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Ocean City Fire Department  
Standard Operating Guidelines

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## EMS Operations

Subject: Readiness and Response Guidelines  
Revised: 7-8-2013  
Effective: 8-19-2013  
Approved: 8-19-2013  
Section: 305.0

### 305.01 Purpose

- A. To provide uniform guidelines for implementing Fire Department response and readiness standards for medical and fire services.
- B. To provide a minimum response time to alarms within the city and areas surrounding the city.

### 305.02 Policy

- A. The goal of the Ocean City Fire Department, Fire-EMS Division is to have the first due unit on the street and responding within 2 minutes of the time of dispatch, with a 90% compliance.
- B. Personnel shall be able to perform their emergency duties upon arrival at the scene.
- C. The closest available unit shall respond on emergency incidents as dispatched. (Adherence to response guidelines should be noted).
- D. If the closest responding unit is from another box area, such as returning from a call or performing public service, it will be their responsibility to notify Communications of their location and accept the emergency response dispatched so a prompt service is delivered.
- E. If there is a response time (dispatch to out the door) of greater than 2 minutes, the Fire-EMS OIC will be notified and reported into the OIC Daily Log. Any response time in excess of 3 minutes shall require an Incident Report to be prepared.
- F. All Calls for Service (CFS) will be acknowledged by the dispatched crew within 30 seconds. Any CFS not acknowledged within the 30 seconds shall be reported into the OIC Daily Log.
- G. Communications shall be notified on the air of all crew responses or availability status changes.

### 305.03 Safety

- A. Personnel operating emergency vehicles may exceed the

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- posted speed limit, but only so long as the driver does not endanger life or property
- B. Personnel may pass a red or stop signal, a stop sign, or yield sign, but only after slowing down as necessary for safety. At all times, personnel should be able to come to a complete stop if necessary.
  - C. When backing a vehicle, a crew member shall serve as a guide/spotter to assist the driver and insure a safe backing operation.
  - D. Personnel driving emergency vehicles shall utilize defensive driving techniques, and use extreme caution when approaching and traversing street intersections.
  - E. All personnel driving emergency vehicles shall use extreme caution on approach to the emergency scene.
  - F. All personnel driving emergency vehicles shall utilize warning devices in accordance with those guidelines found the Apparatus Response Policy.
  - G. All personnel shall wear seat belts while apparatus is in motion; personnel riding in the patient compartments of the EMS units may remove their seat belt to provide patient care when so required.
  - H. Apparatus shall proceed to emergency incidents with all available emergency-warning devices operating (lights, sirens, and horns).
  - I. All apparatus drivers shall operate emergency vehicles in a safe manner taking into account traffic and weather conditions.
  - J. Multiple responding apparatus shall communicate when approaching common intersections.
  - K. Personnel responding in personal vehicles are required to obey all traffic laws.
  - L. If a non-emergency response is ordered by an on-scene Fire Rescue Officer or Incident Commander, responding units shall discontinue the use of all emergency warning devices and proceed to the scene adhering to all applicable motor vehicle laws.