

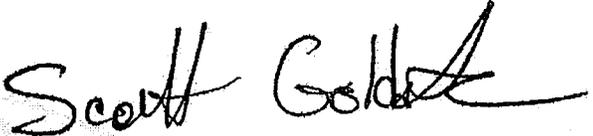
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

FCGO: 16-01

January 19, 2016

Page 1 of 1

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein 

SUBJECT: Rescue Squad / Rescue Truck or Engine Dispatch Pilot Program

Based on Personal Injury Collision (PIC) response data collected over the last two years, MCFRS will conduct a one year pilot program dispatching only the closest rescue truck, rescue squad, or rescue engine to 29 Alpha or 29 Bravo incidents on roadways with speed limits of 40mph or higher.

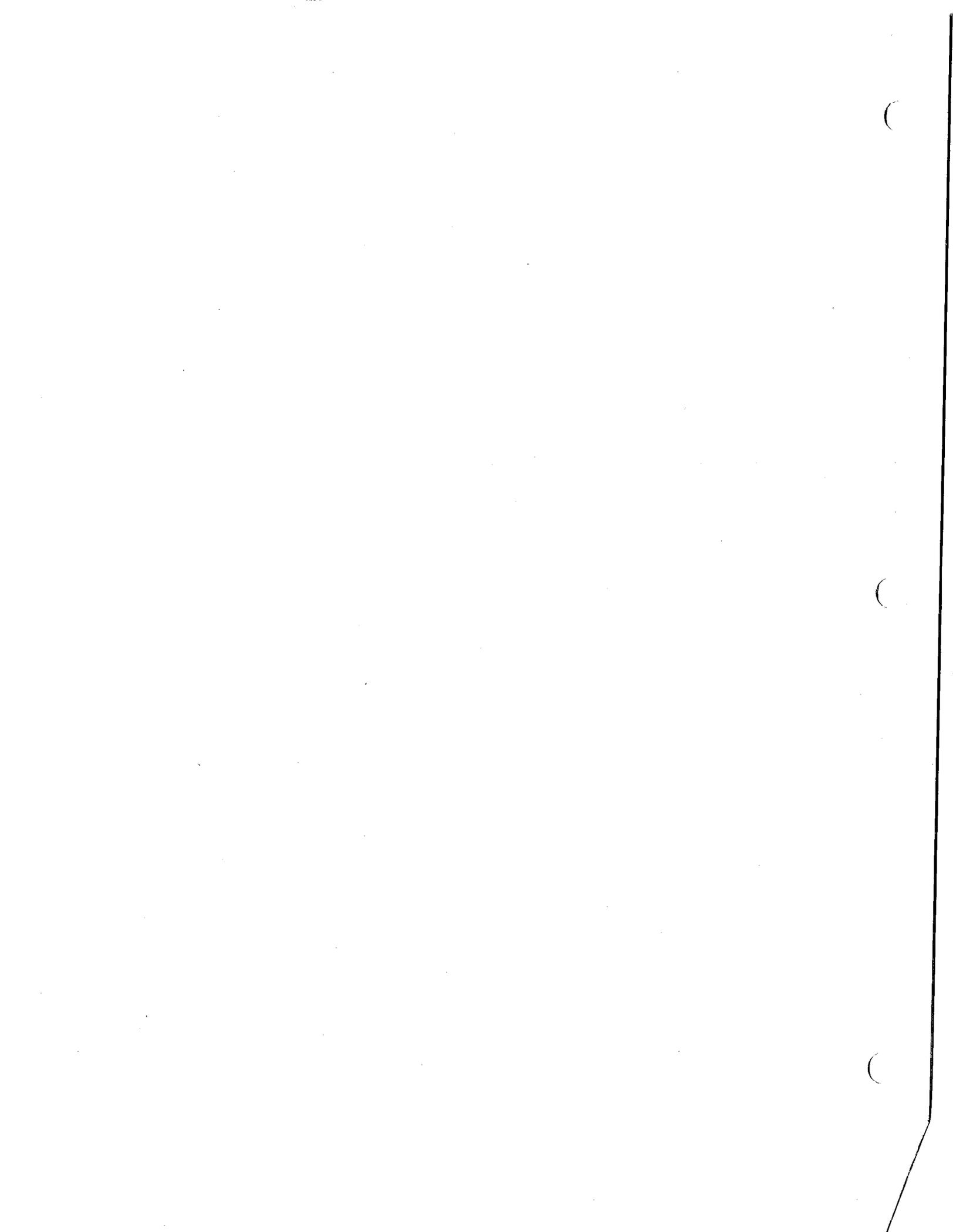
This pilot does not change the dispatch assignments on roadways below 40mph, 29 Charlie or 29 Delta incidents, nor does it affect blocking units or alternate lane responses.

After dispatch of a 29 Alpha or Bravo incident, if the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) receives more information that the PIC meets 29 Charlie or Delta criteria, they must dispatch the balance of the new call type. If a unit arrives and finds the need for extrication, it should have ECC dispatch the balance of the assignment.

During the pilot program, MCFRS will collect data on incident outcomes. For incidents found to have no extrication resources dispatched prior to arrival or any events that were dispatched as a 29 Alpha or Bravo that should have been a 29 Charlie or Delta the Incident Commander must e-mail the Operations Battalion Chief. The e-mail must include: the date, time, incident number, and a brief description of the event and any resource shortfall.

After the one year pilot program the Operations Chief will evaluate the response data, with input from the rescue squad/rescue truck work group, and make a recommendation to the Fire Chief.

For questions or further clarification contact Communications Section Chief.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 16-02

January 27, 2016

Page 1 of 2

TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein
SUBJECT: Incident Command Teams



The MCFRS philosophy for command of working incidents is based upon the use of Command Teams operating from Battalion Command Platforms. Generally, the highest priority for the first two arriving Certified Chief Officers (CCO's) is to build the Command Team in a stationary Incident Command Post (ICP). Unless there is a compelling reason not to move to a Battalion Command Platform (BCP), the team should move to the BCP, as soon as practical.

The first CCO to arrive at any incident which requires Level 2 Command (as described in Policy 20-02), must establish or assume command following proper transfer-of-command procedures. All subsequently arriving Chief Officers and support staff must report to the ICP for assignment as per FCGO 08-19.

When establishing a fixed ICP, the Incident Commander (IC) must attempt to position with a view of two sides of the incident and announce the location of the ICP on the tactical channel.

The first arriving BCP will attempt to position near the existing ICP, and in an effective position to manage the incident. The CCO in the BCP will notify Command that they are ready to have Command move to their vehicle. The first notification should be face-to-face. If that isn't possible, the Battalion Chief will notify Command by radio on 7-Oscar that BCP is effectively positioned, and that the vehicle is ready to become the ICP.

If a BCP cannot be positioned effectively as an ICP, then the first arriving rostered career Battalion Chief must report to the ICP with:

- MDC
- Accountability and staffing documents and resources

After the initial groups and divisions have been assigned, Command will move to the BCP, unless the incident is de-escalating and units are being placed in service.

It is the intent of MCFRS to have at least one career and one volunteer CCO as part of a Command Team. The first arriving career CCO, and the first arriving volunteer CCO should announce their arrival on 7-Oscar and report to the ICP. If there is a compelling reason, one of the first arriving CCO's may be given an assignment, but a subsequent

FCGO 15-16
Incident Command Teams
November 24, 2015
Page 2 of 2

CCO of the same affiliation will then become part of the Command Team.

If a Command Team is established with two career CCO's, the first arriving volunteer CCO should become part of the Command Team. If a Command Team is established with two volunteer CCO's, the first arriving career CCO should become part of the Command Team.

All subsequently arriving CCO's should report to the ICP with appropriate protective equipment and expect to be assigned on the incident as needed.

The Command Team will consider moving to Command Post 700 (CP700) or a fixed structure if the need arises.

The current Battalion Command Platforms are only BC701-BC705 and the three command reserves. Any future BCP's will have to meet then-current standards including, but not limited to:

- 3 or more mobile radios
- VRS
- Headsets for the radios
- MDC
- Workspace for 4 occupants

For questions or further clarification please contact the Operations Division Chief.

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 15-01
January 21, 2015

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Acting Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein



SUBJECT: EMS Unit / Cot Safety Restraints

When EMS Units are received, they come equipped with a cot meeting Federal, State, and NFPA standards and requirements. This includes three safety straps with an integrated shoulder harness. This integrated patient restraint system must be used consistent with the manufacturer's instructions. Removing, modifying, or replacing all or part of these restraints with unapproved straps is strictly prohibited.

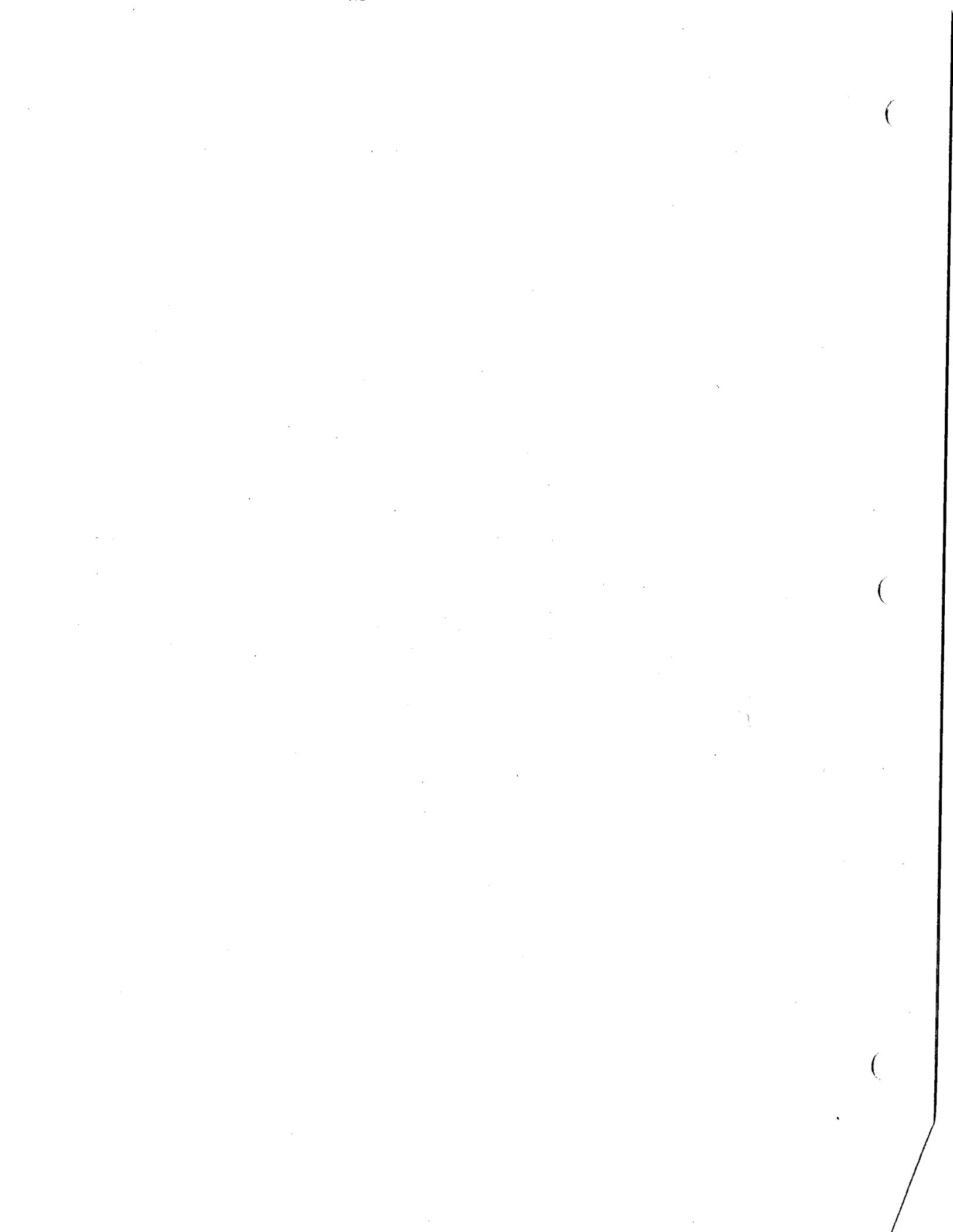
Missing or damaged cot restraints must be documented by an apparatus defect report and immediate steps must be taken to have the part replaced by the Apparatus Section.

If there is any failure of the cot or restraint system while transporting a patient:

- The entire cot must immediately be placed out of service and impounded at the Fleet Section.
- Arrangements must be made to obtain a replacement via the DOC and Apparatus Section (or LFRD if LFRD owned).
- An apparatus defect report must be completed.
- If the incident resulted in an injury (either civilian or Fire/Rescue) a Risk MAP report must also be completed
- The EMS Duty Officer must be notified.

The failure of any patient carrying device warrants a report to the Food and Drug Administration (MedWatch). This will be coordinated by Fleet, EMS and Safety.

Please contact the EMS Assistant Chief if you have any questions.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 15-02

January 22, 2015

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Acting Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein



SUBJECT: Helmets

This FCGO **rescinds** Fire Chief's General Order 10-01, dated April 14, 2010. Personnel are permitted to wear **only** the helmets indicated in the tables below.

IECS Rank	Color	NFPA Standard
EMS Provider	Blue	1971 or 1999
F/F Candidate (non-IDLH qualified)	Red	1971
Fire Fighter I, II, III, and Master	Yellow	1971
Lieutenant and above- Fire	White	1971
Lieutenant and above- EMS Provider	White, w/Star of Life on both sides	1971

Training Academy Personnel	Color	NFPA Standard
MICRB Level II Instructor approved by Training Officer (for use during PSTA activities only)	Orange	1971
Training Academy-assigned Safety Officer, approved by Training Officer (for use during PSTA activities only)	Lime Green	1971

- All helmets **must** meet the requirements of the applicable NFPA Standard, current at the time of purchase, as indicated above.
- Personnel are **prohibited** from wearing a helmet that is **not** NFPA compliant.
- Personnel are **prohibited** from wearing a helmet that is not associated with their IECS rank or assignment, as indicated above.

Alternative helmets for non-fire fighting operations are approved as indicated below.

Activity	Standard
Technical Rescue	NFPA 1951
Investigations	ANSI Z89.1-2003 Type I, or II Class G
Code Enforcement	OSHA 1910.135, and ANSI Z89.1-2003
Non-IDLH training at the PSTA	Full-brim wild land-style helmet, NFPA 1977 (Orange for MICRB level II Instructor; Lime Green for Safety Officer)

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 15-05

June 8, 2015

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Acting Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein



SUBJECT: Assignment of Radio System Talk-groups

Effective immediately, all non-emergency radio system talk-group assignments for MCFRS Radio System Zones 7, 71, 72, 73, and 74 will be coordinated through the ECC Operations Battalion Chief. Talk-groups will be assigned based on the priority of special events or day-to-day activities.

Administrative Zones 75, 76 and ALL FDTA (70) operation remain unrestricted for specific use as designated.

For special events personnel must follow FCGO #13-08. The special operations section will request the use of talk-groups as needed, once the special event is approved.

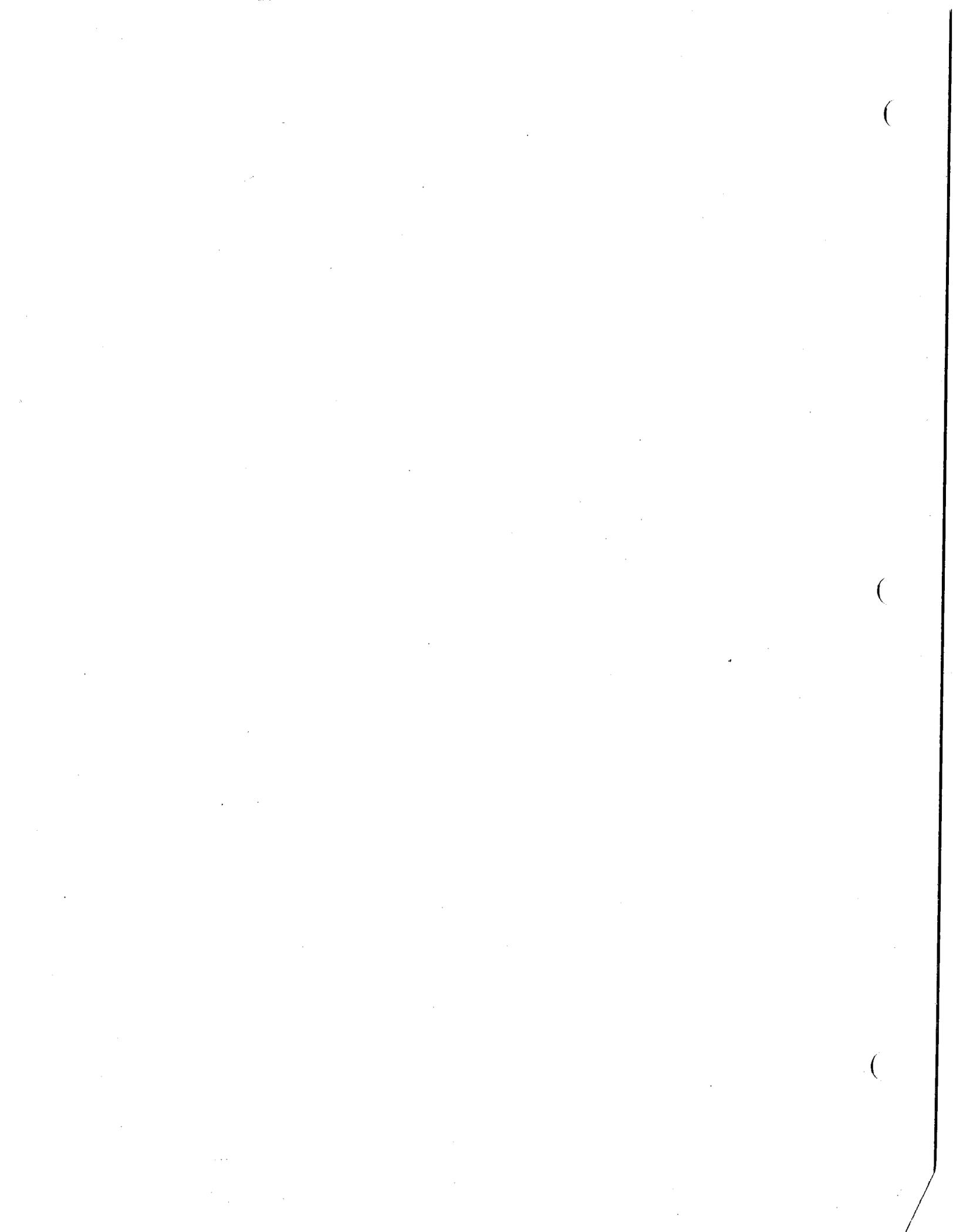
For day-to-day activities requiring the use of talk-group's, personnel must contact the ECC Operations Battalion Chief @ 240.773.7103

Questions can be directed to the Communications Section Chief at 240.773.7101

Issued:

Revised:

Rescinded:



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 15-06

June 30, 2015

TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein *Scott Gold*
SUBJECT: Notification to Police of Unidentified Patients

Occasionally, MCFRS units respond to events where the identity of a patient is unknown due to some type of incapacitation. Consistently with these events we have found that the Montgomery County Police or other Law Enforcement agencies have also been attempting to locate these persons to confirm their welfare. Without coordination and notifications between agencies, multiple resources are expended on the law enforcement side to locate these individuals, when in reality the MCFRS has transported them to a medical facility.

