

# **Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department**

## **Vehicle Response SOG**

### **2025**

The intent of this policy is to reduce the potential risk to employees, the public, their property, and emergency equipment. This SOG details the department's requirements for the safe and efficient emergency and non-emergency operation of apparatus.

Vehicle operators are directly responsible for the safe and prudent operation of the apparatus under all conditions. When the operator is under the direct supervision of an officer, that officer assumes responsibility for the actions of the operator. The operator or OIC must report any apparatus accidents immediately (or as soon as practical) to the Fire Chief.

AM/FM/XM/Bluetooth or cord connected radios are not to be played while en route to a call or transporting to the hospital. The radio may be used on the way back from a call providing the volume level is kept below a sufficient level to allow the MARCS radio to be heard clearly.

Drivers are NOT to have their phones in their hands or looking down at the phone in their lap. This includes phone calls or texting. This is distracted driving and is in violation of our SOG's. If you are unsure of your route, review on Google Maps for clarity. It is acceptable to place your phone on the console and listen to the voice prompts if needed but doing this should be the exception, not the norm.

Drivers MUST know where the call is located, the most appropriate safest route to the scene and for EMS, the most appropriate, safest route to the hospital.

#### **INITIAL OPERATION**

Before moving apparatus for any reason, the operator shall ensure the following:

- All compartment doors are closed and secured.
- There are no obstructions to the movement of the apparatus.
- The shoreline has properly disconnected.
- All crew members are seated and secured with seat belts in approved riding positions and have verbally indicated that they are ready to go.

#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

The operator is responsible to drive in a manner that will facilitate the safe and timely arrival of the apparatus and crew at the emergency scene. The following emergency response procedures must be followed:

- Headlights, emergency warning lights and siren(s) must be on and operating.
- Safety is the prime consideration at all times; weather, road and traffic conditions must be taken into consideration when responding.
- Apparatus may disregard traffic laws only with extreme due regard for the safety of others.

- Apparatus may proceed through stop signs and traffic control lights after coming to a complete stop if all other traffic has stopped.
- Apparatus may exceed posted speed limits but must be reasonable for weather, road and traffic conditions.
- Apparatus may drive in an oncoming traffic lane with extreme caution.
- Drive defensively and with due regard and watch for other responding apparatus.
- Never pass a school bus that is stopped with its red lights on. Turn off your siren until the bus passes. You then can continue your emergency response.
- Use caution when approaching a funeral procession.

During emergency response, the apparatus should come to a complete stop for any of the following:

1. When directed to do so by a law enforcement officer
2. At red traffic signal lights and stop signs
3. At negative right-of-way intersection
4. At blind intersections
5. Whenever the operator cannot account for all lanes of traffic in an intersection
6. When encountering a stopped school bus with its red lights activated

#### **FIRE RESPONSE**

Non-emergency responses are made only to non-emergency incidents and at the discretion of the vehicle's OIC. Fire apparatus shall respond non-emergency to the following types of incidents. Responses can always be upgraded at the discretion of the OIC.

- Carbon monoxide investigation with no report of illness.
- Public utility calls, such as lines down, arcing wires, or transformer fires with no associated injury, entrapment or threat to structures.
- Fuel spill cleanup.
- Service calls (animal rescues, pumping out basements, smoke removal).
- Outdoor smoke investigations.
- Move-up / cover details to other fire departments.
- Explosive ordnance incident stand-by.
- Unauthorized controlled burns with no threatened structures.
- Fire alarms, Fire Chief and first fire apparatus will respond ER (Engine, Ladder or Tanker). All other vehicles will respond non-emergency unless upgraded by the IC.

#### **MEDICAL RESPONSE**

Unless directed otherwise by an EMS member on scene, ambulances shall respond according to the following:

- EMS units shall respond non-emergent to all Alpha, Bravo and Omega level incidents.
- Charlie, Delta and Echo level incidents shall be an emergent response.
- If a response level is not given by dispatch, active911 or text, ask dispatch for it.
- If an EMS incident cannot be assigned a response level by dispatch, then the response shall be emergent.

