

Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

Standard Operating Guideline

Responding to Motor Vehicle Crashes

Revised March 6, 2006

Purpose:

The purpose of this guideline is to ensure the organized and efficient response to motor vehicle crash calls. This guideline will define what apparatus shall respond and the order that this will happen.

Policy:

Responding to the hall

Upon dispatch of the call, members shall respond to the appropriate station to staff the apparatus. Members shall dress appropriately for the weather conditions and shall wear their company EMS jumpsuit or turnout gear. Shorts, open-toe sandals, bathing suits, tank-tops, skirts, dresses and other such inappropriate clothing shall not be worn. When proceeding to the hall, members may utilize their blue light. However, since the blue light only requests courtesy of other drivers, members must obey all vehicle and traffic laws including speed limit, stop signs and traffic lights. Blue lights do not grant the user any special privileges or right-of-way. Members shall proceed safely but quickly to the hall.

Once at the hall, members shall park in an orderly manner and walk to the ambulance for a response. Running may result in injury if the member trips and falls. It is important to remember that member safety is paramount and supersedes the safety of the general public.

Order of apparatus response

- If dispatch or an on-scene unit indicates that the MVC requires extrication for patient access, Rescue 7 shall respond first followed by an engine and finally the Ambulance.
- If dispatch or on-scene units indicate that no extrication is required, then the Ambulance shall respond first followed by Rescue 7.
- An Engine should only respond before the Ambulance and Rescue 7 when dispatch or an on-scene unit requests an Engine first.

- If dispatch or an on-scene unit indicates that there is no injury and cleanup or traffic control is needed, an Engine or Rescue 7 shall respond.

Responding in Apparatus

When responding to the scene, all members shall be seated and buckled-in while the apparatus is moving. The apparatus may only be driven by a qualified driver unless otherwise specified by a chief. Before approaching the scene, the apparatus officer should contact command (if on scene) and request orders. Once on scene, the apparatus should be parked in a safe manner and no personnel should move until directed so by the apparatus officer. The apparatus should be parked in manner where it serves as a “blocker” to people working on scene. This can be accomplished by parking the vehicle at an angle with all warning lights on.