

## Emergency Response

### 301.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and appropriate response to emergencies while maintaining the safety of department members and the public by requiring operators of department vehicles to conform to applicable Michigan laws and regulations during an emergency response.

#### 301.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Authorized emergency vehicle** - Fire department vehicles, ambulances, and privately owned vehicles of volunteer or paid members if authorized by the chief of an organized fire department (MCL 257.2).

**Emergency response** - Any call for service or assistance involving fire, explosion, or violent rupture; human rescue; human entrapment; illness or injury; hazardous materials release or threat of contamination; flooding; threatened or actual acts of violence; any explosive, bomb, or threatened bombing; any act of terrorism; any natural disaster; or any other circumstance that presents a threat to life-safety or to property.

### 301.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Washington Township Fire Department to appropriately respond to all emergency calls.

### 301.3 EMERGENCY CALLS

Fire personnel dispatched to an emergency shall proceed immediately, shall continuously operate emergency lighting equipment and shall sound the siren or other lawful audible device as may be reasonably necessary (MCL 257.603).

Responding with emergency lights and siren or other lawful audible device does not relieve personnel of the duty to continue to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons. The use of any other warning equipment without a red light and siren or other lawful audible device does not provide any exemption from the Michigan Vehicle Code.

Personnel should only respond with emergency lights and siren or other lawful audible device when dispatched to an emergency or when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is required.

Personnel not authorized to respond with emergency lights and siren or other lawful audible device shall observe all traffic laws and proceed without the use of emergency lights and siren or other lawful audible device.

### 301.4 MULTIPLE EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESPONSES

When more than one apparatus responds to an emergency, emergency vehicle operators should remain alert to the presence of other emergency vehicles and exercise due caution. Personnel

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must further exercise due caution in recognizing that traffic yielding to one emergency vehicle may not expect other emergency vehicles to follow.

#### **301.5 INITIATING AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

If a Company Officer believes an emergency response to any call is appropriate, the Company Officer shall ensure Dispatch is immediately notified.

#### **301.6 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING PERSONNEL**

Emergency vehicle operators shall exercise sound judgment and care, with due regard for life and property, while operating a vehicle en route to an emergency response (MCL 257.632).

In addition, emergency vehicle operators shall reduce speed at all street intersections and should come to a complete stop at all blind street intersections or intersections where there is either a red light, a flashing red light, or a stop sign. Emergency vehicle operators should also come to a complete stop at intersections whenever they reasonably believe they cannot account for traffic in approaching lanes or when vehicles have not yielded the right-of-way. After coming to a complete stop, emergency vehicle operators should only proceed when it is safe to do so.

The decision to continue an emergency response is at the discretion of the emergency vehicle operator or Company Officer. If, in the judgment of either individual, the roadway conditions or traffic congestion do not permit such a response without unreasonable risk, the response may be continued without the use of red lights and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event, the Company Officer should ensure Dispatch is promptly notified. Personnel shall also discontinue the emergency response when directed by any supervisor.

#### **301.7 FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**

If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the vehicle operator must terminate the emergency response and respond accordingly. In all cases, the Company Officer shall notify Dispatch of the equipment failure so that another apparatus may be assigned to the emergency response.