



Lexington County Fire Service

Standard Operating Procedures EMS First Responder Program OPS-007

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

RECINDS: Previous Policy

SCOPE: All Fire Service personnel

I. Applicability

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is applied to the operation of “EMS First Responder Units” by the Lexington County Fire Service. This standard does not address any other call types that would support EMS such as Fire Standby, Technical Rescue, Haz-Mat, Vehicle Extrication, etc.

II. Purpose

Within Lexington County, fire service units are used to augment the resources of the EMS Division. First Responder units can provide initial care and life saving measures until EMS units can arrive. Units can also assist EMS units with logistical needs of the EMS units (ie, drivers, lifting assistance, etc.) This concept is needed throughout the entire county versus just the rural areas due to the increased call volume and response times that is a direct result of the increase in population of the county.

III. Authority and Responsibilities

The authorization to operate as a first responder unit must come from the Chief of the Department. All stations will operate as a first responder unit.

The Chief of the Department will ensure the compliance of this Standard Operating Procedure, and for supervising the First Responder Program.

IV. Procedure

1. Eligibility-

In order to operate as a first responder unit, the fire station will meet certain minimum standards, these include:

A. Vehicles

Response will be made by the first out unit for that particular response district. Personally Owned Vehicle (POV) response will initially be to the station to be utilized to man the station or to later respond in the need of further manpower needs. POV response to the scene may take place depending on the circumstances of the call, or needs of the crews on scene.

B. Communications

The first responder unit will operate based on the communications policy of the fire department. In the event that information for the call is needed to be passed on to the EMS crew, the on scene unit should pass on that information to EMS via EMS ADMIN Channel.

C. Equipment

Each responding unit will have a minimum amount of equipment deemed necessary by the Chief of the Department. This equipment (Attachment A) is a list for all units to be standard across the county. This list may change due to changes in need determined by the Chief of the Department.

D. Personnel

First Responder units will have a staff of medically trained personnel to meet the call requests. Individuals will be qualified in one of three ways:

- 1- Certified Paramedic
- 2- Certified EMT Basic or Intermediate
- 3- American Red Cross First Responder or its equivalent to be approved by the Chief of Training.

E. Training

All personnel trained to the EMT- B, EMT-I, Paramedic level must attend the monthly inservice training provided by the EMS Division, or attend a re-certification class at the end of the three year certification period.

All personnel trained to the First Responder level will challenge the American Red Cross First Responder testing every two years. The challenge test will include a written examination, and practical examination. Books and training materials will be available at the stations for personnel to study periodically as they need. In the event of an

unsuccessful attempt to challenge the test, personnel will have 1 year to take the First Responder course again. Additional continuing education training will be provided by the training division throughout the year for company training.

F. Legal Compliance

All first responder calls that require any direct patient care or medical intervention must be documented. All first responder calls will maintain compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

V. Operations

A. Response

Units will be responsible for first responder calls in their first due areas. In the event that a secondary call takes place in the same area, this call will be covered by a secondary first responder unit. As the situation changes, so will the methods of operation and areas of use. In the event of a secondary call in a particular area the following guidelines will be used to determine the response of a secondary unit:

- 1- The secondary first responder unit is still closer to the call than EMS.
- 2- The EMS Crew Chief has requested for a first responder for the call.
- 3- The EMS supervisor has requested for a first responder for the call.
- 4- The regional Battalion Chief deems it necessary for the second unit to respond.

All dispatch and radio communications will be conducted in accordance with standing procedures already in place.

B. Crew Requirements

First responder units will be trained to a minimum of the First Responder Level. A maximum of four (4) first responders should be on the scene of any EMS call, unless the incident dictates additional resources.

Crew appearance will utilize all existing policies and procedures. For those incidents where a circumstances call for a POV response, all personnel will respond in a neat and professional appearance.

Once on scene the crew will make every attempt to provide the level of care and skill level that they are trained to prior to the arrival of EMS. Once EMS is on scene, the crew will assist EMS with any needs to promote providing the best possible care to the patient.

C. Special Considerations

In providing patient care, rescue, and scene management it is important that all members of the first responder team comply with the following:

- Care providers must not exceed the limits of their training and ability.
- Maintain compliance with the Department of Public Safety's Infectious Disease Control Policy.
- The crews will conduct command and control procedures in compliance with county procedures, and ICS/NIMS requirements. Once the EMS unit arrives first responder crews will turn over the treatment of the patient to EMS, and assist EMS crew in obtaining resources or assisting as needed.

Attachment A
First Responder Supply List

Medical Bag

- 1- Adult BVM
- 1- Child BVM
- 1- Pedi BVM
- 2- Adult Nasal Cannulas
- 2- Adult Non-Rebreathing Mask
- 1- Pedi Non-Rebreathing Mask
- 1- Pedi Nasal Cannula
- 14- 4x4 bandages
- 6- 5x9 bandages
- 6- Rolled Gauze
- 2- Dry burn dressing
- 3- Triangular bandages
- 1- OB Kit w/ mask and eyeshield
- 1- Bag of assorted sized OPA
- 1- Large wet Burn dressing
- 2- Biohazard Bags
- 2- Pair of Safety Glasses
- 1- Bag of assorted bandaids
- 1- Convenience Bag
- 1- Trauma Shears
- 1- Stethoscope
- 1- Adult BP Cuff
- 1- Large Adult BP Cuff
- 1- Pedi BP Cuff
- 1- Pen Light
- 1- Pack EMS Notes

Spinal Kit

- 1- No Neck Collar
- 1- Regular Collar
- 1- Short Collar
- 1- Tall Collar
- 1- Pedi Collar
- 1- Head block Set
- 1- 2" roll cloth tape
- 1- Long Spine Board (Standard or Folding depending on type of apparatus)

AED/O2 Equipment

- 1- AED with case.
- 1- Extra Battery
- 1- Razor
- 2- Sets of pads
- 1- D Cylinder with regulator

Attachment B
Automatic First Response Signals

Unconscious
Puncture/Stab Wounds
Gunshot Wounds
Burns
Electrocutions
Amputations
Multi-Trauma/Shock
Patient Trapped
Congestive Heart Failure
Cardiac Arrest
Apnea
Airway Obstruction/ Choking
Near Drownings

These call classifications require an automatic first response unit regardless of location of EMS unit. If first response unit is not needed once the EMS unit arrives ON SCENE, the first response unit can be cleared. On other calls, a response will take place only with the request of EMS based on needs such as extended response times, manpower, etc.