Effective immediately, whenever a unit is dispatched to or transports a patient who cannot be identified by name or other information, the unit officer must notify the ECC via radio, preferably on the 7L (Local Secure) talk-group, or via Mobile Data Computer (MDC) with available information on the patient.

The unit officer must provide descriptive information about the patient to the ECC that includes:

- Sex
- Ethnicity
- Approximate Weight
- Approximate Height
- Clothing description
- Any other identifying marks

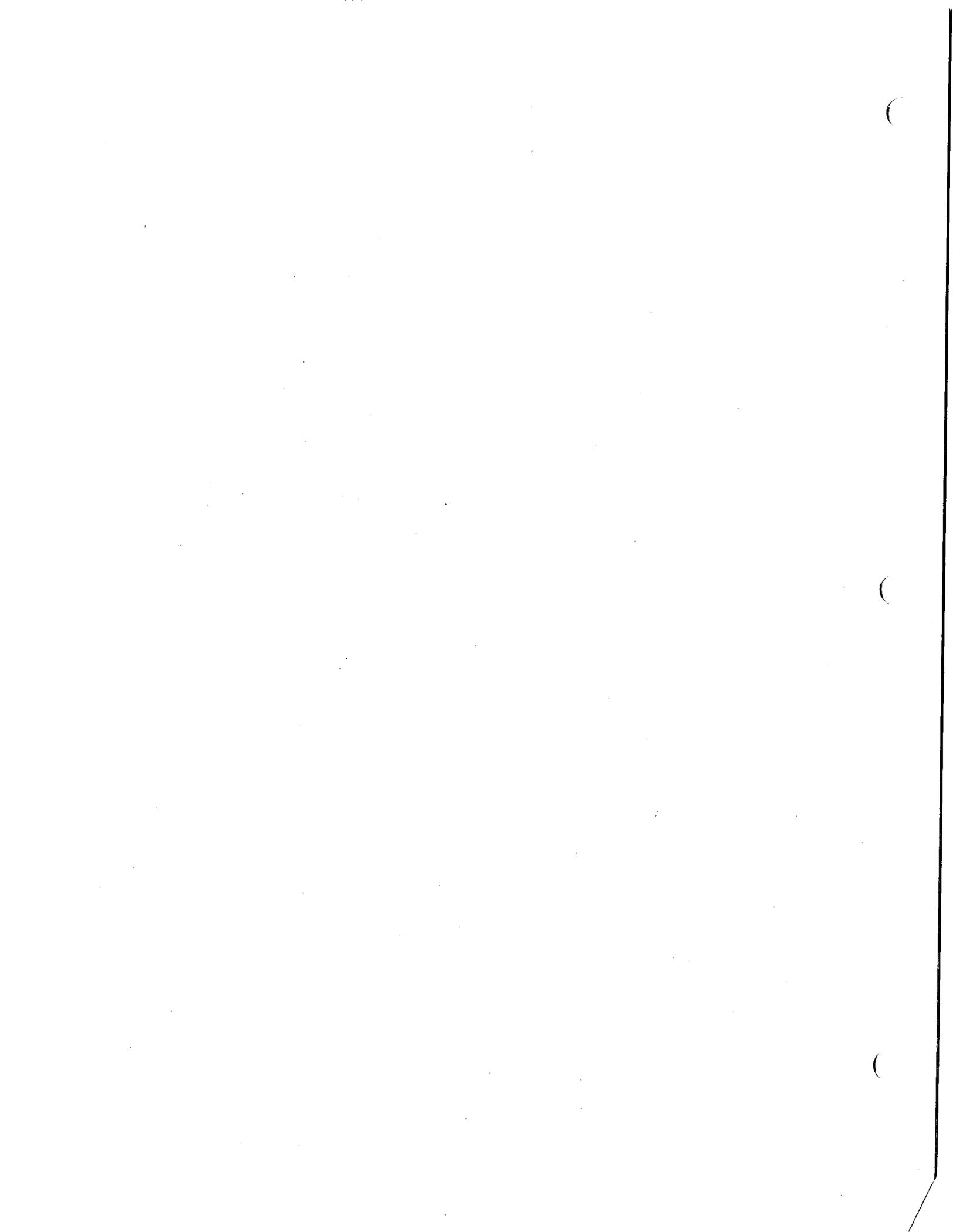
The ECC will then notify the County Police, and will provide the location of the original event, the circumstances surrounding the event and the location of transport (if any), in addition to the information listed, above.

Questions can be directed to the Communications Section Chief at 240.773.7101

Issued:

Revised:

Rescinded:



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 15-07

July 9, 2015

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein



SUBJECT: Acquisition and Transmission of 12 Lead ECGs

This FCGO supersedes & cancels FCGO #11-07.

The primary emphasis, to date, of the MCFRS 12-Lead ECG program has been the rapid identification of STEMI patients along with the early activation of the appropriate resources at the hospital. Reducing the Emergency to Intervention time has been and is still essential to enhancing the ability of the patient to recover without suffering long term heart damage.

Over time, both the pre-hospital and hospital literature have demonstrated that pre-hospital 12-Leads can significantly assist in the treatment of many other types of patient presentations and therefore this program should now be expanded beyond the traditional scope of only including obvious STEMI patients.

Therefore, effective immediately, all ALS personnel must both acquire and transmit a 12-Lead ECG on any patient, regardless of age, in whom the ALS provider suspects a possible cardiac related event (examples of these patients would include those with history of diabetes, high blood pressure, and/or elderly with vague chief complaints or any patient who has chest pain/discomfort due to illicit substances).

In addition, all ALS personnel must both acquire and transmit a 12-Lead ECG on any patient who has reached their 35th birthday and presents with any of the following conditions:

- Chest discomfort from a non-traumatic cause
- Dyspnea not obviously explained by pulmonary causes (such as asthma, croup, etc.)
- Syncope or profound light-headedness with near-syncope
- Any of the following symptoms that are not obviously explained by other causes:
 - Profuse diaphoresis
 - Arm, shoulder, neck, jaw, or back pain
 - Profound nausea/persistent vomiting
 - Dizziness/vertigo, especially in diabetics or the elderly

This order does not preclude ALS providers from acquiring and/or transmitting at their discretion any 12-Lead ECG for any other reasons.

All acquired 12 Leads must be downloaded and attached to the electronic patient care record.

For further information on clinical conditions which can be diagnosed with the 12 lead ECG please refer to this information on the PSTA web site.

Questions may be addressed to the EMS Chief.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

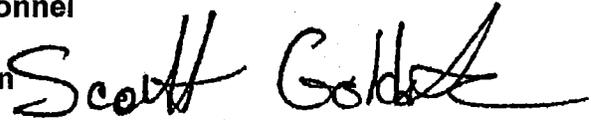
FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 15-09

July 23, 2015

TO: All MCFRS Uniformed Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein



SUBJECT: Mctime Roles and Responsibilities

All uniformed personnel must follow the Mctime procedure below.

Employee Responsibilities

1. All employees must approve their timecard unless they are absent for the entire pay period.
2. Ensure the timecard is accurate before approving it.
3. Personnel who worked overtime must enter the **exact** amount of time worked, rounded to the nearest minute, using the **Minutes to Decimal Conversion Chart** (see **Attachment**). Personnel *must* enter these hours into Mctime the *same day* they work the overtime.
4. Personnel who work overtime must record their time on a separate line, and include the appropriate Reason Code. **NOTE: Cost Centers are no longer required.**
5. If the overtime is **grant-related**, enter the PT code, Expenditure Org Code, and the Reason Code.
6. Safer Grant employees are coded to the grant codes behind the scenes and if they worked overtime they should be following #3
7. Approving your timecard acknowledges that all entries on the timecard are accurate. Personnel must periodically check their timecard throughout the pay period for accuracy and approvals.
8. Personnel must not approve their timecard beyond the current pay-period.

9. Personnel on light duty must code all of their Hours Worked on their timecard with the appropriate Reason Code (NR or WR.)
10. Personnel must not use more leave than they have accrued.

Supervisor (Lieutenant and above) Responsibilities

11. Supervisors must perform a daily review of subordinate timecards. Any errors found on the timecard must be corrected. Any unapproved overtime that is recorded must be verified and approved during the daily supervisor review. If the supervisor cannot verify the unapproved overtime, the overtime must be removed from the timecard prior to approving the timecard.
12. Supervisors who approve timecards for shift workers must do as required below.
 - a. Sunday's shift: Review and approve timecards not later than 0900.
 - b. Monday's shift: Review and approve timecards not later than 0900.
 - c. Tuesday's shift: Review and approve timecards not later than 0900.
13. Supervisors working on the Monday of the close of the pay-period must review and approve day-worker timecards.
14. Supervisors must *not* approve timecards until after leave is imported from Telestaff, not earlier than 0800 of the off-going shift.
15. The on-duty supervisor must approve all overtime as soon as practicable, which is normally on the same day the overtime is worked.
16. Supervisors must check the "Sign-Offs and Approvals" before approving overtime to ensure that the overtime has not already been approved. Supervisors who approve an employee's overtime entry acknowledge that the overtime entry is accurate and rounded to the nearest minute according to the **Conversion Chart** (see Attachment). Managers must not approve overtime for activities that cannot be verified.
17. Supervisors must pay special attention to AWOL entries and allow mctime to recalculate the AWOL hours once the leave accruals have imported, (if the AWOL is a result of a cascade of leave). If the employee still does not have sufficient leave to cover the AWOL hours, a pay code move must be done to move all remaining hours from AWOL to LWOP, and disciplinary action must be initiated if appropriate.

18. Supervisors who approve timecards acknowledge that all entries are accurate and complete.
19. Supervisors must ensure that the daily and total hours toward Schedule are accurate, and that all pay code moves and pay code edits, overtime entries, coding, and approvals are accurate before approving a timecard.

See Attachment: *Minutes to Decimal Conversion Chart*

Email questions regarding Mctime to: fire.mcfrs-mctime@montgomerycountymd.gov

This FCGO replaces FCGO 12-05.

Minutes to Decimal Conversion Chart

Below is a chart to help you convert minutes to decimals for use with MTime.

Minutes	Decimals	Minutes	Decimals
1	0.02	31	0.52
2	0.03	32	0.53
3	0.05	33	0.55
4	0.07	34	0.57
5	0.08	35	0.58
6	0.10	36	0.60
7	0.12	37	0.62
8	0.13	38	0.63
9	0.15	39	0.65
10	0.17	40	0.67
11	0.18	41	0.68
12	0.20	42	0.70
13	0.22	43	0.72
14	0.23	44	0.73
15	0.25	45	0.75
16	0.27	46	0.77
17	0.28	47	0.78
18	0.30	48	0.80
19	0.32	49	0.82
20	0.33	50	0.83
21	0.35	51	0.85
22	0.37	52	0.87
23	0.38	53	0.88
24	0.40	54	0.90
25	0.42	55	0.92
26	0.43	56	0.93
27	0.45	57	0.95
28	0.47	58	0.97
29	0.48	59	0.98
30	0.50		

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 15-11
August 12, 2015

TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein
SUBJECT: Metro Investigation (MET/INVST) call type



MCFRS has created the new call type (MET/INVST) in CAD. This call type will be used for calls from Metro OCC about notification of insulator issues, smoke that is dissipating, or other events that do not need a full assignment.

The response for MET/INVST will be one Engine and one Special Service.

The units dispatched for a MET/INVST will follow these guidelines:

Below grade or tunnel stations:

1. If the incident is reported in a tunnel section, both units will report to the nearest station as dispatched.
2. The first unit will meet with the METRO Station Supervisor and determine if there is a train in the tunnel section or if a life safety hazard exists.
3. If there is an occupied train stopped in a tunnel and there is smoke in the tunnel the unit officer must call for a METRO box alarm.
4. If there is no danger and no need for MCFRS intervention, the units will remain on the scene until METRO repair personnel are on the scene. **At no point will MCFRS personnel enter the right-of-way or tunnel to investigate.**
5. The second unit will stage at the top entrance of the station and will ensure communications between the unit on the platform and the main radio system, by monitoring both 7-Bravo & 7-Oscar.

Above or at grade stations:

1. Units will report to the nearest station.
2. The first unit will meet with the METRO Station Supervisor and determine if a life safety hazard exists.
3. If there is no danger and no need for MCFRS intervention, the units will remain on the scene until METRO repair personnel are on the scene. **At no point will MCFRS personnel enter the right-of-way** to investigate.
4. The second unit will stage at the kiosk of the station and work with the METRO staff as needed.

For questions or further clarification contact the Division of Operations Chief.

Issued:	Revised:	Rescinded:
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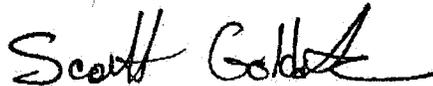
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 15-16

November 16, 2015

Page 1 of 3

TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein
SUBJECT: Triage Proficiency



This FCGO replaces and rescinds FCGO 14-13 (revised).

Effective November 17th, 2015, MCFRS will dedicate one full week every March and September (the third Sunday to the following Saturday) to using the tools of effective MCI management. The program will concentrate on the *START* and *JumpSTART* triage systems and components of the Incident Command System on expanding EMS incidents.

All personnel must review the Maryland Triage System presentation and documents before beginning the week-long requirements. The Maryland Triage System Training, as well as supporting documents, can be found at www.MIEMSS.org under the "Documents" tab. The preferred training platform is company level or Battalion-based, but personnel can review the training individually.

During the seven day periods (Sunday to Saturday) from 0700 to 1700, all personnel will apply the skills listed on the *MCI Monday Benchmarks* (attached) as a minimum on **EVERY** EMS incident (including single patient events).

All personnel are encouraged to frequently review triage procedures. Nothing prohibits supervisors from requiring these tasks on additional days, incidents or training events.

Personnel are also reminded of the following MCI guidelines:

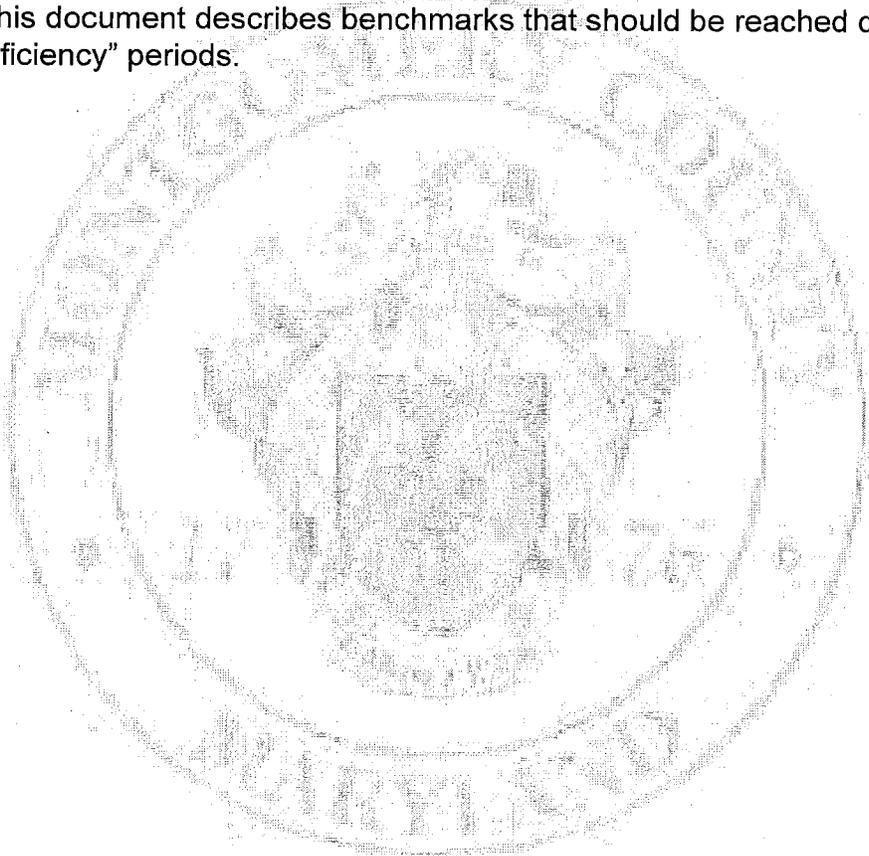
- Consider expanding the EMS Group on incidents with five or more patients. This may include establishing Casualty Collection Points, Treatment Unit Leaders/Areas, Medical Communications Coordinator, Transportation Unit Leader, or other positions.
- Use the Transportation/Disposition Officer Log and Patient Tracking Log on incidents with five or more patients and ensure you affix the appropriate label to the document.

