

**SUBJECT:** EMS OPERATIONS**SECTION:** 302.03**REVISED:** FEBRUARY 11, 2008**PAGE(S):** 2

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## **PURPOSE**

To define staffing for the Reading Fire Department EMS division.

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## **RESPONSE AND OPERATIONS**

- A. The Fire Department shall endeavor to respond a paramedic unit to all trauma/medical aid emergencies.
- B. Requests for EMS should be met by two on duty firefighter/paramedics, responding in the medic unit, one part-time member and one paid-on-call personnel responding from home in the squad.
- C. Requests for “paramedics only” will be made by two on duty firefighter/paramedics.
- D. In the event the paramedic unit is unavailable, response should be made by the remaining personnel in the engine.
- E. Responses should be made emergently unless other information is received and the responding personnel feel non-emergent response is warranted.
- F. Personnel responding in the squad should respond emergently until such time that notification is made by on scene paramedics that a non-emergent response is warranted.
- G. The company officer or the senior firefighter/paramedic should retain control of the scene and provide coordination between all responding units and law enforcement personnel.
- H. Fire department personnel shall provide emergency medical care as indicated by the requirements of the medical emergency situation, in accordance with the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati Paramedic Protocols and Standing Orders.
- I. Paramedics, upon arrival, shall assume control and charge of patient care.
- J. Hospital contact, if required, will be established by the transporting crew, who will coordinate patient care as directed by Medical Control, or the receiving hospital if contacted in lieu of Medical Control.
- K. The medical control physician shall retain ultimate authority and responsibility for patient treatment and disposition, as provided for in accordance with the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati Paramedic Protocols and Standing Orders.
- L. Patient transport will normally be provided by the Reading Fire Department.
- M. A patient request for a specific receiving hospital should be honored if patient condition allows and if approved by the paramedics. Patients should be transported to hospitals in the State of Ohio.

- N. If determined at the scene by the paramedics that an ambulance is not required, the responding squad should be cancelled or, if on scene, placed on available status immediately.

## **ASSISTANCE**

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- A. Additional assistance may be requested whenever in the opinion of EMS personnel, it is necessary to facilitate patient care and transport, patient removal or extrication, scene safety for patients and department personnel, or other exigent circumstances.
- B. Requests for assistance should be made through HCCC. Requests should be specific for assistance required, and the agency to provide assistance as appropriate.
- C. Reading dispatch may be used as an alternate dispatch center for notifications if needed.
- D. An engine company should respond on all reported auto accidents, unless specifically disregarded by dispatch or a law enforcement officer on the scene, provided sufficient paramedics are responding in the paramedic unit.
- E. An engine company should respond on all reports of multiple patients.
- F. An engine company responds whenever the shift supervisor feels doing so may facilitate support of the EMS operation, based on dispatch information, i.e.: person not breathing, person unresponsive, industrial facilities, etc.