company officers shall survey the scene for electrical hazards while crews are raising ladders and during overhaul in and around buildings during the attack. All electrical wires shall be presumed as energized, unless it is positively established they are not.
- 1.21** The Incident Commander shall cause necessary electrical, gas or other fuel supplies or services to be secured as soon as possible.
- 1.22** The officers-in-charge shall take necessary steps to place apparatus back in service. The dispatch center shall be advised of the availability of equipment.
- 1.23** After the initial actions taken at the scene to control or extinguish the fire the Incident Commander shall establish and secure areas to insure the preservation of evidence of the cause(s) of the fire. Secured areas shall be assessed so that no evidence of fire cause will be destroyed.
- Members shall not speculate or make any comments to unauthorized personnel as to the

- 1.24 cause of the fire or emergency. Fires of suspicious origin or undetermined cause will be referred to as "under investigation" until the Fire Chief or other person authorized by the Chief releases the Information.

3.0 GUIDELINES

- 3.1 Salvage tarps should be employed as soon as possible, even when water damage is not evident or of immediate threat. The use of salvage covers can shield against many types of other losses.
- 3.2 Items removed from a structure should be put in a secure place.
- 3.3 Care must be taken for items, though damaged, which may have some salvageable value to the owner.
- 3.4 The security of high value items such as jewelry, paintings, firearms and money are the responsibility of the fire department. The Incident Commander must take the necessary steps to insure against their loss as follows.
- (a) Ensure that the apparent owners are the real owners before turning valuables over to them.
 - (b) Protect property from looting by guarding against unauthorized persons entering the structure.
 - (c) Assign a member the responsibility for securing recovered valuables.
 - (d) Issue a duplicate receipt when items of high value must be transferred from person to person at the scene.
- 3.5 Owners or responsible persons may be allowed in the structure when the officer-in-charge deems it safe and advisable.
- 3.6 Material damaged beyond use and removed from the structure should be placed in an area, which is accessible for later removal from the premises.