For questions or further clarification about the process or requirements, contact the on-duty EMS Duty Officer or the EMS Section.

FCGO 15-16
November 16, 2015
Page 2 of 3

To assist with MCI training, each EMS Duty Officer (EMSDO) has been provided with a Mass Casualty Incident Training Kit. These kits include treatment area tarps, tags, ribbons, forms, and inflatable "patients". Requests to use these kits may be coordinated through the EMSDO responsible for the shift and geographical area for the requesting station.

Page 3 of this document describes benchmarks that should be reached during "Triage Proficiency" periods.



FCGO 15-16
November 16, 2015
Page 3 of 3

MCFRS "Triage Proficiency" Benchmarks

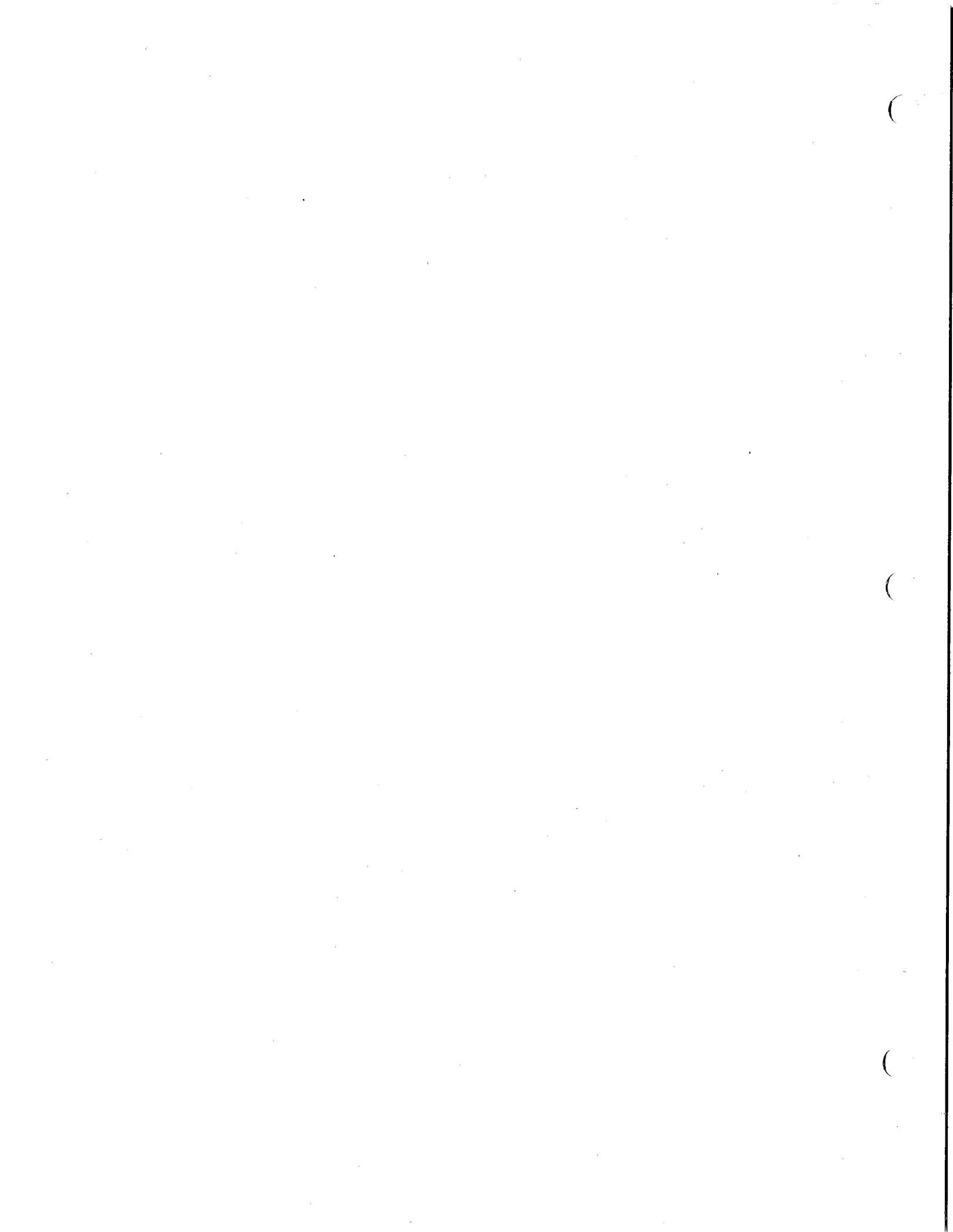
On every EMS incident from 0700 – 1700 during the third full week of March and the third full week of September:

- Within the first minute of patient contact:
 - Perform Primary Triage using the START/JumpSTART system.
 - Apply the appropriate colored triage ribbon based on the triage decision.
- Before loading the patient into the transport unit, attach a Maryland Triage tag using the ribbon to the upper part of the body (e.g. an arm). At a minimum, the information on the tag must include patient name, chief complaint, and vital signs.
- Before going in service from the scene, personnel from the primary manpower piece on the call must obtain the transport stub from the triage tag and place it upon a Transportation/Disposition Officer Log. A separate form must be used for each receiving hospital transported.
- The triage tag number must be noted in the ePCR/eMEDs (or successor system) report using the designated field. Use of the triage tag does not eliminate the requirement to complete an ePCR for each patient.
- Before leaving the hospital, obtain a bar code sticker from the triage tag, and place it on a Patient Tracking Log form in the patient column. Circle the status column (RYGB). Each transport unit should only have one Patient Tracking Log per day.

All sections on each document must be completed and include the station/unit and date of service in the upper margin.

At the end of the shift, the station officer will collect the completed Logs from each piece of apparatus and mail them via interoffice mail to the Battalion Chief. If no patient contacts were made by a unit that day, this information should be emailed to the Battalion Chief. After verifying that the forms were complete, the Battalion Chief shall organize and mail the forms to the EMS Assistant Chief.

The document handling for volunteer staffed units will be managed by the LFRD Chief or designee. After LFRD review, completed documents must be submitted to the Assistant Chief of the EMS Section.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

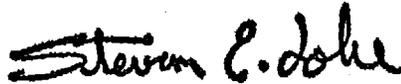
FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 14-01

February 12, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



SUBJECT: PEPCO Electrical Emergency Classifications

In conjunction with the regional fire and rescue departments, PEPCO has developed a classification system and priority list for electrical emergencies. The ability to quickly provide PEPCO with critical incident information will allow for timely allocation of utility resources and arrival on-scene.

When a unit is on-scene and needs assistance from a power utility, they must provide to ECC:

- The specific power provider, if known
- The number assigned to the closest pole or equipment
- The street address
- The nature of the situation
- The emergency classification (Priority 1, 2, or 3)
- Disposition for police (are they needed, or can they disregard)

During Condition Red, or other high volume periods, only notifications for Priority 1 events should be transmitted on 7-Bravo. Lower priority notifications should be made within Condition Red guidelines, or by direction of the ECC Supervisor.

For complex or life threatening electrical emergencies, consider providing:

- The best route of travel for utility vehicles to access the scene
- Advise if a hot zone has been established and/or residents/occupants evacuated
- Need for police/law enforcement to support hot zone
- The need for expedited response/escort of utility crews by law enforcement.
(Note: Only the most critical events require this action)

All personnel should review the attached flyer from PEPCO outlining the criteria for the emergency classifications.

Division Chief Scott Goldstein at 240-777-2464.



Emergency Services Partnership Program

Emergency Assistance

Pepco and regional fire service organizations have developed a priority list for electrical emergencies. In the event a Fire Chief, First Responder or his/her representative requests assistance from Pepco, he/she will attempt to prioritize the response and provide as much information about the emergency as possible.

GENERAL INFORMATION TO ASSIST PEPCO OPERATIONS CENTER

- Determine the 10 digit numbers assigned to the Pepco pole/equipment closest to the area.
- Street address and development, including cross streets, intersections, roads or landmarks
- Best route for Pepco vehicle to access the scene (any road blocks, traffic conditions)
- Is a perimeter established? Has the area been evacuated?
- Can local law enforcement assist our response through traffic conditions?

ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY CLASSIFICATIONS:

Priority One:

Any vehicle accident in which a rescue cannot be safely initiated because of downed power line.

Any electrical problem that has a potential to be life threatening.

Any structure fire that has an electrical problem that prohibits a rescue or fire suppression and cannot be controlled by shutting off the structure's main electrical switch to interrupt electric service.

Manhole and Substation Emergencies Require Extreme Caution:

- Establish safe perimeter for first responders and the public
- Avoid entry into manholes and substations until an authorized Pepco representative is on-scene
- Let It Burn – electrical equipment involved in fires is usually damaged beyond repair and will need to be replaced. Make sure you protect exposures and wait for Pepco personnel to assist you.
- Under extreme emergencies when life threatening conditions exist, a fog pattern is recommended when fire suppression activities are in the vicinity of electrical equipment.

Priority Two:

Any electrical problem in a structure that prohibits "fire-overhaul" because the structure's main electrical switch cannot be controlled to interrupt power to the location.

Any vehicle accident that has a downed power line or power pole, but does not hinder rescue or emergency care.

Priority Three:

Power outages because of blown fuses, tripped transformer, tree limbs on wires or loose guy wire.

Downed power lines that are not life threatening. Always assume downed lines are energized.

- Are barricades in place to protect first responders and the public from electrical contact?

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

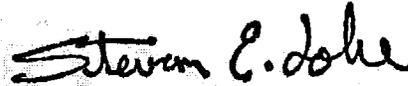
Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 14-06

April 24, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



SUBJECT: Rope Rescue Systems on Aerial Apparatus

The MCFRS fleet has multiple styles and rated aerial apparatus, each with unique manufacturer requirements and limitations. Aerial manufacturer operator manuals address the dynamic loads transferred to the aerial during certain rope rescue operations. **All MCFRS personnel must remember that.**

Rappelling from any component of an aerial apparatus, including the tip or bucket, is prohibited.

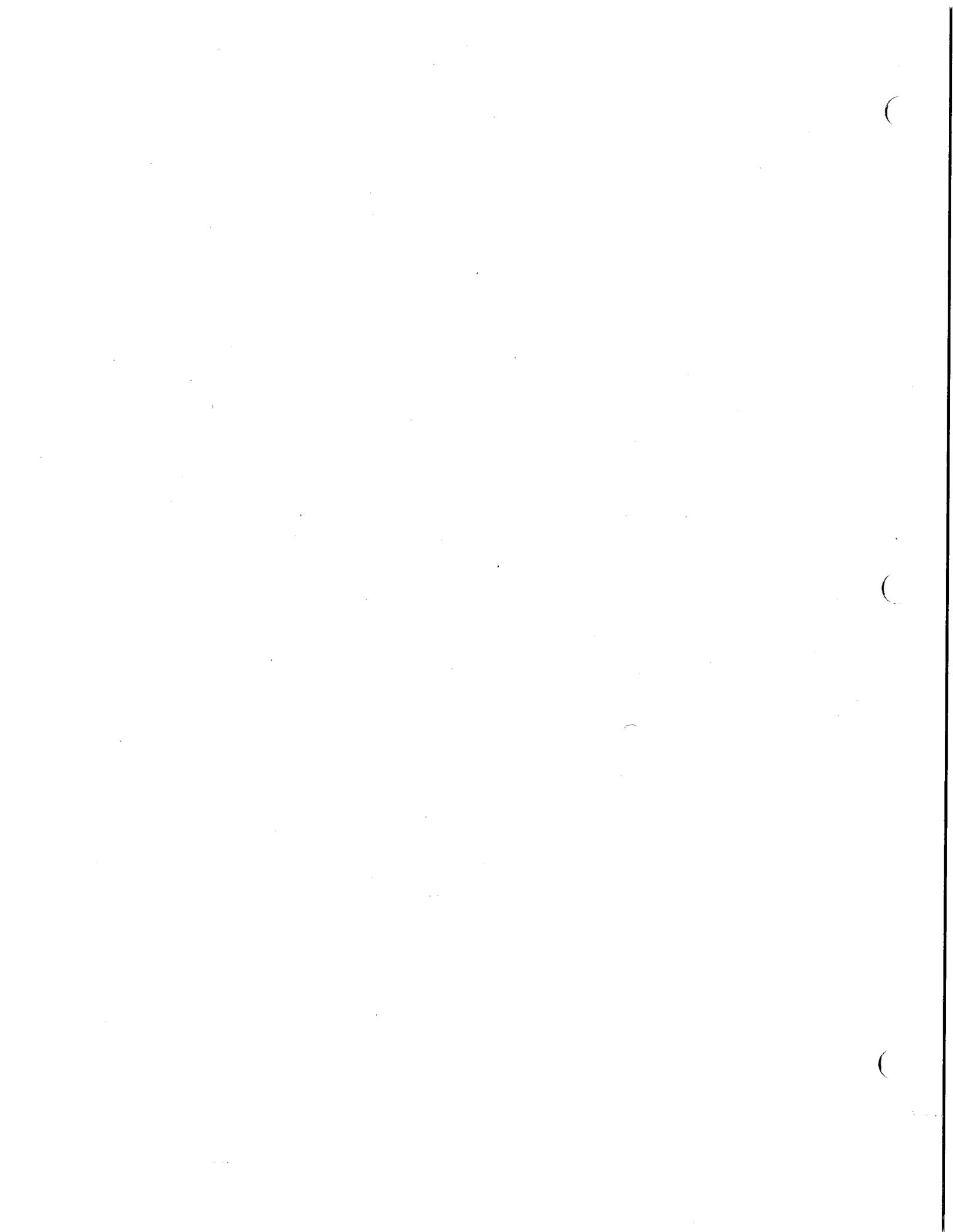
Only the rope systems outlined in the PSTA Driver Training Program Stokes Basket Operations Using Aerial Devices manual may be used. For best practices on Stokes Basket operations using Aerials, review the web site below:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-psta/Resources/Files/Driver/Best Practices/Stokes Basket Operations Using Aerial Devices March 2014 Distribution.pdf>

All rope systems must be designed and operated **to limit and prevent** the application of a shock load to the aerial apparatus.

Only aerial tower apparatus may be used for a rope system weighted with a two-person load.

To clarify any information regarding Aerials, please contact the Fleet Section.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 14-08

May 6, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr

SUBJECT: EMS Task Force



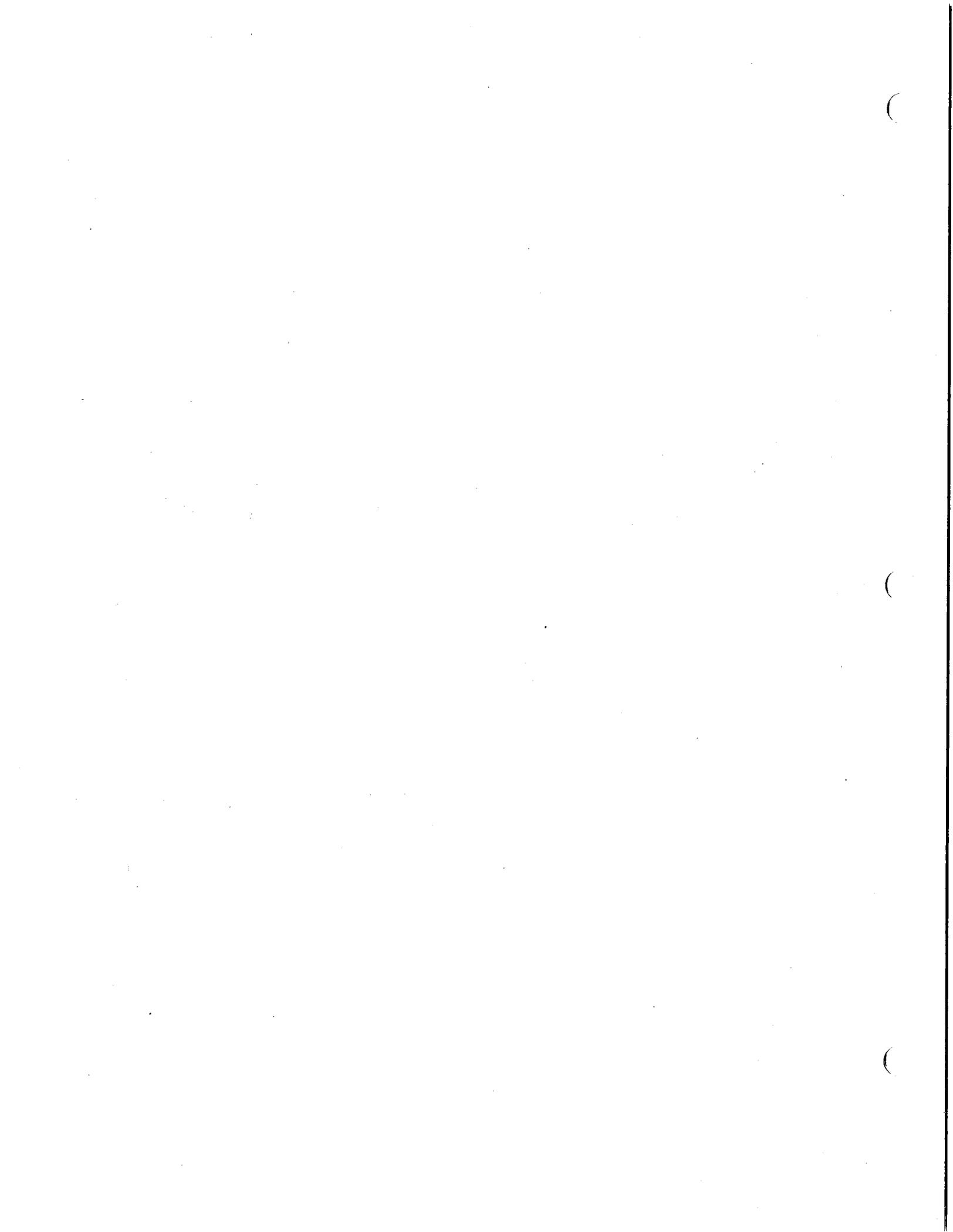
MCFRS has long used the concept of an EMS Task Force to plan for multiple patient events. However, the definition of the EMS Task Force is being updated to more closely align with our regional mutual aid partners, and our present and future EMS deployment model.

