



Winchester Fire and Rescue

FIRE, RESCUE, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN IB-10007

TO: All Fire Department Personnel
FROM: Scott Cullers, Fire Chief
RE: FAQ for SOP 7.1 and SOP 7.2
Date: October 1, 2010

As we close our first week of modified dispatch algorithms, questions and comments have been brought to our attention that require clarification. After a period of digesting the changes, SOP 7.1 and SOP 7.2 will be revised to reflect clarifications.

FAQ

1. Can we create a Tanker task force?
 - a. *We will be working with Frederick County and Chief 1. We are currently in discussions.*
2. If 3 engines are dispatched to an identified target hazard for a FIRE ALARM, what procedure in the policy do personnel follow? (i.e. fire alarm at WMC where engine 15 is dispatched)
 - a. *While SOP 7.2 states that if 3 or more engines are dispatched to an incident then the units, as staffed, respond to the incident. The medic unit does not dump its personnel and go out of service.*
 - b. *The intent of a three or more pumper response is to address major incidents and guarantee a medic unit is on scene for that incident.*
 - c. *The event described above should be treated as a normal fire alarm that only requires 2 engines.*
 - d. *Clarification to SOP 7.2 should read: "B. Three or more **CITY** pumper request" and "C. Two or less **CITY** pumper request"*
3. On a three or more pumper request can a person from the medic crew get on the first due pumper for response?

- a. *Yes, this person can respond on the pumper to assist the driver with maps, hydrant information, radio communications, etc. The medic unit shall respond to the incident driver only and shall state the unit manpower when marking responding.*
4. The work schedule for the day is above minimum staffing, can I take off work?
 - a. *The short answer is NO. Leave request and swaps should be arranged well in advance of the day requesting. As heard in our fire side chats “we need staffing”. The goal of our department is to enhance our manpower when capable to attain NFPA 1710 minimum standards. SOP 7.2 reads.... “Coverage for career staff must maintain minimum staffing levels as scheduled with the exception of sick leave. Battalion 6 may approve emergency leave for sudden events affecting the employee or their families providing proper coverage is arranged by the employee” and will be handled on a case by case basis.*
5. The work schedule is showing additional manpower for the day, why am I being detailed to another station?
 - a. *The department’s goal is to provide the best service delivery each day with the resources available. The ability to enhance apparatus crews provides for personnel safety and efficiency to the citizens we protect.*
 - b. *Resource equalization is not a given and should only be done with the department mission in mind, specialized daily activities or individual training requirements being filled at the work location.*
6. We are dispatched for an electrical fire/chimney fire/smoke inside, etc.; all three engines companies respond (structural assignment). Do we treat these types on dispatch as a “structure response”?
 - a. *Yes*
7. Can I wear my bunker pants while driving an engine or medic?
 - a. *Yes, personnel have the option to do so as long as safety is the first priority.*
8. When we have 4 or more persons in the station (2-medic, 2-engine) and we are dispatched for a three or more engine response in our first due, can we put 3 on the pumper and 1 on the medic or would it be preferred to have 2 on the pumper and 2 on the medic.
 - a. *It is the choice of the crew to determine the riding assignments. The goal is to ensure a medic unit is part of the initial dispatch for these types of incidents.*