- If a non-emergent code is given but call notes indicate an emergent response, the OIC may do so at their discretion and professional judgment.
- Mutual aid responses shall be emergent unless the OIC directs otherwise based on their discretion and professional judgment.

### **Transport Destinations**

Follow current GMVEMSC protocol and / or contact Medical Control when determining the proper medical facility for transport. Patient transports are made primarily to the following hospitals:

- Kettering Health Greene Memorial Hospital, Xenia – *Stroke telemedicine*
- Miami Valley Hospital East, Jamestown – *Stroke telemedicine*
- Kettering Health Soin Medical Center, Beavercreek – *Cardiac cath lab, Stroke telemedicine, Stroke primary, Labor and delivery*
- Mercy Health (SRMC), Springfield – *Cardiac cath lab, Stroke telemedicine, Stroke primary, Labor and delivery*
- Children's Medical Center, Dayton – *Level I pediatric trauma center, Burn center*

Patients may be transported to the following hospitals if requested and conditions allow (i.e. road or weather conditions and / or staffing levels):

- Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton – *Level I trauma center, Burn center, Cardiac cath lab, Stroke telemedicine, Stroke primary, Stroke comprehensive, Labor and delivery*
- Miami Valley Hospital South, Centerville – *Cardiac cath lab, Stroke telemedicine*
- Madison Health, London

Stable patients with specialty conditions may be transported to the following hospitals if conditions allow:

- Kettering Medical Center, Kettering
  - Patients currently undergoing cancer care or post-operative issues
- Kettering Health Washington Township (Southview Medical Center), Centerville
  - Hand Trauma meeting criteria
- Wright Patterson Medical Center, Dayton
  - Current military member not able to be seen elsewhere
- Veterans Administration Hospital, Dayton
  - Military veteran not able to be seen elsewhere

There are multiple specialty centers (trauma, stroke, etc.) throughout our region. The guidelines and most current listing of hospital specialties and capabilities can be found listed in the current protocol on the GMVEMSC website or phone app.

### **OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES: DURING INCIDENTS**

Drivers/operators should remain with their apparatus unless directed to do otherwise. Ambulance/Medic drivers may leave their apparatus if they are needed to assist with

patient care and/or removal. Throughout the duration of any incident, the driver/operator is responsible to ensure that equipment removed during the incident is accounted for, returned, and/or replaced.

No one should exit the apparatus until the driver has indicated that the apparatus is completely stopped. The driver should make sure that members do not exit the apparatus into on-coming traffic flow whenever possible.

**FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES: AFTER INCIDENTS**

Upon return to quarters following an incident, the fire apparatus operator is responsible for ensuring the following:

- The apparatus is clean.
- The water tank is full.
- The foam tank(s) are full (E11,T11,BR11)
- The fuel tank is at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- The generator/pump/saw fuel levels are full (E11, L11, BR11).
- All tools used are clean and properly stowed.
- The key is in the ignition and in the off position (where applicable).
- The engine brake, Jake Brake is off (E11, L11, T11)
- The shoreline is plugged in.

**AMBULANCE / MEDIC UNIT OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES: AFTER INCIDENTS**

Upon return to quarters following an incident, the Ambulance/Medic apparatus operator is responsible for ensuring the following:

- The apparatus is clean.
- The fuel tank is at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- The equipment compartments are orderly and restocked.
- There are sufficient amounts of gloves available.
- The cardiac monitor, power cot and LUCAS batteries are fully charged.
- The oxygen tanks are within acceptable limits.
- The shoreline is plugged in.

If the Ambulance / Medic operator is non-EMS, then the OIC will ensure the EMS equipment is in service and the driver will ensure the vehicle is in service.

Approved:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Kyle E. Miller  
Fire Chief  
Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department