Therefore, ***effective immediately***, the configuration of an EMS Task Force will include:

- Five transport units;
- Two Paramedic Engines;
- One additional ALS resource (if one is not included in staffing the transport units);
- One EMS Duty Officer (if one is not already on the call); and
- One Command Officer (if one is not already on the call).

The EMS Task Force will be dispatched automatically on certain call types that indicate a strong possibility of multiple patients. The Task Force may also be added at the discretion of the dispatcher (similar to the RID), or at the request of the on-scene Incident Commander.

Questions may be directed to Assistant Chief Barry Reid at Barry.Reid@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 14-10
May 8, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr

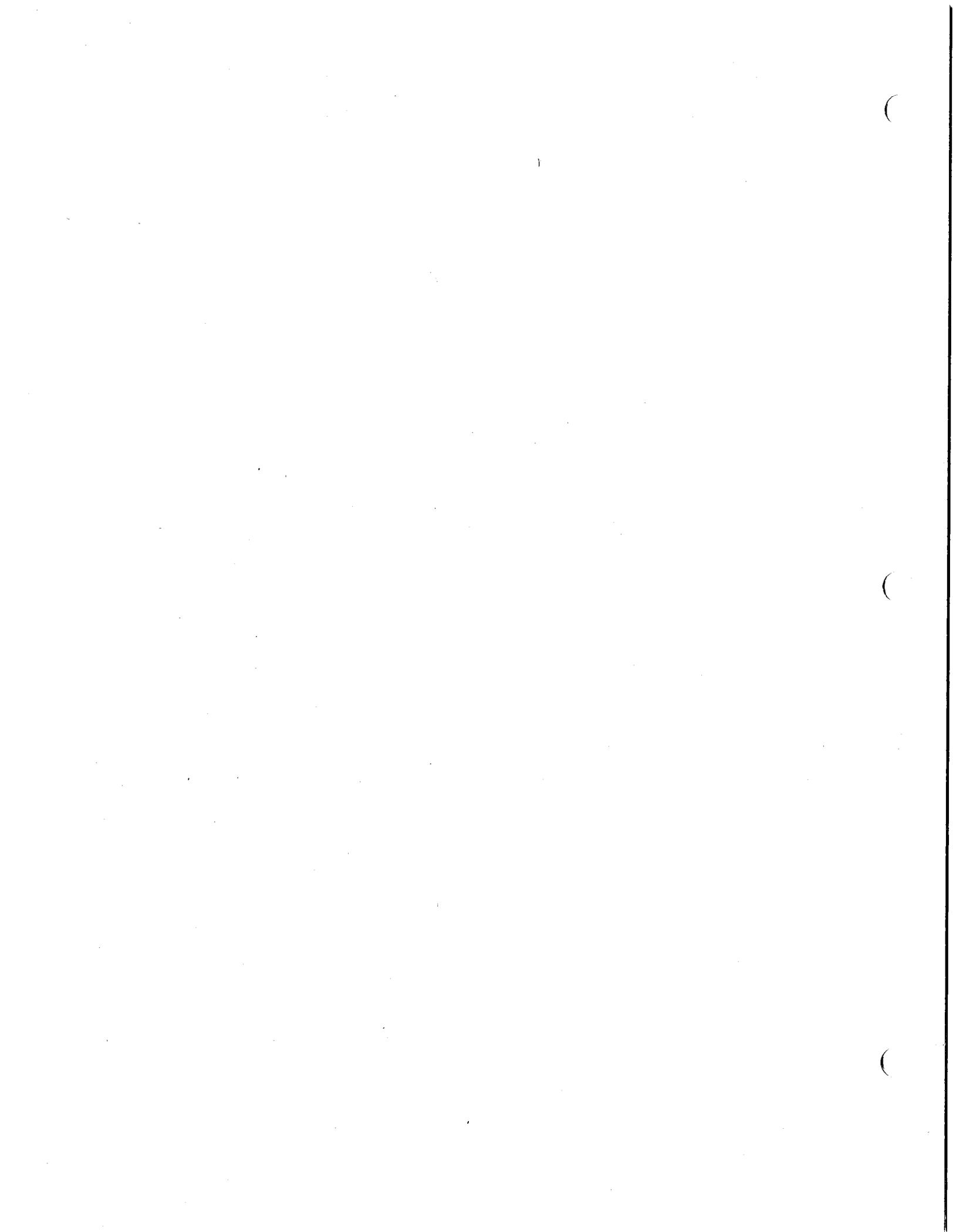


SUBJECT: Station, Apparatus, and Equipment Security

Some jurisdictions have experienced the theft of fire/rescue equipment and apparatus, which later have been used for illegal activity. We all know that MCFRS apparatus and stations contain sensitive equipment and information that are critical to the safety and security of our community. ***MCFRS personnel are responsible for ensuring the security of our stations, apparatus, and equipment.***

- The unit officer is responsible for maintaining the security of the unit and its equipment.
- While on emergency incidents, reasonable effort must be made to leave a crew member with the apparatus and equipment.
- While conducting routine business, (inspections, shopping, etc.), apparatus and equipment should ***never be left unattended. One crew member must remain with the apparatus at all times.*** While parked at most stations and MCFRS facilities, apparatus and equipment may be left unattended ***only*** if within sight of MCFRS personnel.
- ***Stations must remain secured at all times and ready for response.*** When leaving the station, crews ***must ensure*** that bay doors *have* closed, or *will* close automatically.
- Apparatus bay doors must remain closed ***unless*** fire rescue personnel are actively engaged in activities in the apparatus bays, or have direct visual observation.
- All suspicious activity and/or loss/theft must be reported ***immediately*** to the station officer.

For questions or clarification, contact the Division of Operations Chief.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

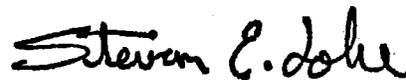
Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 14-11

May 21, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



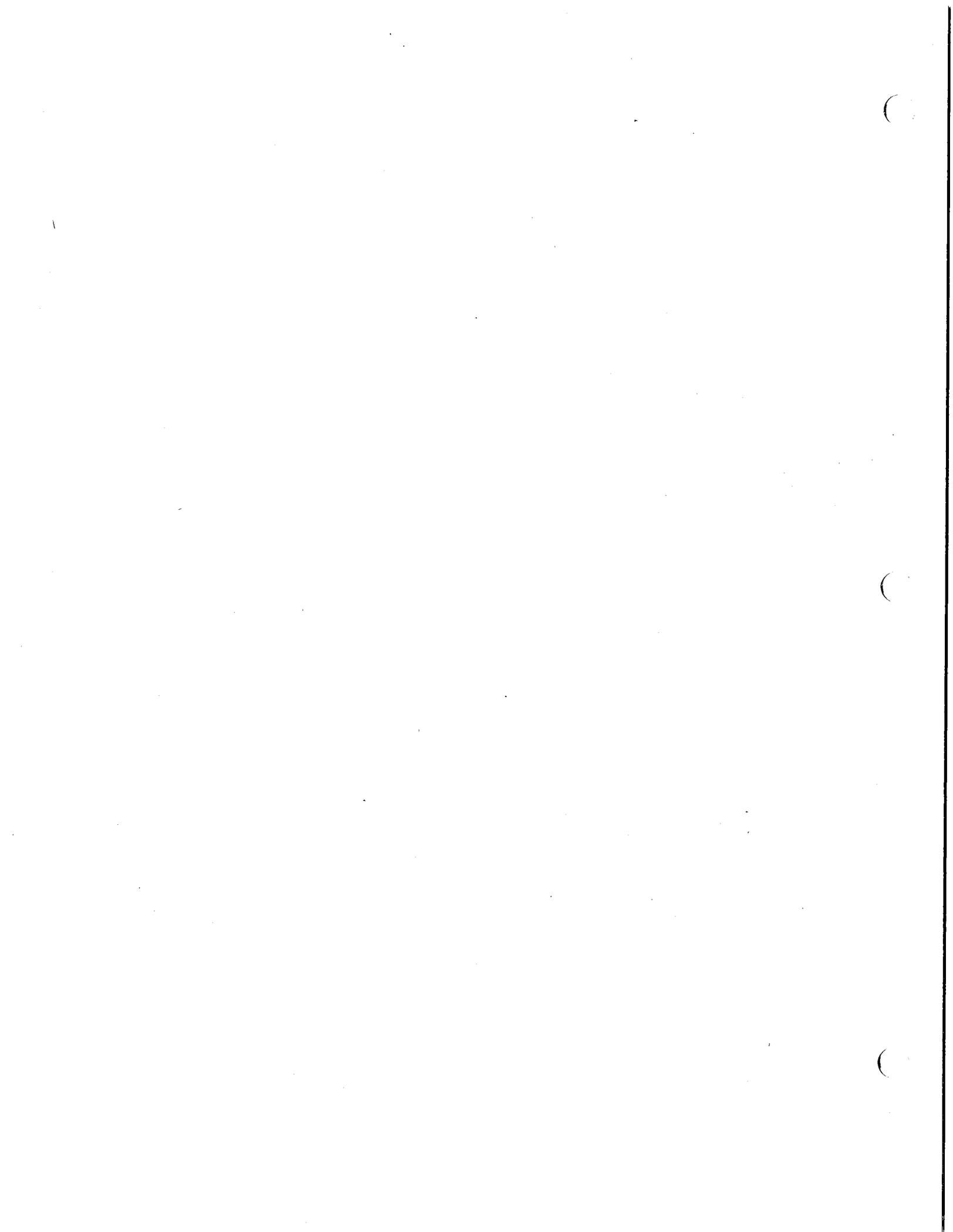
SUBJECT: Respiratory Protection / Cancer Prevention

MCFRS Policy 26-06AMII *Respiratory Protection Policy* requires the use of Respiratory Protection Equipment (RPE) in atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) and in "hazardous and/or toxic atmospheres." A hazardous and toxic atmosphere is defined by Policy 26-06AMII as "... an environment that may present or contain respiratory hazards during MCFRS activities, including, but not limited to, those related to overhaul, hazardous materials, EMS, and fire investigations operations."

In light of the growing scientific information linking cancer to firefighting, and in an effort to promote the health and wellness of MCFRS personnel, the use (as defined in Policy 26-06AMII) of **appropriate RPE during the entirety of overhaul operations is now mandatory**. Personnel **must** use RPE until the atmosphere is free from all fire by-products – even in the *absence* of an IDLH atmosphere.

Fighting fires is dangerous in more than one way. Medical studies have demonstrated statistically higher rates of cancer occurring in firefighters as compared to the general public. Moreover, in the past 5 years, FROMS has identified 37 life-threatening illnesses among MCFRS personnel during their annual physicals, twelve of which were cancer. Those cancer diagnoses do not include cancer diagnosed by *outside* medical providers, adding to the total number of MCFRS personnel who have had a cancer diagnosis.

By making the use of appropriate RPE during the entirety of overhaul operations **mandatory**, MCFRS strives to reduce the incidence of cancer among all MCFRS personnel.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 14-22
October 29, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr *Steven E. Lohr*

SUBJECT: GammaRae II R Personal Radiation Detection Device (PRD)

MCFRS has purchased and is deploying the GammaRae II R Personal Radiation Detection Device (PRD). These radiation detectors should substantially enhance personnel safety in the event of a radiation release.

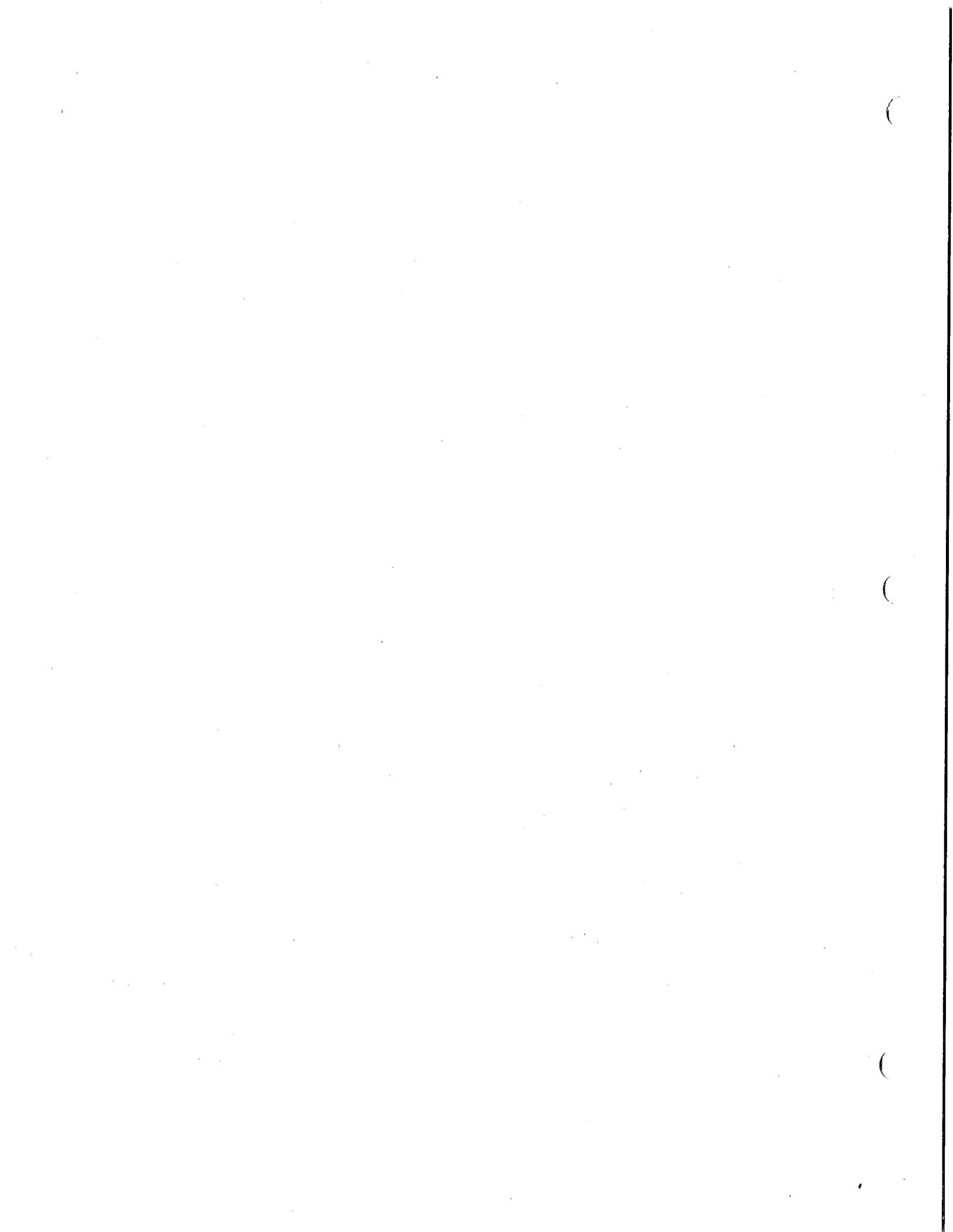
The **PRD Device** will be placed on all front line Engines, Aerials and Rescue Squads. It will be placed in the area of the unit officer, secured in a manner that allows the officer to hear the audible alarm and see the visual alarm while seated in the apparatus.

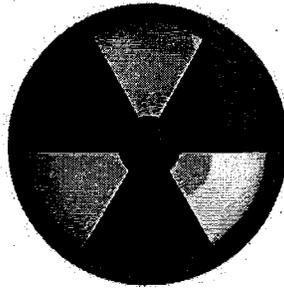
In the event that the detector alarms, the personnel should move to a position of safety and request hazmat to evaluate the source of the radiation.

The GammaRae II R Device uses two AA batteries which will last approximately one month. These batteries should be replaced when the unit calibrates their four gas meter. The batteries should be acquired through the station supply process. Batteries will NOT be supplied by the Meter repair shop.

Personnel should review the on-line training for this monitor at Detector Training. This training is supported by MCFRS IT Tech Training.

For further information contact Special Operations Section, the on-duty Hazmat Officer or email Fire.METERShop@montgomerycountymd.gov.





