

PLYMOUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT

OPERATING GUIDELINE

SUBJECT: INCIDENT RESPONSE

DATE: JUNE 20, 2006

REVISED: JULY 7, 2009

GUIDELINE NUMBER: 06 - 03

- I. INTRODUCTION:** This operating guideline establishes procedures for responding to calls for service, type of response and response mode, as well as alternate resource allocation. Responders shall conduct an ongoing risk vs. benefit analysis for every call – minimizing risk through analyzing and matching call type to response mode and resource allocation (assignment). This risk management approach will reduce risk to responders and citizens.
- II. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this operating guideline is to establish a method to most safely and efficiently respond to calls for service.
- III. POLICY:** The Plymouth Fire Department shall respond to calls-for-service utilizing the following guidelines:

Conditions, time of day, and call information, staffing and crew integrity shall be considered when responding to a call for service. A "routine" (non-emergency) response is preferred due to the reduced risk of accident. The officer may upgrade or reduce the response based upon prevailing information.

RESPONSE MATRIX

EVENT TYPE	ROUT.	EMER.	NOTES	APPARATUS
Lift Assist	x			Utility
Check Burn	x			Grass Rig
Wash Down	x			Utility
Missing Person	x			Utility
Odor Investigation	x			Engine
Gas Leak Outside	x			Engine
Grass Fire Contained	x			Grass Rig
Wires Down or Arcing	x			Utility
CO Alarm w/No Illness	x			Utility
Smoke Investigation Outside	x			Engine
Dumpster Fire w/No Exposure	x			Engine

Elevator Rescue w/No Medical	x			Engine
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Fire Alarm	others	closest truck	Ask dispatcher to call inside.	Engine
Vehicle Fire	others	closest truck		Engine
Gas Leak Inside	others	closest truck		Engine
Accident with Injuries	others	closest truck		Engine
Medical		x		Utility/Rescue
Rescue		x		Engine/Rescue
Structure Fire		x		Engine
Unknown Fire		x		Engine
Grass Fire Uncontained		x		Engine/Grass Rig
Smoke Investigation Inside		x		Engine

The decision to “pend” calls for service (as opposed to paging a general alarm for additional resources) shall be made on an individual call basis, depending on the nature of the call and the expected time of arrival. No more than three (3) calls for service shall be in pending at any one time. Rescue calls and calls that indicate a confirmed or potential threat to life or property shall be immediately paged as general alarms.

In general, members of the Duty Crew shall respond to **emergency** mutual aid calls, and other members of the Department (summoned by the general alarm page) shall “back-fill” their positions. Members of the Duty Crew shall remain in Plymouth on **standby** mutual aid calls, and other members of the Department shall provide standby service to the community requesting mutual aid. The officer in charge shall have the discretion and responsibility to assess mutual aid calls on a case-by-case basis.

Resource assignment shall be based upon the quality and quantity of staffing and available apparatus. Many non-emergent calls may be handled by a properly equipped utility vehicle. The following guidelines apply when considering a response with a utility vehicle.

1. The assigned crew shall consist of two (2) fire personnel. One (1) member may be a probationary member, the other must have completed probation.
2. The assigned apparatus must be properly equipped to handle the assigned call.

IV. CONCLUSION: This operating guideline outlines a measured response philosophy used by the Plymouth Fire Department.