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Standard Operating Guidelines

SOG NO.: KP-2-0009

SOG TITLE: RESPONDING TO FIRE CALLS

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Purpose: To establish policy and guidelines governing the response to fire calls.

Apparatus response has been established by SOG KP0006 - Running Procedures. All assigned apparatus shall respond regardless of response status unless specifically recalled or held in station by the Officer In Charge.

Upon responding, apparatus and Officers on board shall announce their response. Arriving units shall announce arrival as set forth in SOG KP-2-0007.

In regards to fire/emergency response, the following guidelines and procedures shall be followed:

1. All traffic laws shall be obeyed at all times. Warning lights shall not supersede driver's responsibility to Obey traffic laws.
2. Maximum speed of apparatus shall be 45 miles per hour. On limited access highways: the apparatus shall obey the posted speed limit. An example of a limited access highway is Route 422, Schuylkill Expressway, Pennsylvania Turnpike, etc.
3. Engineers shall have first preference in regards to driving the apparatus.

4. The Director or Officer in Charge is in charge of radio communications and tactical placement of apparatus. He/she should be familiar with communications procedures, the Chain of Command, and the Run Books.
5. Levels of Response:
 - A. **Emergency** – All alarms dispatched are considered emergency until an order to reduce speed or reduce and hold are given by the Officer In Charge. Drivers are expected to use good judgment while responding at emergency speed. Warning lights and sirens allow apparatus to proceed through stop signs and traffic lights only after the vehicle has come to a complete stop. When traffic is such that civilian traffic "has no where to go" the use of audible warning devices should be kept to a minimum.
 - B. **Reduced Speed** - A type of "reduced" response indicates that there is no determined critical emergency, but the apparatus and/or manpower may be needed at the scene. All forward warning lights shall be turned off and the driver shall drive as if he were driving his/her own personal vehicle in regards to posted traffic laws.
 - C. **Reduce and Hold** - A type of "reduced" response indicates that there is no determined critical emergency, but the apparatus and/or manpower may be needed at the scene that have already went "Responding" with Montgomery County. All other apparatus shall remain in station with crews until the company is put back into service. All forward warning lights shall be turned off and the driver shall drive as if he were driving his/her own personal vehicle in regards to posted traffic laws.

- D. **Recall** - Indicates there is no need for apparatus at the scene, and the apparatus can return to station. All forward warning lights shall be turned off and the driver shall drive as if he were driving his/her own personal vehicle in regards to posted traffic laws.

While in motion all occupants of King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company apparatus shall be seated. All personal restraint devices shall be worn. It is the responsibility of the Driver to make sure that all personnel on his/her vehicle adhere to this rule.