Montgomery County Fire & Rescue



GammaRae II R PowerPoint Presentation

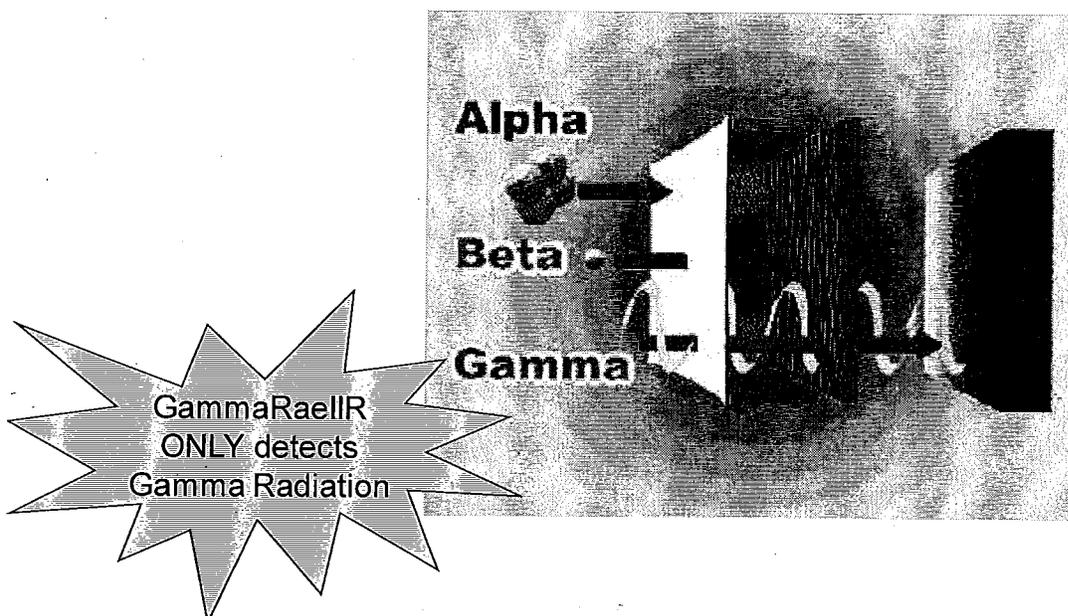
Topics

- Radiation – brief description of radiation
- Radiation Safety
- Using the GammaRae II R – functionality of the meter
- Daily Checks

Radiation

- Three main types of radiation – Alpha, Beta, Gamma
- Alpha and Beta radiation are particles that travel short distances.
 - Your turnout gear is sufficient protection.
- **Gamma Rays – Energy waves that penetrate most objects.**
 - Your turnout gear is not sufficient protection.
 - Gamma Rays can only be stopped by thick materials such as lead or concrete.

Radiation



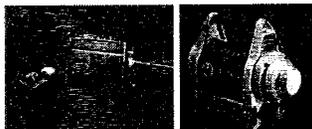
Why give you a radiation meter?

- Gamma Rays are easily detected
- Gamma Rays cannot be stopped by your turnout gear
- Early detection of a WMD incident (weapons of mass destruction)
- Early warning device against the many radiation sources located throughout the county

Possible sources



Irradiators



Radiography cameras



Moisture Density Gauges



Bomb making materials



Range of different sources



For more information click [here](#)

Radiation Safety

- “Natural Background”
 - When the Gamma Rae II R is turned ON it will automatically start to display radiation readings
 - These readings are called – “Natural Background”
 - In the DC area “Natural Background” readings on the Gamma Rae II R range from 5 – 20 radiation units

Radiation Safety

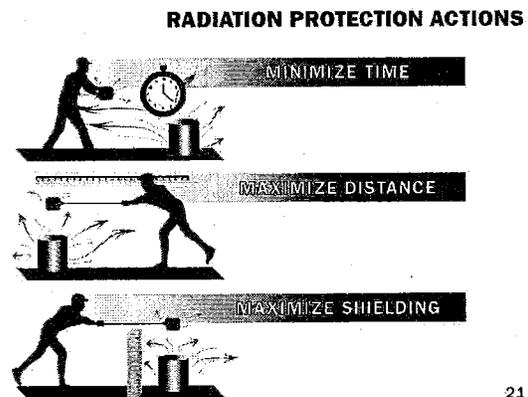
- The GammaRaeII R is a Personal Radiation Detection Device (PRD)
- The meter is designed to alert you of the presence of radiation
- Therefore, radiation units and alarm points of the meter will not be discussed in this presentation
- If the meter goes into alarm **THERE IS** radiation present and a consult with the on duty Hazmat Leader is required

Radiation Safety

- The intent of the Gamma RaellR is to be an early radiation detection device
- **AT NO POINT** are you authorized to enter a known radiation field with this meter
- Again, if the meter goes into alarm, you need to consult with the Hazmat team
- Start to consider the following actions: Evacuate, Isolate and Deny Entry

Protective Actions

- **ALARA** – As Low As Reasonably Achievable
- In all suspected radiation incidents, the principles of ALARA should be used to limit responders' exposure to radiation
- The basic principles are:
 - Maximize **distance**
 - Minimize exposure **time**
 - Maximize **shielding**



Using the GammaRAE II R



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Topics

- GammaRAE II R
- Features
- Getting Started
 - Replacing the batteries
 - Turn the unit on/off
- Operation Screens



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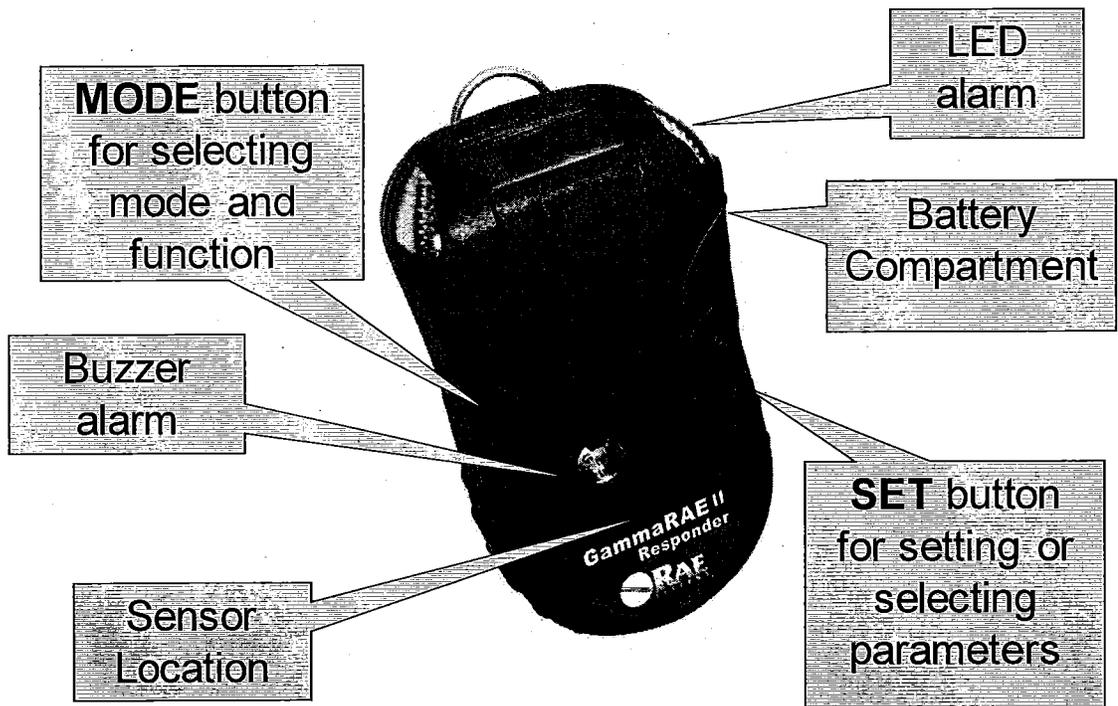
GammaRae II R - Specs

- Passes drop test from 59" (1.5m)
- Non-slip rubber housing with grippable ridges securely fits into hand or glove
- Immersible, IP67-rated case
- Certified intrinsically safe
- Temperature range of -4°F to 122°F (-20°C to 50°C)
- 500 hours on alkaline batteries
- Rugged metal belt clip, wrist strap



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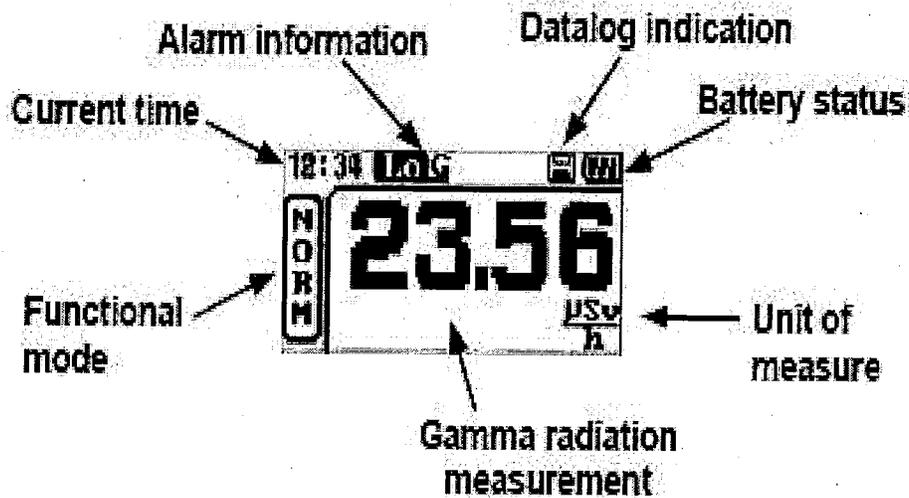
Physical Description



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Display

LCD display



- Disk icon  in upper-right corner of the display flashes when datalog is recording
- Datalog is wrap-around. When the memory is full:
 - Oldest data is recorded over
 - Disk icon becomes solid



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Topics

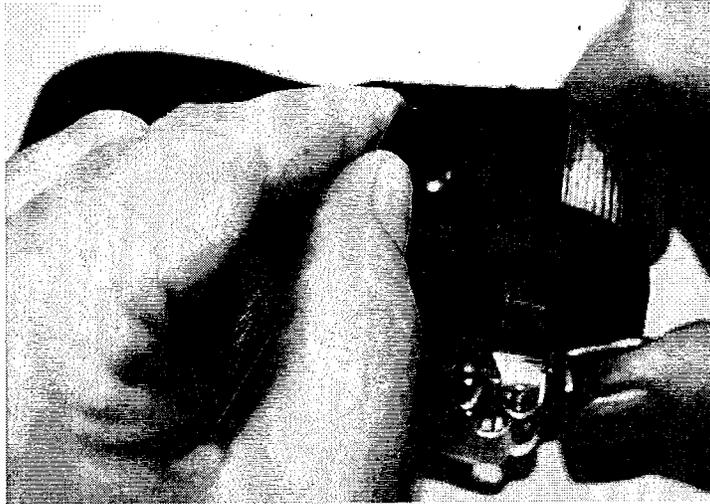
- GammaRAE II R Features
- Getting Started
 - Replacing the batteries
 - Turn the unit on/off
- Operation Screens



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Replacing the Batteries

- Compartment opens with the included hex tool.
- Use only alkaline batteries (Duracell MN1500 or Energizer 91). Carbon batteries may leak, causing damage.



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Replacing the Batteries

- Insert new batteries according to diagram on back of the GammaRAE II R
- Replace cover and turn screw clockwise to tighten cover
- Datalog and settings are stored in nonvolatile memory and are NOT lost when the batteries die or are removed



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- GammaRAE II R Features
- Getting Started
 - Replacing the batteries
 - Turn the unit on/off
- Operation Screens



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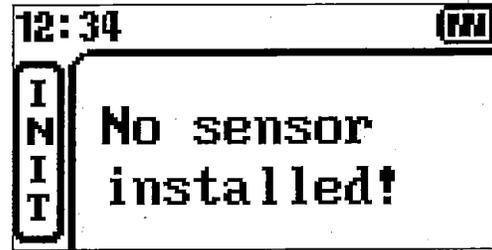
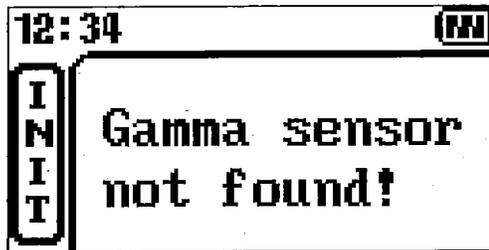
Turning On the GIIR

- Press and hold the MODE button for 3 seconds
- Buzzer sounds (if buzzer alert is set to ON)
- LCD displays firmware version
- LEDs and vibrator self-test (if set to ON)
- Instrument performs a self-check
 - Time and battery status display
- Current settings display



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Start-Up Warnings

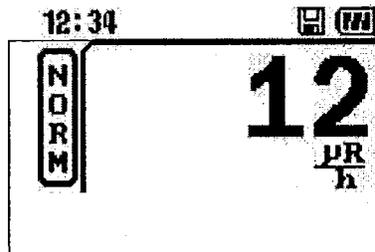


Important! If your GammaRAE II R displays “Gamma sensor not found” or “No sensor installed!” contact SCBA Shop



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NORMAL Display



- After warm up, the **NORMAL** Operating screen displays
- As the dose rate increases, the units will auto range, displaying different units of R/h, or cps.
- Note: NORM does not mean “Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material”; It indicates that the unit is on the Normal Operating screen.



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Turning GammaRAE II R Off

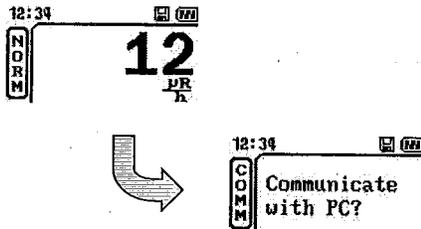
- Press and hold the MODE button for 5 seconds
- The detector counts down 5 seconds on the screen, flashes the orange LEDs (if set to ON), and beeps (if set to ON), and then shuts off
- Do not release the MODE button until the unit has counted down to zero or the unit will return to the Normal Operating screen.



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Operation Screens

NORM	Normal Operation screen
COMM	Initiate Bluetooth® connection with computer

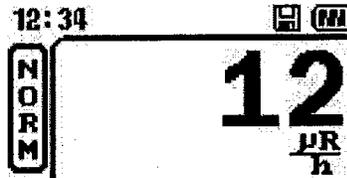


- Each screen remains active for 60 seconds before automatically returning to Normal Operating Mode.
- Press the **MODE** button to go to the next screen in the sequence.



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Normal Operating Screen (NORM)

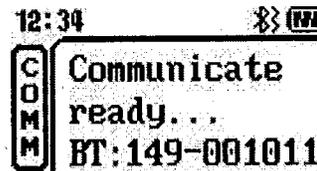
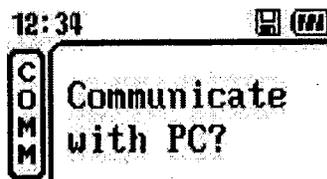


- Displays a measurement of the ambient radiation
- Display dose rate in divisions of R/h or radiation field measurement in cps (counts-per-second)
- Switch back and forth between dose rate units and cps units by pressing the **SET** button
- Flip the screen 180° by pressing and holding the **SET** button for 3 seconds
- Press the **MODE** button to step to the next function.



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Communicate with Computer (COMM)



- This screen is used by the Meter Shop to gain access to the programming features
- Press the **MODE** button to step to the next function



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Daily Procedure

- Units will be left **ON** at all times and kept attached to the mobile radio
- Check Battery Life (displayed on screen)
 - Use only **Duracell MN1500** or **Energizer 91** batteries
- Batteries will last approximately 30 days



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Calibration

- **No Calibration** required by manufacturer
- At least twice a year the units will be exposed to a check source (1 μ Ci of ¹³⁷Cs) to verify operation by the meter shop



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Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 14-23
October 29, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr *Steven E. Lohr*
SUBJECT: Scott Protégé ZM CO Monitor

The **Scott Protégé Monitor** will be placed on the aid bag of all Ambulances, BLS Engines, Rescue Squads and Trucks. It will be attached to the red bag on all AFRAs and Medic Units. These monitors will be maintained by the SCBA shop similar to all other gas meters.

