

303 Incident Response

PURPOSE: The intent of this guide is to provide an emergency response guide based on the laws of the State of Washington, nationally recognized standards, and the needs of East County Fire & Rescue (ECFR).

1. Response in ECFR - This guide is in order to initiate the appropriate response to the scene of any incident requiring ECFR assistance. If any incident exists in ECFR, the closest resources should be called regardless of their jurisdictional affiliation. These are first alarm guides; response changes may be necessary at the discretion of the Duty Officer or Duty Chief. In the case of multiple incidents, the On-Call Chief Officer will be responsible for resource management.

The following is a list of initial response recommendations that are programmed into Computer Aided Dispatch.

CALL TYPE	PERSONNEL	ENGINE/SQUAD **	TENDER	REHAB*	COMMAND
MVA	4	2			1
Medical - Code 99	4	1			
Medical - Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta	2	1			
Structural Fire "B"	12	3	2	1*	1
Structural Fire "S"	7	2	2	1*	
Fire Alarms	5	2	1		
Passenger Vehicle Fires	5	2	1		
Commercial Vehicle Fires	8	3	1		1
Hazardous Materials	5	1	1	1*	1
Hazardous Condition	5	2	1		
Public Assistance	4	2			
Fire Investigation	5	2	1		
Grass/Brush Fires	11	4	2		1

*Rehab Response - Please refer to the Rehabilitation guideline for additional Rehab response requirements.

**Squad Response - Must be supported by an Engine response on fires or Hazardous Materials. Proper scene risk assessment must be completed prior to Fire attack. Appropriate flow requirements must be available.

- A. Officer Response - For the purposes of incident management, an ECFR Chief Officer or Duty Officer should, when possible, respond to all alarms listed requiring a Command position.
- B. Unit Recommendation procedures should be utilized. Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) will recommend the most appropriate response for the call type and area.

Other unit types (tender, air, etc.) may require dispatch changes based on the availability of personnel at the discretion of the Apparatus Officer or Duty Officer.

- C. Code - Response Code shall be determined based on the nature of the call. The person in charge of the responding apparatus shall make the determination.
 - Code 3 is appropriate when there is the possibility of imminent danger to life, or where there is a substantial threat to property.
 - Fire Investigation, Hazardous Condition, and Public Assist call types are best served by a Code 1 response. If any of these are upgraded to a Code 3 response, THE CALL TYPE SHOULD BE CHANGED.
 - After the IC or Officer in Charge obtains size-up information, he/she shall announce response code changes.
 - Rehab response shall be Code-1.
- D. Volunteer Personnel not responding to the scene should move to their station and standby for additional alarm response.

After 5 minutes of the arrival of the first standby member, the standby crew shall announce the apparatus or station that is "staffed" with number of personnel. The announcement shall occur on the appropriate Admin or TAC frequency.

If no approved apparatus drivers are in the standby crew, then no apparatus is "staffed". In this case the announcement shall include number of firefighters in standby status.

- E. The Duty Chief is responsible to assure that the adequate stand-by staffing is in place. If adequate personnel are not available for standby, the Duty Chief may call for a move up.

