

SECTION XI - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

11.0 General

This SOP shall supercede any pre-existing SOPs "generally" dealing with responses by the fire department to emergency medical incidents and shall supercede and cancel Directive 03-01 issued January 7, 2003.

- 11.1 Fire Department Response to Emergency Medical Incidents:
As a matter of protocol with the county dispatch center, the fire department will be dispatched to known cardiac arrest calls within Washington Township. In an effort to ..."minimize loss of life, pain and suffering... as a result of fire or other emergency"... as stated in the department's mission statement, the fire department will play a role in cardiac arrest calls in a manner as described herein.

The fire department will be dispatched to known cardiac arrest calls as defined by the dispatcher on duty or by another trained first responder on location who has determined a cardiac arrest has occurred.

During special circumstances, such as during snow storms, hurricanes, severe weather events, as determined by the Washington Township EOP, or as directed by the District Fire Chief or his designee, the fire department may be assigned to respond to other emergency medical calls as well.

- 11.1.1 The fire department's role at a cardiac arrest call should the FD be the first to arrive shall include the following:

- Assess the patient and begin appropriate level of care within scope of training including use of AED.
- Assist primary BLS or ALS EMS provider upon arrival.

- 11.1.2 Additional fire department duties at a cardiac arrest call may include:

- Carrying the patient while primary EMS providers are working the code.
- Getting additional equipment from the ambulance.
- Driving the ambulance or medic car to the hospital.
- If certified in CPR, may assist in working the code as directed.
- Assist primary EMS providers as requested.
- Follow ambulance to Emergency Department to help with unloading as requested.

- 11.1.3 The fire department SHALL respond and operate in these types of calls as follows:

- Respond and operate on EMS Channel 7 or as otherwise directed.
- Respond with a minimum of a 3 man qualified crew unless directed otherwise.
- Only one major fire department apparatus (Engine, Rescue, Utility, Ladder) need respond to this type of call unless otherwise directed. *(Note: Occasionally a second apparatus may sign on responding to the incident unaware that another has already responded. Should this occur, the ranking officer shall determine the first due apparatus with an adequate and qualified crew and recall the other apparatus.)*

11.1.4 Standard fire department responses to other emergency medical calls shall be determined by the nature of the event and the commanding officer in charge of the fire department in conjunction with the primary EMS provider. Responses of this nature are usually for a limited time period and shall be coordinated with all other affected agencies including the dispatch center. Although these types of responses are typically for a limited time period, the following protocol shall be utilized:

- Dispatch will normally be done by utilizing the district duty tone to alert crews in stations. If there are no crews in the stations, the normal company tone may be used for dispatch.
- Respond and operate on EMS Channel 7 or as otherwise directed.
- Respond with a minimum of a 3 man qualified crew unless directed otherwise.
- Only one major fire department apparatus (Engine, Rescue, Utility, Ladder) need respond to this type of call unless otherwise directed.
- The primary mission during these types of response will be to assist the primary EMS provider during the unusual event, unless the FD unit is the first to arrive. If FD is first to arrive, the crew shall provide patient care in accordance with level of training and capability of the crew.