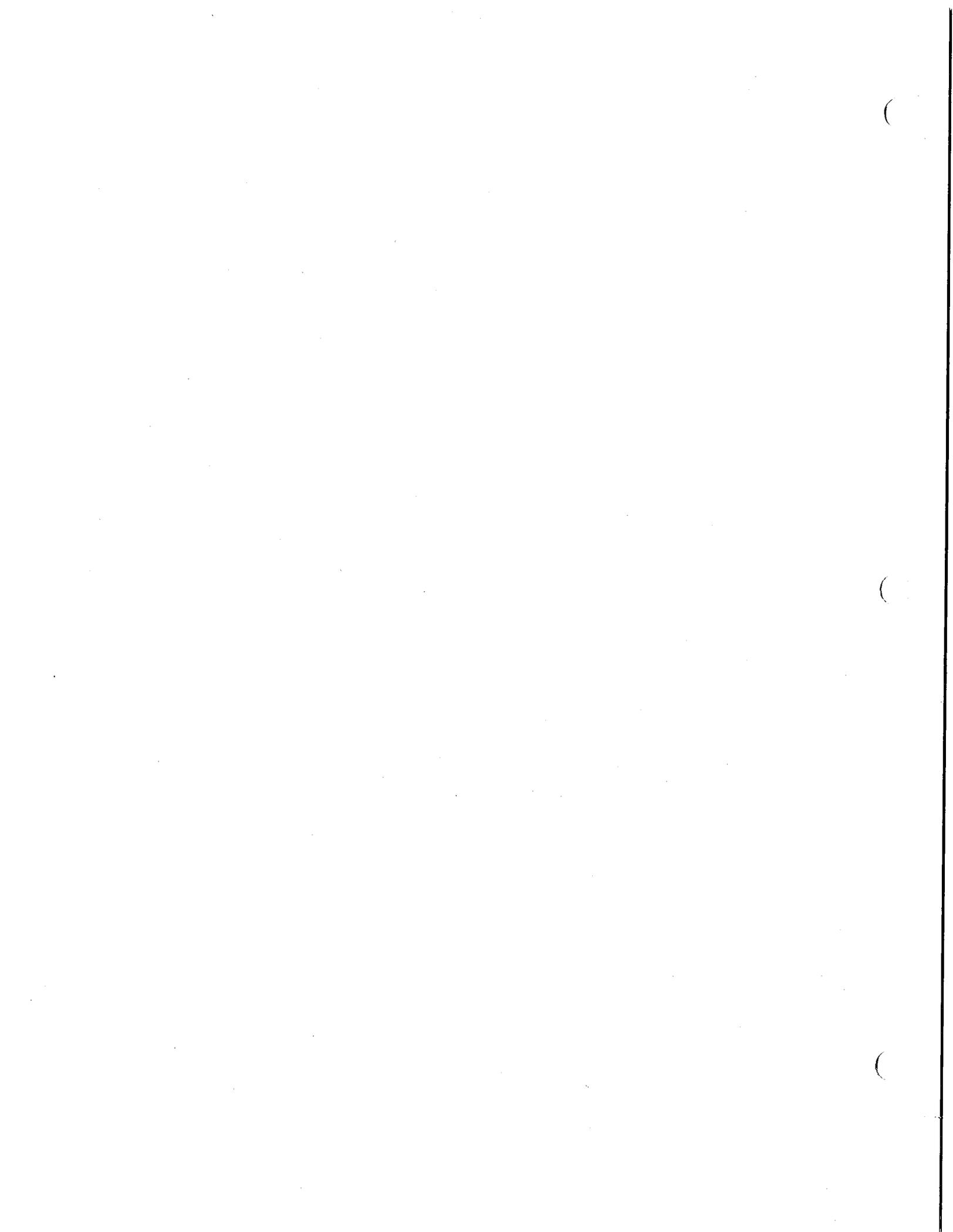
The monitor has the following features:

- The monitor is passive and designed to be in the "on position" at all times. It will operate for two years before needing to have the battery changed (not field serviceable).
- The monitor will display PPM of CO at all times. The normal state would be for it to display "0".
- If the monitor detects a low level of CO (between 35 to 200 ppm), the unit will flash, beep and vibrate slowly, once every second.
- If the monitor detects a high level of CO (over 200 ppm), the unit will flash, beep and vibrate quickly twice a second.

Personnel should review the on-line training at [Detector Training](#). This training is supported by MCFRS IT Tech Training.

A Youtube video of the Green Bay FD experience on single gas CO meters can be found [here](#)

For further information contact AC Maurice Witt or BC Alan Butsch or email Fire.METERShop@montgomerycountymd.gov.





Montgomery County Fire & Rescue



Scott Protégé CO Monitor
PowerPoint Presentation



Topics

- Properties of Carbon Monoxide (CO)?
- Sources of CO
- Health Hazards of CO
- Using the Scott Protégé Monitor –
functionality of the meter
- Daily Checks/Maintenance
- Protégé ZM Field Operations

Properties of Carbon Monoxide (CO)?

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) – is a **flammable**, **poisonous**, colorless, odorless, tasteless gas.
- Virtually undetectable without specialized equipment
- **Flammable gas**
 - Lower explosive limit – 12.5%
 - Upper explosive limit – 74%
- **Poisonous gas**
 - IDLH – 1200 ppm
 - Permissible Exposure Limit – 35 ppm

Properties of Carbon Monoxide (CO)?

- Vapor Density of 0.97
 - Slightly less than air

• CO will  with warm air

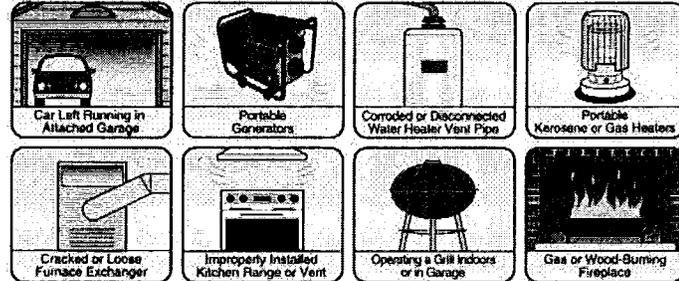
• CO disperses  once it cools

- If CO is present expect to find it **ON ALL LEVELS!**

Sources of Carbon Monoxide (CO)?

- Produced from the incomplete burning of natural gas, and other material containing carbon such as:

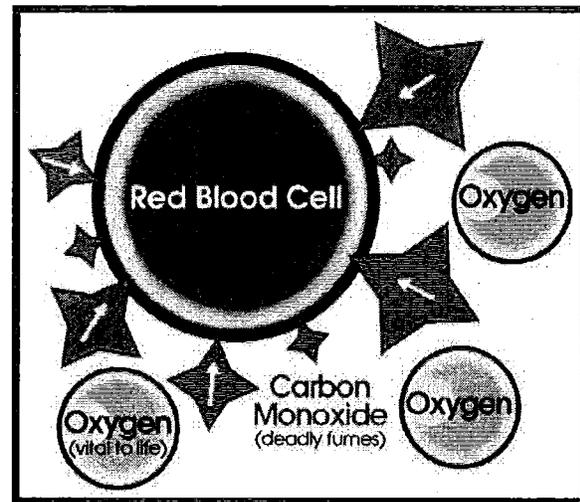
- Gasoline
- Kerosene
- Oil
- Propane
- Coal
- Wood



- Internal combustion engines, forges, blast furnaces, coke ovens also produce CO

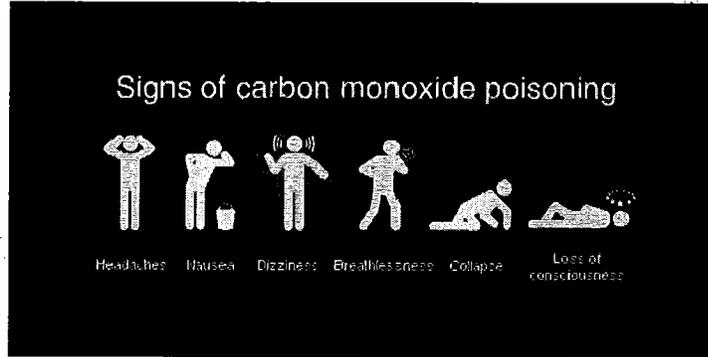
Health Hazards

- CO is harmful when breathed because it displaces oxygen in the blood and deprives the heart, brain, and other vital organs of oxygen.



Symptoms of CO

- Symptoms of CO poisoning include but are not limited to the following:
 - Tightness across the chest
 - Headache
 - Fatigue
 - Dizziness
 - Drowsiness
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting



Symptoms of CO vs. Concentration

Concentration	Symptoms
35 ppm (0.0035%)	Headache and dizziness within six to eight hours of constant exposure
100 ppm (0.01%)	Slight headache in two to three hours
200 ppm (0.02%)	Slight headache within two to three hours; loss of judgment
400 ppm (0.04%)	Frontal headache within one to two hours
800 ppm (0.08%)	Dizziness, nausea, and convulsions within 45 min; insensible within 2 hours
1,600 ppm (0.16%)	Headache, tachycardia, dizziness, and nausea within 20 min; death in less than 2 hours
3,200 ppm (0.32%)	Headache, dizziness and nausea in five to ten minutes. Death within 30 minutes.
6,400 ppm (0.64%)	Headache and dizziness in one to two minutes. Convulsions, respiratory arrest, and death in less than 20 minutes.
12,800 ppm (1.28%)	Unconsciousness after 2-3 breaths. Death in less than three minutes.

Protégé ZM

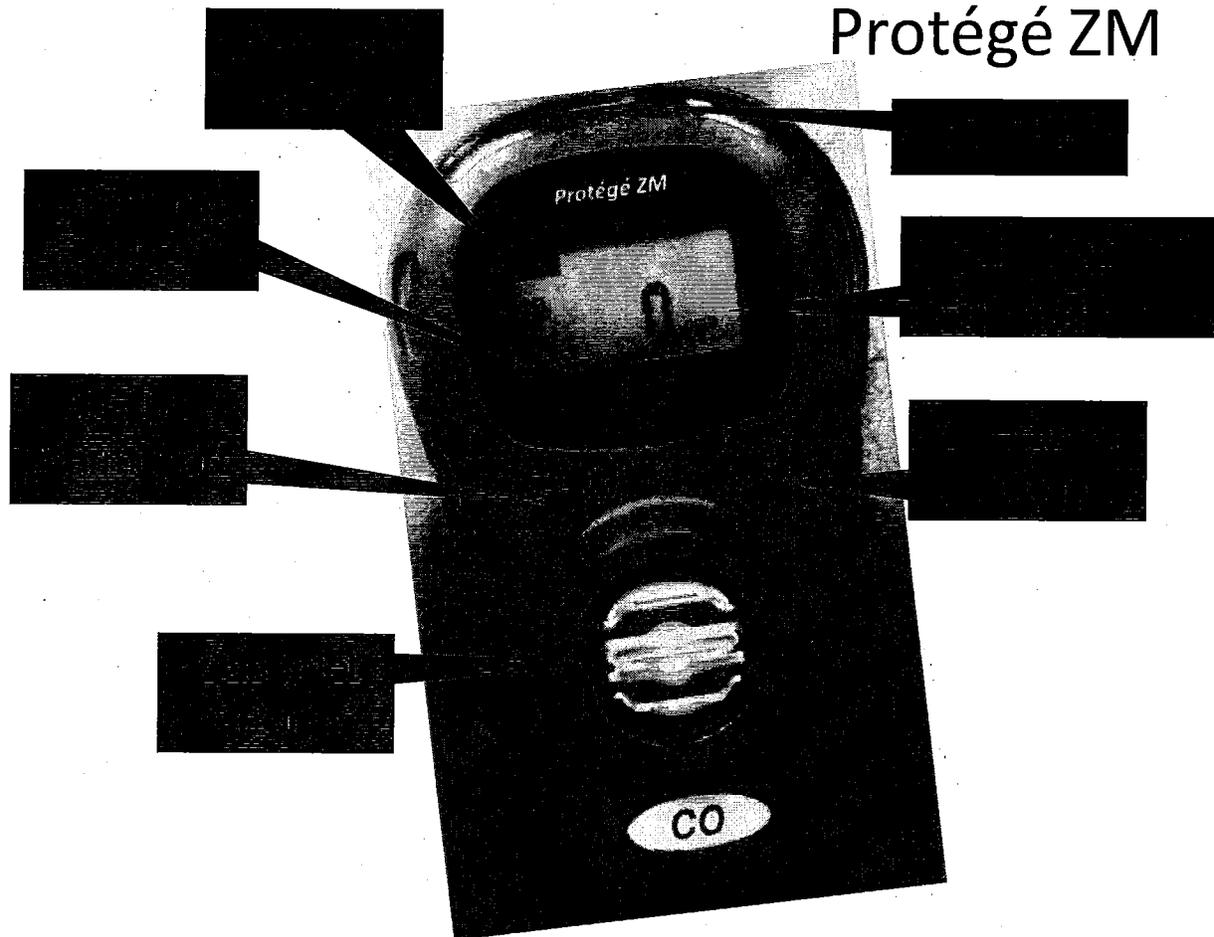


- The Scott Protégé ZM is a single gas monitor
 - Detects only Carbon Monoxide (CO)
 - Designed to operate continuously for Two Years
- “ZM” stands for zero maintenance
 - Battery, sensor, filter are not replaceable
 - Disposable

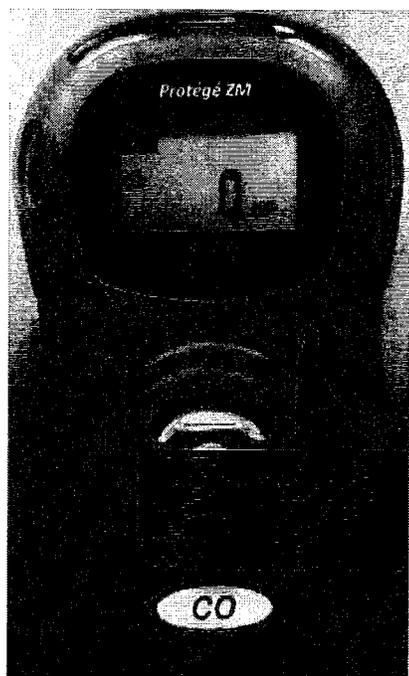
Protégé ZM

- Specifications
 - Battery Life – 2 years of continuous use
 - Alarms – Visual, Vibrating, Audible
 - Data Log – up to 25 events
 - Housing – Impact Absorbant Housing
 - CO Sensor – Low Alarm **35 ppm**, High Alarm 200 ppm with operating range 1-300 ppm
 - Operating Temperature Range – from 14° - 122° F
 - Intrinsically Safe

Protégé ZM



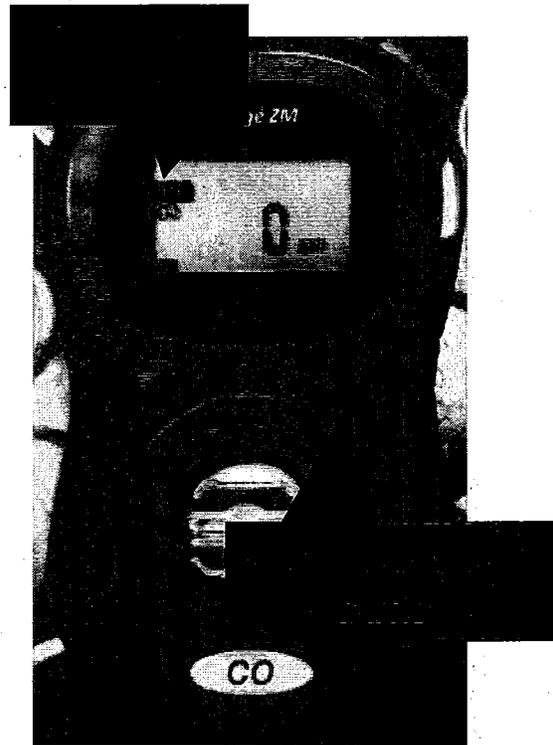
Protégé ZM



- The Protégé ZM cannot be turned OFF
- There is no ON/OFF button
- Pushing the Operation Button during normal use will result in a short beep and the unit will display three (3) screens.
 - Low Alarm
 - High Alarm
 - Unit Assignment

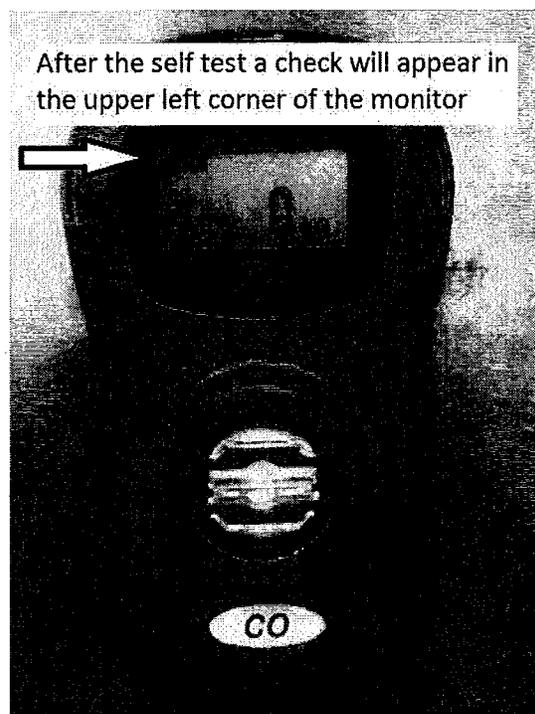
Protégé ZM – Daily Check

- Prior to daily use, the monitor prompts to perform a self-test.
- When the TEST icon appears in the upper left-hand corner a self-test is required
- To perform a self-test push the operation button.
- During the self-test, the audio, visual, and vibration alarms are activated and the sensor is tested.
- This should be done at the beginning of the shift during AM checkouts



Protégé ZM – Daily Check

- After the self-test a check will appear on the monitor
- If a self-check is not performed during morning checkout, the monitor will still operate
- If the self-test fails, the monitor emits five (5) short beeps and flashes before displaying TEST
- If the self-test fails three (3) consecutive times the monitor enters Fail Safe mode
- Contact SCBA shop for a replacement



Protégé ZM - Maintenance

- Battery is not replaceable and is designed to last two (2) years
- No Bump-Test or Calibration required by field personnel
- The only maintenance required by field personnel is to perform a daily self-test
- The Protégé ZM will be calibrated at twice a year by the MCFRS Meter Shop

Protégé ZM – Field Operations

- The Protégé ZM  is intended to be used as an early warning detection device.
- The meter should **NOT** be used to make entry into a known hazardous atmosphere
- If the meter alarms, evacuate the area and use MCFRS standard issued Four-gas monitor (ITX) to mitigate the incident.

