



Lexington County Fire Service

Standard Operating Guideline
Medic 11 – OPS 015

EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2009 **ISSUED BY:** Russell R. Rawl, Fire Service Coordinator

RECINDS: No Previous Policy

SCOPE: All Lexington County Fire Service personnel.

I. APPLICABILITY

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) addresses operational issues and provides guidance to personnel staffing the Medic 11 unit.

II. PURPOSE

This SOG establishes operating procedures and guidelines for the operation of Medic 11 and addresses procedures unique to this unit due to its staffing with a paramedic cross-trained as a firefighter and, at a minimum, an Interior Certified Firefighter.

III. AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY

The EMS Director and the Fire Service Director are responsible for developing and implementing this SOP through the normal chain of command. The Directors will solicit input from EMS staff and Fire Service staff as needed for the development, implementation, and update of this SOP when applicable.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. EMS

Communications

The primary operating channel for Medic 11 will be Fire Channel 1. Other channels, including EMS 1, EMS Admin, and hospital channels will be utilized as appropriate. Medic 11 will be dispatched to EMS calls on Fire Channel 1.

Medic 11 as First Responder

Medic 11 will act as a first responder on any call class identified on the Automatic Response List or any call requiring a first responder as determined through the EMD process in Communications. Medic 11 will not routinely be dispatched to medical offices or locations that employ medical care providers with a high level of training or licensure.

When arriving on the scene of a call as the medical first responder, the paramedic crew chief of Medic 11 will determine as quickly as possible if the patient's condition is such that it would be detrimental to wait for the EMS Unit to arrive. If it is determined immediate transport is warranted, the paramedic crew chief of Medic 11 will advise Communications that the EMS unit is not needed and the patient will be transported by Medic 11. Medic 11 should confirm that the EMS Supervisor is aware that they are transporting.

Medic 11 as Primary Transport

When the EMS Unit assigned to the Chapin response area is assigned to a call, out of the area, or otherwise unavailable, Medic 11 becomes the primary transport unit and will function the same as any other EMS Unit with regard to EMS coverage of the Chapin area for transport and treatment.

The EMS Telecommunications Operator (TCO) will send an EMS Unit to the Chapin area for standby as soon as possible when both the EMS Unit and Medic 11 are assigned to calls.

EMS Unit as Primary Transport

When an EMS unit is available in the Chapin response area, that unit will be the primary transport unit. In most cases this will be Unit 6, assigned to the Amick's Ferry Fire Station. Any EMS unit on standby for Unit 6 in the Chapin response area will become the primary transport unit.

EMS Calls in the Chapin Area Not Originating From the 911 Center

When patients self-report to the Medic 11 crew, typically at Chapin Fire Station 11, the Paramedic Crew Chief of Medic 11 will determine as quickly as possible if the patient's condition is such that it would be detrimental to wait for the EMS unit to respond and transport the patient. If it is determined Medic 11 should transport the patient immediately, the Paramedic Crew Chief of Medic 11 will advise Communications that the EMS unit is not needed and the patient will be transported by Medic 11. Medic 11 should confirm that the EMS Supervisor is aware that they are transporting.

Documentation

An electronic DHEC 1050 form will be completed by the Crew Chief of Medic 11 for any EMS call during which any ALS procedures are performed, or anytime Medic 11 transports a patient.

Staffing

Paramedic/Firefighters assigned to Medic 11 will complete a Leave Request (LCF-514) at least 14 days in advance in order to allow adequate planning for coverage. The request will be approved by the Fire Service Shift Captain. The leave request will be forwarded to the EMS Administrative Assistant as soon as possible and EMS staff will be responsible for backfilling the vacant Medic 11 slot. Preference will be given to paramedics with Fire Service training and certification, but any certified paramedic employed by Lexington County EMS may be utilized to fill the full 24 hour shift or any part thereof.

The Fire Service Shift Captain will be notified by the EMS Shift Supervisor in the event that Unit 6 has a Basic or Intermediate Crew. When there is inadequate manpower available to staff a crew on Unit 6, the EMS Shift Supervisor will attempt to provide at least an EMT crew member for Medic 11.

ALS Backup

When Medic 11 responds for ALS backup, the most advanced medical personnel remaining available from the EMS unit should be assigned to Medic 11 in order to provide continued EMS coverage to the Chapin area.

Standby Coverage

Unit 6 will be utilized for standby coverage in other areas of the county when necessary due to call volume. When Unit 6 is out of the area for any reason and no other EMS units are in the Chapin area, Medic 11 assumes the responsibility of primary EMS transport unit.

Medic 11 may also be utilized for EMS standby coverage in other areas of the county. The EMS Shift Supervisor will utilize Medic 11 for EMS standby coverage outside the Chapin response area only when all other resources have been exhausted.

The EMS Shift Supervisor will not remove Unit 6 from the Chapin response area unnecessarily.

EMS Issues

EMS will be responsible for all medical call Quality Assurance issues, payroll issues, and EMS In-Service training of the firefighter/paramedics.

B. Fire Service Operations

Communications

Medic 11 will operate on the fire ground channel designated by the Incident Commander. This may be 800 MHz or VHF and will include Columbia Fire and Newberry County channels when responding for mutual aid.

Staffing/Duties

Firefighter/Paramedics assigned to Medic 11 have the priority of fire suppression duties when responding to a fire unless presented with a life safety issue (fire victim, injured firefighter, etc). The closest available EMS unit should be assigned to the call for any fire standby needs until the Incident Commander advises that Medic 11 can be cleared from firefighting duties to handle fire standby.

The Firefighter/Paramedics are to assist with station duties as well as apparatus checks in order to maintain familiarity with fire equipment.

Training

Fire training requirements for paramedics assigned to Medic 11 are to be interior certified at a minimum of SCFA 1152. Attendance is required at fire in-service training, which may or may not be conducted on duty.

Other

Fire Service will be responsible for uniforms.

In the absence of the Firefighter/Paramedic, the Shift Captain or Acting Captain will be responsible for signing the Medic 11 drug log.

C. Chain of Command

The Medic 11 Paramedic Crew Chief's immediate Supervisor is the Fire Service Shift Captain or Acting Captain. The Shift Captain will provide direction regarding all emergency and daily operational supervision.

V, REFERENCE/STANDARDS

EMS Automatic Response List