- F. It is the Duty Officer's responsibility to monitor first alarm response and ensure that the intent of this guideline is being met. The Duty Officer shall also use discretion to ensure that excessive or disproportionate numbers of personnel and apparatus are not sent to an incident.
2. Personal Vehicle (POV) Response - Personnel shall respond to the appropriate apparatus, at the time of the incident dispatch. All response should be accomplished by responding in ECFR apparatus.
- A. Exception - If the incident is located in the responding member's designated station area, the responding member may respond directly to the scene POV, *when and if* response directly to the scene in a private vehicle would likely benefit the patient or the outcome of the emergency. Personnel who respond to the emergency incident under this exception SHALL:
 - 1. Follow all Washington State traffic laws for personal vehicles.
 - 2. Follow the Incident Command System.
 - 3. Follow all EMS protocol and East County Fire & Rescue rules and regulations; use appropriate personal protective equipment; and perform basic life support functions as trained, certified and equipped.
 - 4. All personnel who arrive at the scene, regardless of method of response, shall report to the Incident Commander or his/her designee. At all incidents where the accountability system is used, each responding member shall report in to the Passport Accountability System, prior to participating in the emergency operation.
 - 5. No POV response shall be made to the following call types: Suicide, attempted suicide, assaults, psychiatric persons, hazardous materials, or any incident where there is an indication of a hostile environment. Response to these incident types shall be made in District apparatus only.
 - B. Response Rule Of Thumb -
ALWAYS USE SOUND DISCRETIONARY JUDGMENT, BASED ON ECFR TRAINING, OPERATING GUIDELINES AND POLICIES WHEN RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY ---
 - C. Resource Management - The responding Duty Officer or Duty Chief shall determine incident needs and may assign personnel to staff stations and/or apparatus.

D. Personal vehicles -

1. Shall be parked off of the roadway or away from traffic whenever possible. When parking in the roadway is necessary all POV's shall be parked on the same side of the road. Keys are to be left in the vehicle (on the floor or under the floor mat) in case it needs to be moved.
 2. Shall never be parked where access is required by emergency apparatus and equipment.
 3. Shall not be left at the scene.
 4. When a POV responder rides in with the ambulance:
 - a. Keys must be left with the Incident Commander or his/her designee and arrangements made to return personal vehicles to a safe location.
3. Mutual Aid Incident Response outside of ECFR - The countywide mutual aid agreement requires that response be provided to other jurisdictions when resources are available. The appropriate response to an incident outside of ECFR shall be initiated upon request. *No personal vehicle response is allowed outside of District.*
- A. Response - A prompt response should be initiated with personnel and equipment requested. If the number of personnel is not specified, the minimum number of personnel should be:
1. Two on an engine response*.
 2. Two on a squad response*.
 3. One on a tender response.
 4. One on a Rehab response.
 5. One for a Thermal Imaging Camera Response*.
- * *All personnel for these responses must be combat rated*
- B. Move-up requests - It may be necessary to call in move up resources from other jurisdictions to standby for additional ECFR alarms.
4. Move-up for Standby outside of ECFR - Move up requests should be fulfilled as soon as possible.
- A. Personnel - A move-up should be initiated with personnel and equipment requested. If the number of personnel is not specified, the minimum number of personnel should be as outlined in Section 3-A of this guideline.

- B. Time - Any on duty personnel should wait five minutes for additional personnel to respond to the station prior to the move-up. If after five minutes there are not adequate personnel, another tone for a stand by crew should be initiated. The requesting agency shall be notified of the requested apparatus' status.

It may be necessary to call in move up resources from other jurisdictions to standby for additional ECFR alarms. This standby may occur at a strategic location that will serve a larger area.

- D. Variations - Exceptions or variations may be made at the discretion of the Duty Officer or Duty Chief at the time of the move-up call. If the proper resources cannot be provided, the requesting agency should be notified through CRESA.

5. In District Move-ups:

- A. Volunteer Personnel - Volunteers not needed at a scene should respond to their appropriate station when duty crews or resident personnel are dispatched to incidents that are complex and will require an extended on-scene time.
- B. Career Personnel - Off duty career personnel should report to duty when District resources are limited. It will be up to the discretion of the individual to determine when the District is in need of additional personnel. The personnel reporting should report to the Duty Chief or Duty Officer as soon as practical. The Duty Chief will be responsible for determining the length of Call Back.
- C. Apparatus -

1. ECFR apparatus should move to a main station when:

- Extended or complex ECFR responses are underway.
- There are not sufficient personnel available to staff the main station's apparatus.

2. The apparatus move-up should occur in a manner that minimally affects additional response District wide. The Duty Chief will be responsible to determine the appropriate move.