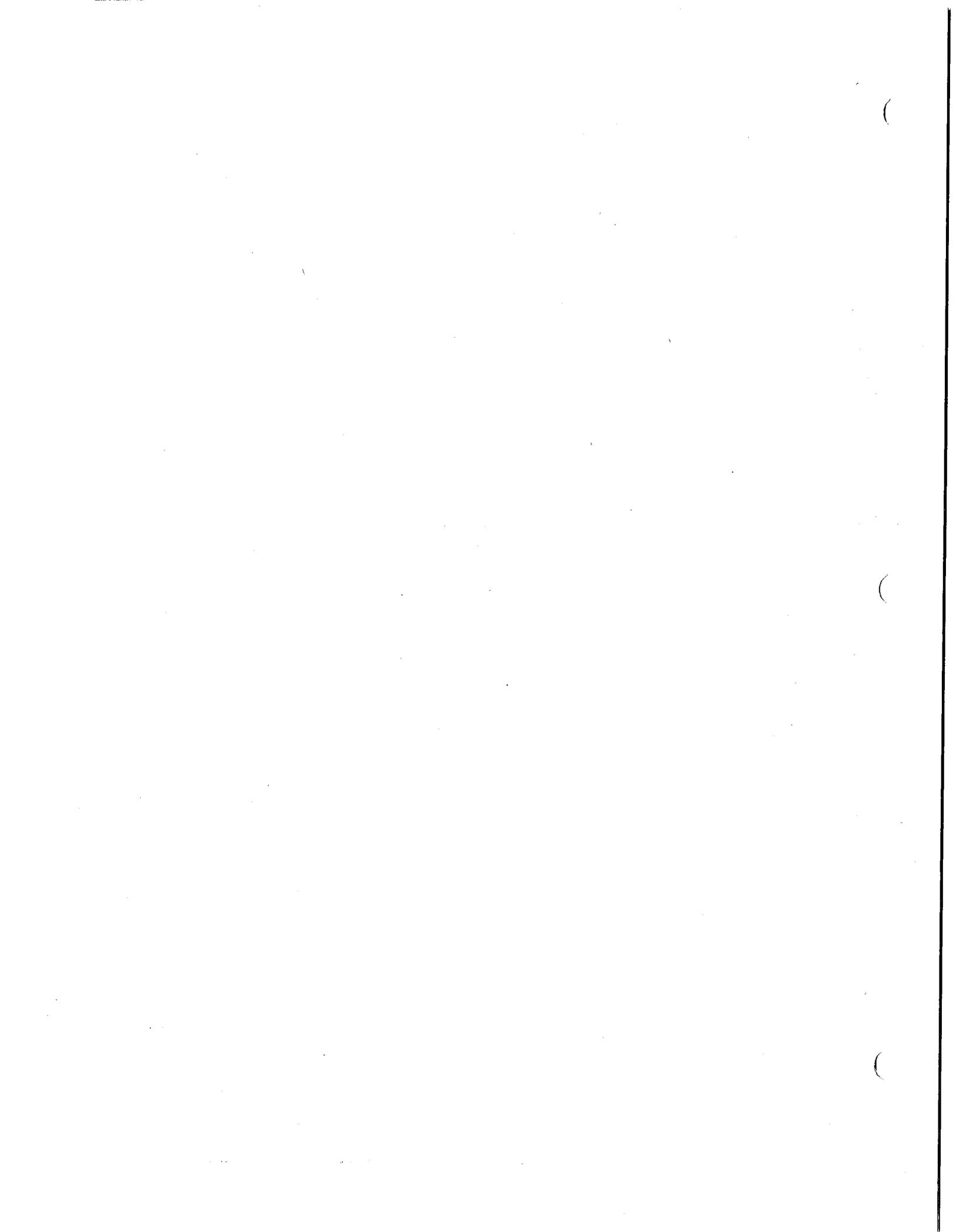


Protégé ZM – Field Operations

- The Protégé ZM  Carbon Monoxide monitor will give you real time CO readings and will alarm at **35 ppm**
- If the meter goes into alarm, follow MCFRS Policy and Procedure #25-08
- Click [here](#) to review the policy.

QUESTIONS????

- LT Brian Kane 31B
 - Email – brian.m.kane@montgomerycountymd.gov



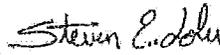
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 14-24
November 24, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



SUBJECT: EMS Credentials

The Order supersedes FCGO 07-30.

Affiliation: To comply with the Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) Title 30, all Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service personnel must designate Montgomery County as their primary or secondary affiliation with the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS).

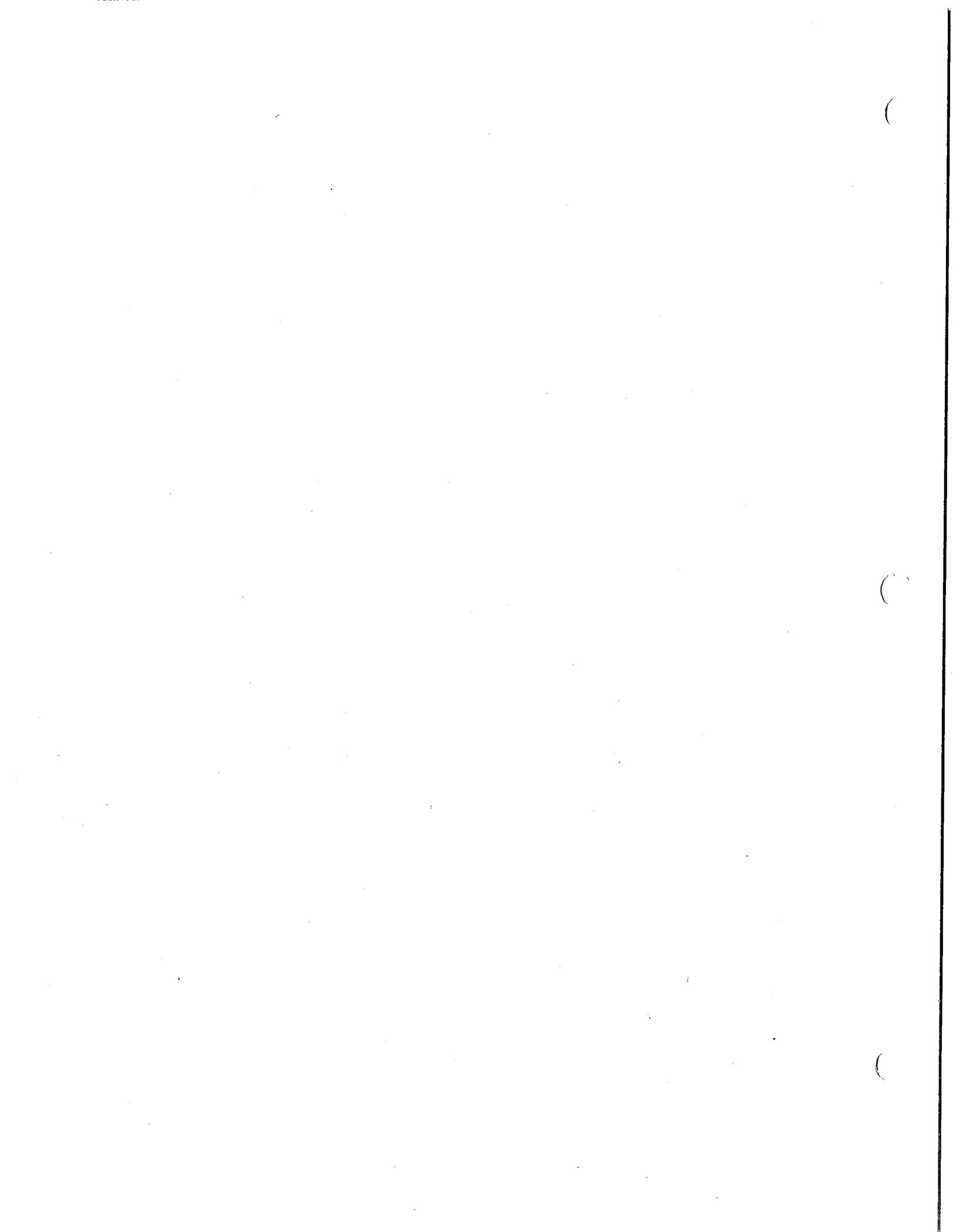
MCFRS personnel can download the affiliation change form at the MIEMSS website. You must complete the form and forward it to Captain Lee Silverman at the Public Safety Training Academy.

Extensions: Personnel requesting an extension for their EMS credentials, BLS or ALS, from MIEMSS **must also** immediately notify the EMS Assistant Chief via their chain-of-command. Further, those personnel **must forward** the MIEMSS response to their request to the EMS Assistant Chief via their chain-of-command. Once new credentials are issued from MIEMSS, the provider **must immediately forward** a copy to the EMS Assistant Chief via their chain-of-command.

ALS Surrender: Personnel surrendering their ALS licensure (for an EMT card) **must notify** the EMS Assistant Chief via their chain of command at the time they submit the surrender form to MIEMSS. Once the form is submitted, the provider cannot practice ALS in Montgomery County. If the provider surrenders their Montgomery County ALS credentials (maintaining ALS certification elsewhere), the EMS Assistant Chief **must also be notified** via the chain of command.

Questions should be referred to the EMS Assistant Chief.

Issued:	Revised:	Rescinded:
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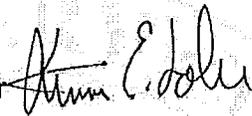


Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 13-08

December 3, 2013

TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr 
SUBJECT: MCFRS Special Events, Planning, and Personnel Performing at Private EMS Functions

This document rescinds Fire Chief's General Order No. 09-13, *Special Events Assessment and Planning*, dated July 7th 2009.

Planning and Assessment

MCFRS resources frequently participate in special events involving the community at the request of event organizers. A "special event" may be, but is not limited to, a parade, walk, run, bike ride, procession (excluding funeral processions), sports activity, religious event or festival activities requiring interagency coordination for the temporary use of public or private space that may require changing, restricting, or adapting the normal level of MCFRS operational field delivery.

Direct all requests for MCFRS personnel or units for a special event to the Special Operations Section. MCFRS personnel must email pertinent information to MCFRSSpecialEvents@montgomerycountymd.gov or go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/firtmpl.asp?url=/content/firerescue/specialty.asp

After written inquiries are reviewed and assessed, the resource allocation and unit selection will be determined in coordination with the appropriate LFRD Chief(s) and the MCFRS Duty Chief. The event will then be considered sanctioned and placed on the apparatus movement calendar.

Private EMS Functions/Not-sanctioned by MCFRS

The scope of practice and affiliation for MCFRS EMS providers is limited to MCFRS response activities and events.

Fire Chief's General Order No. 13-08
Page 2

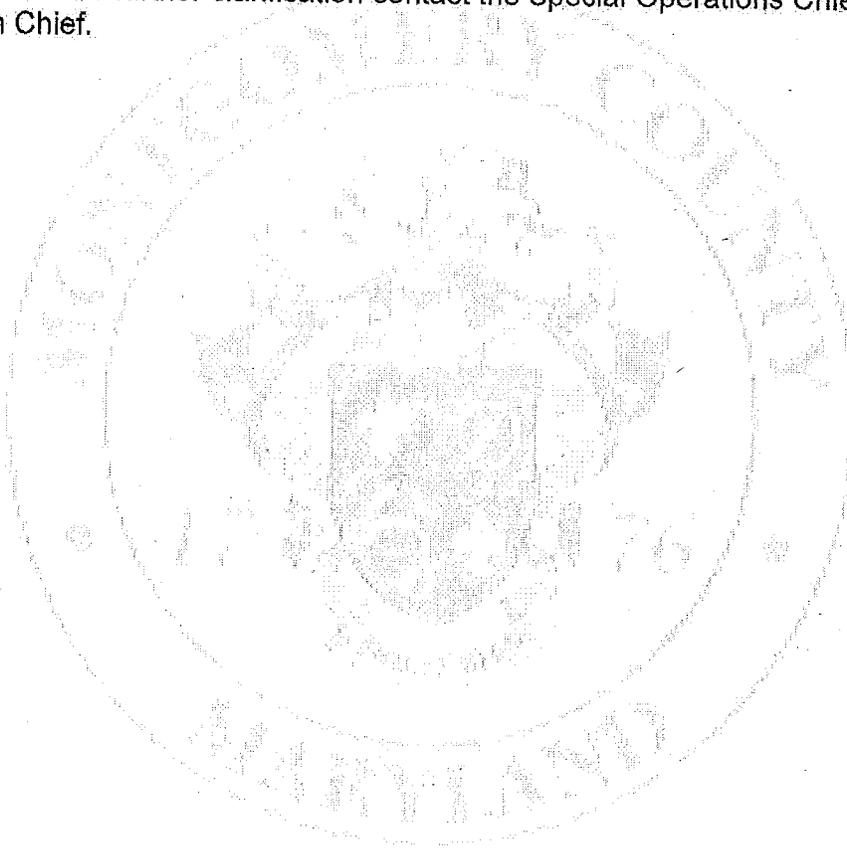
Personnel at non-sanctioned events are:

- Operating outside the umbrella of the MCFRS EMS Operational Program
- Are not covered by the MCFRS Medical Director and;
- Are not covered by MCFRS insurance programs.

MCFRS personnel functioning at non-sanctioned events must:

- Obtain equipment, insurance and medical direction from the event organizers (employing entity).
- Not utilize MCFRS uniforms, titles, or equipment

For questions or further clarification contact the Special Operations Chief or Battalion Chief.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

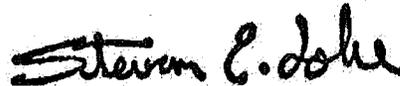
FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 13-12

November 6, 2013

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr

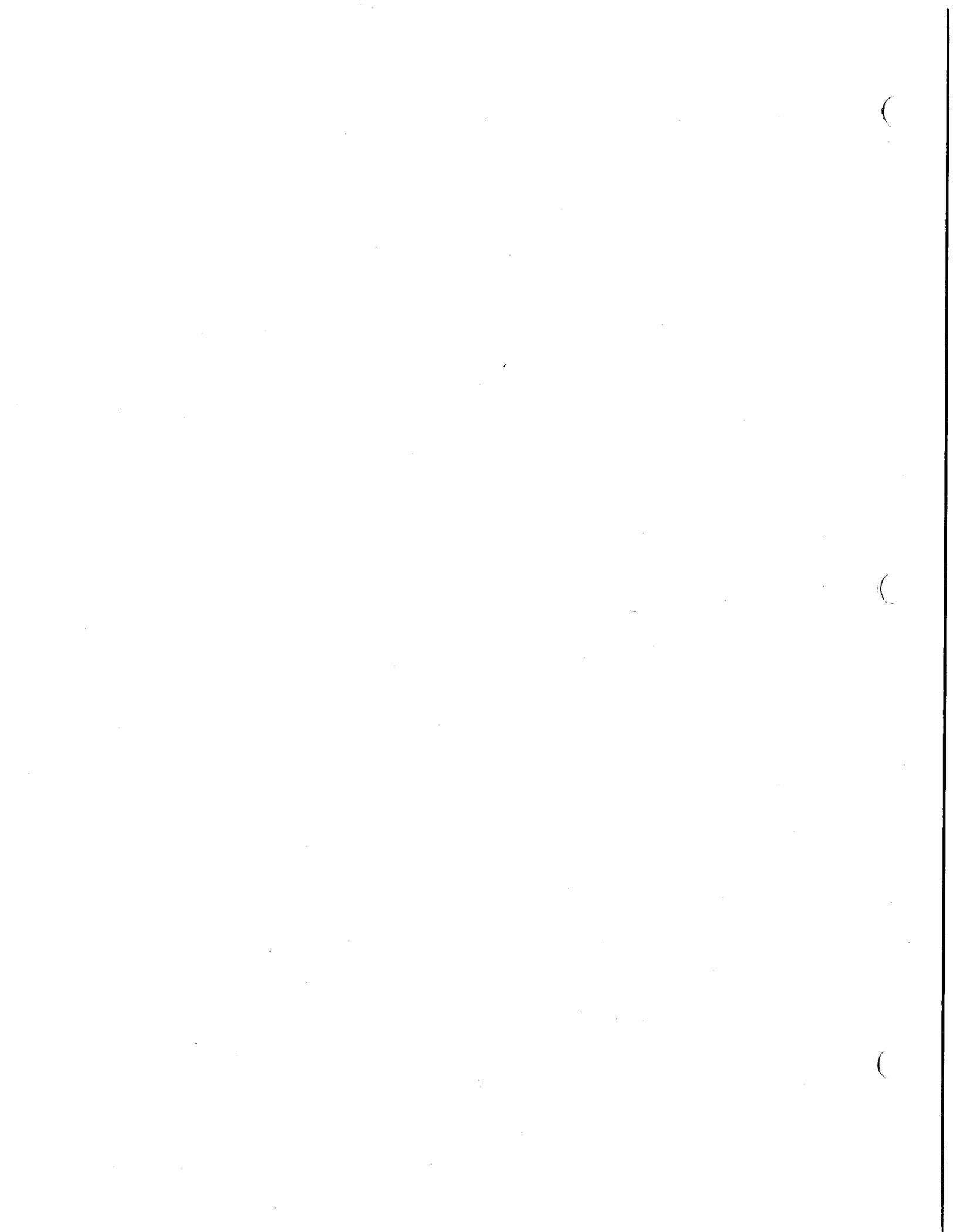


SUBJECT: Accountability of Events While Transferred to Out-of-County Fire Stations

Effective immediately, the procedure for tracking events identified below, will be used when MCFRS units are transferred to Out-of-County (OOC) fire stations.

1. When an MCFRS unit is transferred to an OOC Fire Station, or is available on radio (AOR) in an OOC jurisdiction which later dispatches the unit to an event in that jurisdiction, the MCFRS unit officer must collect the following information from the OOC's Communications Center:
 - The OOC Event Number;
 - Address;
 - Event Type; and
 - Time of Dispatch, and Time of Clear
2. When the unit returns to Montgomery County, the unit officer must contact MCFRS' ECC and request that a "Catch-Up" event be created in the CAD system for *each* OOC response.
3. ECC will use the event "MA/TXE" command to capture event details and to document the unit's response. The OOC jurisdiction's event number and event type will be recorded in the *remarks* section of the MA/TXE event.
4. The unit officer will then log the appropriate event information into the station logbook, with its Montgomery County event number, and will also complete all MCFRS event reporting documents, including FireAPP and EPCR reports.

Please direct any questions through the chain-of-command to the ECC Operations Battalion Chief at 240-773-7102.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

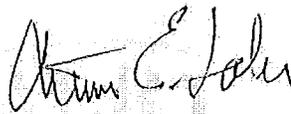
FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

No. 13-14

December 16, 2013

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

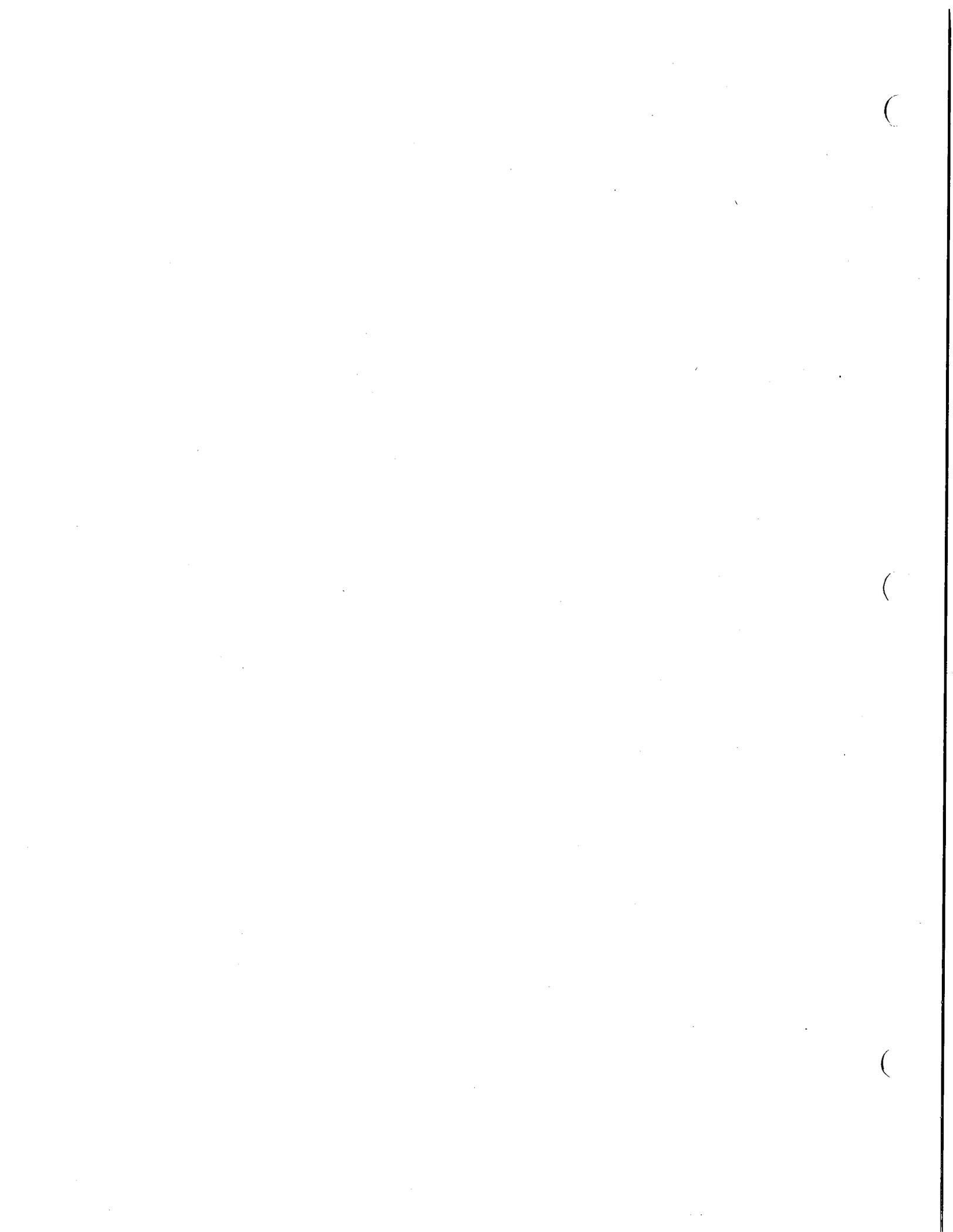
FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



SUBJECT: EMS Transport Destinations for Victims of Sexual Assault

MCFRS EMS providers are frequently asked by the police to transport patients who are the victim of sexual assault to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital (SGAH). Compared to other Montgomery County hospitals, SGAH does have enhanced capabilities for the forensic examination of sexual assault victims. Common sense and compassion also suggest that these patients would benefit from being treated by only one set of hospital staff, and should not be subjected to an inter-facility transport.

Therefore, if a patient who is the victim of a sexual assault is stable, and does not need referral to a specialty center due to other injuries or conditions (trauma, burns etc.), it is acceptable to bypass the closest Emergency Department to transport the patient to SGAH. If this patient is not stable, he or she must be transported to the closest appropriate receiving facility, in accordance with Maryland Medical Protocols.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

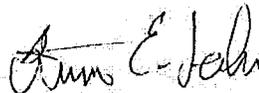
FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 13-15

December 16, 2013

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



SUBJECT: EMS Transport Guidelines for Pregnant Patients to Suburban Hospital

Unlike most hospitals, Suburban Hospital does *not* have a Labor and Delivery Department, and therefore has limited capabilities for the evaluation and treatment of a pregnant patient. A pregnant patient transported to Suburban would most likely need to be transferred to another facility for further evaluation and possible admission. MCFRS recognizes that, while Maryland State EMS protocols are silent on this subject, common sense dictates that most pregnant patients should be taken to another facility that has OB/GYN capabilities. To assist MCFRS EMS providers in making the best decision on the patient's behalf, MCFRS' leadership and Suburban Hospital's Emergency and Trauma departments have agreed to the guidelines below.

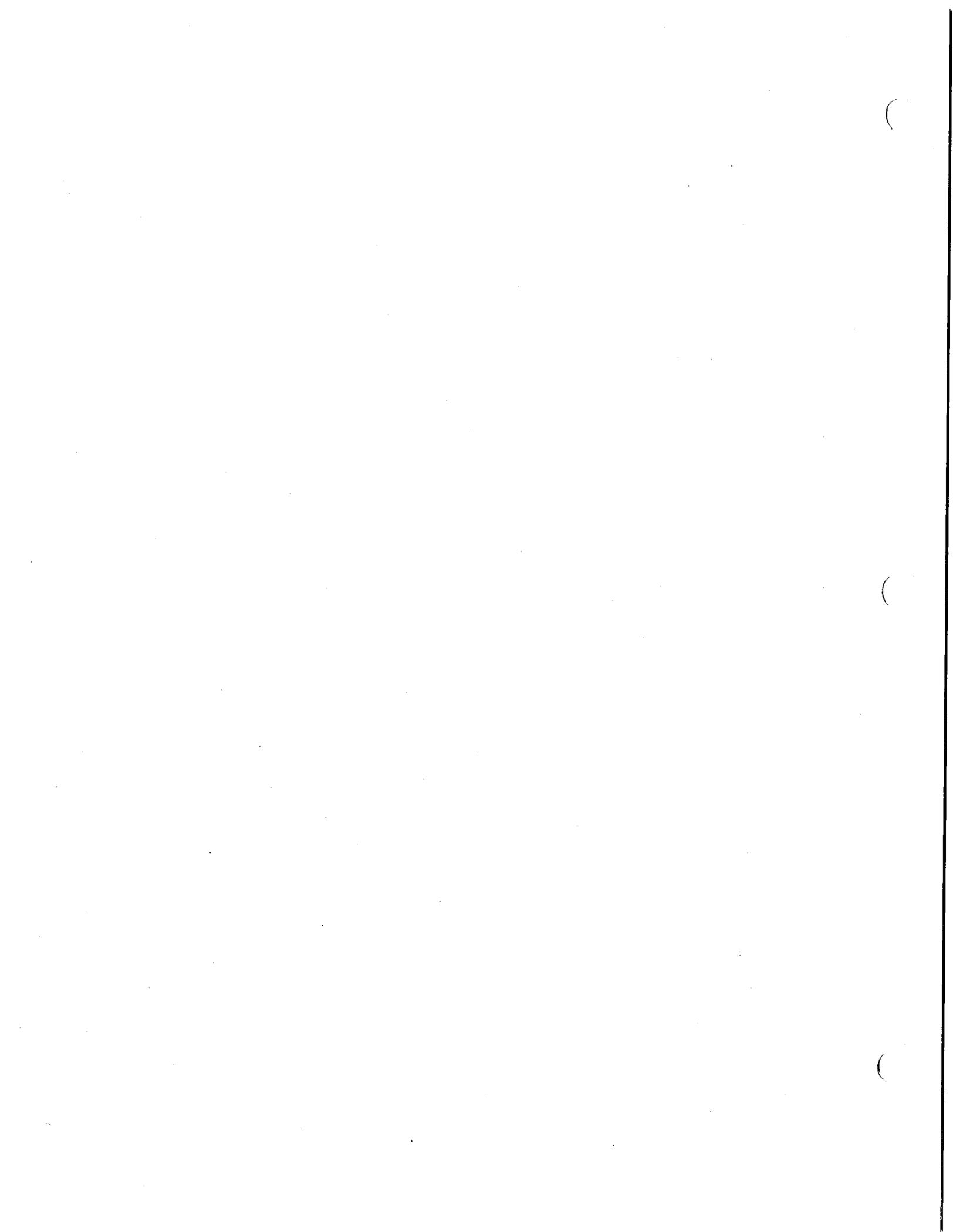
MCFRS EMS providers *must transport the following pregnant patients to Suburban Hospital:*

1. Any unstable *Priority 1 medical patient* for whom *Suburban* is the *closest hospital*; or
2. Any unstable *Priority 1 trauma patient* for whom *Suburban* is the *closest Trauma Center*.

CONVERSELY,

MCFRS EMS providers *must NOT transport a STABLE Priority 2 or Priority 3 pregnant patient to Suburban Hospital. Instead, transport:*

1. A *stable Priority 2 or Priority 3 pregnant patient to the next closest appropriate hospital, or, if within reasonable distance, to the hospital of the patient's choice; and*
2. A *stable Priority 2 or Priority 3 pregnant trauma patient to the next closest appropriate Trauma Center*. All other area Trauma centers have OB/GYN capabilities.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 12-01

February 21, 2012

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Richard R. Bowers



SUBJECT: Winter Driving and the Use of Vehicle Snow Chains

This General Order provides guidance on winter driving and the use of snow chains during various types of inclement weather. The use of snow chains and the criteria for when to apply snow chains will vary throughout the County because of disparate local weather conditions at any given time. Improperly applied snow chains have caused significant damage to apparatus and can delay unit response. Risks to personnel and the apparatus should be calculated before attempting to access areas that have not been cleared of snow.

All personnel must monitor the condition of the roadways in their response area for changes throughout their shift, and report these changes to the on-duty station officer. Station officers must ensure this monitoring occurs periodically throughout the night. Methods of monitoring include traffic cameras, local television, visual checks of the station's parking lot and roads immediately surrounding the station, as well as responding to and returning from incidents. This is not to imply that units should leave the station to check the roads. All personnel must remember that changes in road conditions may require the application and removal of chains more than once during a shift. The on-duty station officer has the authority to order the application of snow chains. When the station officer determines that chains are needed, he or she will immediately notify the on-duty Battalion Chief and the LFRD Duty Officer. Battalion-wide or County-wide snow chain use will be ordered by the Duty Operations Chief and communicated through the on-duty Battalion Chiefs.

MCFRS apparatus uses two types of chains: **permanently mounted or "automatic" chains**, and **removable crosslink chains**.

Automatic Chains

Automatic chains are short lengths of snow chain attached to a small drive wheel, that when activated, contact the inside tire of the rear duals. Centrifugal force throws the lengths of chain under the tire. When they are needed, the chains are controlled, i.e., raised or lowered, by the driver. For effective operation, these chains should be engaged while the unit is moving 3-25 MPH. These chains work best when the apparatus can maintain slow but steady speeds, such as in shallow snow, or on intermittently clear/covered roadways.

Automatic chains *do not* work well in accumulations over six inches of snow or when driving conditions do not permit apparatus speed to exceed approximately 5 MPH.

Original equipment manufacturer guidelines must be followed for specific types of automatic chains specifically related to driving speeds. Drivers **must raise** these chains whenever their use is not absolutely necessary, because driving at higher speeds for prolonged periods will destroy the drive wheel assembly first, and will then cause damage that may lead to catastrophic tire failure.

Station commanders must ensure that automatic chains for units assigned to their station and so equipped, are operational.

Removable Crosslink Chains

Removable crosslink chains are applied manually to the outside tire of the rear duals. The chains must be well distributed around the tire and fit snugly, using bungee-style tensioners. These chains perform better than automatic chains in deep or heavily rutted snow and ice because they do not rely on centrifugal force to place them under the tire. Removable crosslink chains can be used at the same time as automatic chains because they affect different tires. Using both types at the same time increases the likelihood that a chain will be under the tread at any given time, and, therefore, increases traction. Removable crosslink chains can cause severe damage if they work loose or break. **Units using these chains should secure all fold-over locking latches with sixteen (16) gauge mechanic's wire and carry this item on the vehicle to secure broken sections if a failure occurs.** If the broken section can not be secured, the entire chain may have to be removed before a unit can continue its response.

Station commanders must ensure that removable crosslink chains are available in the station for the winter season, including:

1. **Correct quantities and sizes for all apparatus, including a set of chains per axle for all tandem axle vehicles.**
2. **Chains and links in proper working order.**
3. **Repair materials available for the application and repair of snow chains.**
4. **Tools readily available for the application and repair of snow chains.**

Automatic Traction Control (ATC) and Differential Locks

Some apparatus is equipped with ATC and/or a differential lock.

All drivers should be aware of guidelines concerning the function and use of automatic traction control and differential locks for apparatus for which they are responsible. These guidelines may be found in the vehicle's driver/operator manuals.

Note that newer apparatus is equipped with the ability to manually activate ATC.

Tandem Axle Vehicles

Tandem axle vehicles are not equipped with automatic chains. The combination of weight, ATC, differential locks, and inter-axle locks should allow these vehicles to handle the majority of snow events without removable crosslink chains.

All drivers should be aware of the guidelines concerning the function and use of driver

controlled differential locks and inter-axle locks for tandem axle vehicles. These guidelines may be found in the vehicle's driver/operator manuals.

All-Wheel Steer (AWS) aerials are not equipped with automatic chains and Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. prohibits the use of removable crosslink chains.

Guidelines for Using Snow Chains

1. **When using ANY type of snow chain, frequently reassess the need for their use and inspect the chains after returning to the station. Tighten, repair, and/or replace as required.**
2. Do not exceed 25 MPH using ANY type of snow chain or when the inter-axle lock is engaged.
3. **Less than 6 inches of snow on the ground, or predicted.** Use automatic chains. **Raise the chains on cleared pavement** or when they are not needed for traction. Monitor weather forecast for changes that might produce more than six inches of snow and be ready to apply removable crosslink chains if conditions worsen.
4. **Six inches of snow on the ground with expected continued accumulation.** Apply and use removable crosslink chains and **raise** the automatic chains. Use permanently mounted or automatic chains only as needed, and raise them as soon as you regain traction. **AWS functions should be disabled under these conditions.**
5. **Blizzard Conditions.** The Operations Division will coordinate with the Fleet Section to call back Fleet Section personnel and provide additional resources or amended response plans. Apply and use removable crosslink chains. ***Do not use the automatic chains unless you are stuck and have a tire that is spinning.*** Raise the automatic chains as soon as you regain traction. **AWS functions should be disabled under these conditions.**
6. **Ice.** Apply and use removable crosslink chains. ***Do not use the automatic chains unless you are stuck and have a tire that is spinning.*** AWS functions should be disabled under these conditions.
7. **Other guidelines when using snow chains.**
 - a. Allow several times your normal stopping distance, and reduce speeds dramatically before entering turns.
 - b. Carry sand, absorbent, or ice melt to improve traction in small work areas, and to help if you get stuck.
 - c. Pay close attention to other vehicles moving near you.
 - d. The front axle is usually lighter per square inch of tire surface, and will be the first to lose traction on ice.
 - e. ***In ALL situations, if a removable crosslink chain breaks, STOP the unit as quickly as possible in a SAFE place.*** Notify ECC that you are out of service until you can repair or drop the chain.
 - f. All units should carry a snow, scoop, or spoon shovel to clear snow

- from under the unit if a repair is necessary.
- g. Occasionally, parking apparatus farther from an incident and proceeding to the scene on foot should be considered. Remember that snow banks may contain ice and debris and often disguise obstructions, e.g. rocks, hydrants, posts, etc.
 - h. If directed by the Operations Division to chain tandem axle vehicles, both rear axles will be chained with removable crosslink chains.
 - i. Remember with tandem axle vehicles, that automatic traction control should only be used if you are stuck. Otherwise it should be turned off during snow conditions. Also, remember to use your inter-axle and differential locks when you are stuck.

8. ***As a general rule, units running with removable crosslink chains should not drive on the Interstate Highways because of their speed restriction.*** Significantly reduced speed on the Interstate Highway will cause one hazard, while driving at higher speeds with the chains applied may cause another. This will impact the patient transport practices of EMS units serving the northern County stations. *Station officers, LFRD Chiefs, and Battalion Chiefs should consider using one type of chained vehicle to access patients and remove them to cleared roads where they can be transferred to an unchained unit for transport. Remember to notify ECC of your intended strategy.*

9. Use this weblink as a reference to snow operations in Montgomery County, Maryland:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hwytempl.asp?url=/content/dot/highway/snowplow.asp>

Please address any questions to Asst. Chief Richard Holzman, 240-777-2485.

- Supersedes Fire Chief's General Order #08-17
- Supersedes section 6.25 of DFRS Policy and Procedure #808, dated June 9, 1994