

# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

## **FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER**

**NUMBER: 07-12**

**Rescinded**

Date May 17, 2007

**TO: All MCFRS Personnel**

**FROM: Fire Chief Thomas W. Carr, Jr.** 

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE OF COMMAND OFFICERS**

The purpose of this Fire Chief's General Order is to establish a standardized response for Command Officers, provide response guidelines, and clarify communication procedures before units arrive on the scene.

### **STRUCTURE FIRE RESPONSE – MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOX ALARM**

- The Command Officer dispatch for full structure fire assignments is four Battalion Chiefs. This dispatch comprises the On-duty Rostered Career Battalion Chiefs, and the Rostered Volunteer Battalion Chiefs.
- *Note: The Rostered Volunteer Battalion Chief may be a LFRD Fire Chief or other Certified Chief Officer. All will have the assigned authority of the IECS Rostered Battalion Chief, EXCEPT that an LFRD Fire Chief will retain that designated authority at all times.*
- The Command Officers from the LFRD assigned to the incident area will also be alerted.
- Response to incidents is at the discretion of each Command Officer. Unless closer than the dispatched Command Officers, proceeding routine and maintaining radio silence should be strongly considered.
- All Command Officers responding in the emergency mode must announce the location from where they are responding.

- Once a formal command post is established and a Command Officer has assumed the role of the Incident Commander, Command *can and should* evaluate whether the Command Officer response to the incident is appropriate. Command Officers who are not required for incident mitigation can and should be placed in service by the Incident Commander. This is especially important if Command Officers are responding to the incident from a long distance.
- The first arriving unit that established the initial command, or the Command Officer who assumes command of a structure fire dispatch, can and should direct all responding units to proceed *routine* to the scene in a *routine* manner, following a thorough size-up of the scene, as appropriate. This direction applies to all responding Command Officers.
- It is the intent of the Operations Division Chief to create an ***Incident Command Team*** method of operation. Full implementation of the IECS Regulation provides for the response of four Battalion Chiefs (two Volunteer, and two Career), the Duty Operations Chief (two), the on-duty Safety Officer, the associated LFRD Command Officers, and frequently the Scheduler.
- The primary role of the second Career Battalion Chief is to serve as the Incident Scene Safety Officer. The IC may transfer this assignment to the on-duty Safety Officer upon their arrival.
- Additional Career Battalion Chiefs should not respond to an incident at this level. Volunteer Command Officers who are not associated with the dispatch must exercise prudent judgment in their response. Frequently, a routine response using radio silence is the more efficient manner of response.

#### RAPID INTERVENTION DISPATCH - AMENDMENT

- Section 4 II-c of the ***SOP for Safe Structural Firefighting Operations*** is amended: the dispatch of an additional command officer on the ***Rapid Intervention Dispatch is discontinued.***

#### TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENT – AMENDMENT

- The dispatch of an additional Command Officer on a Task Force Alarm is removed.

#### GREATER ALARMS- AMENDMENT

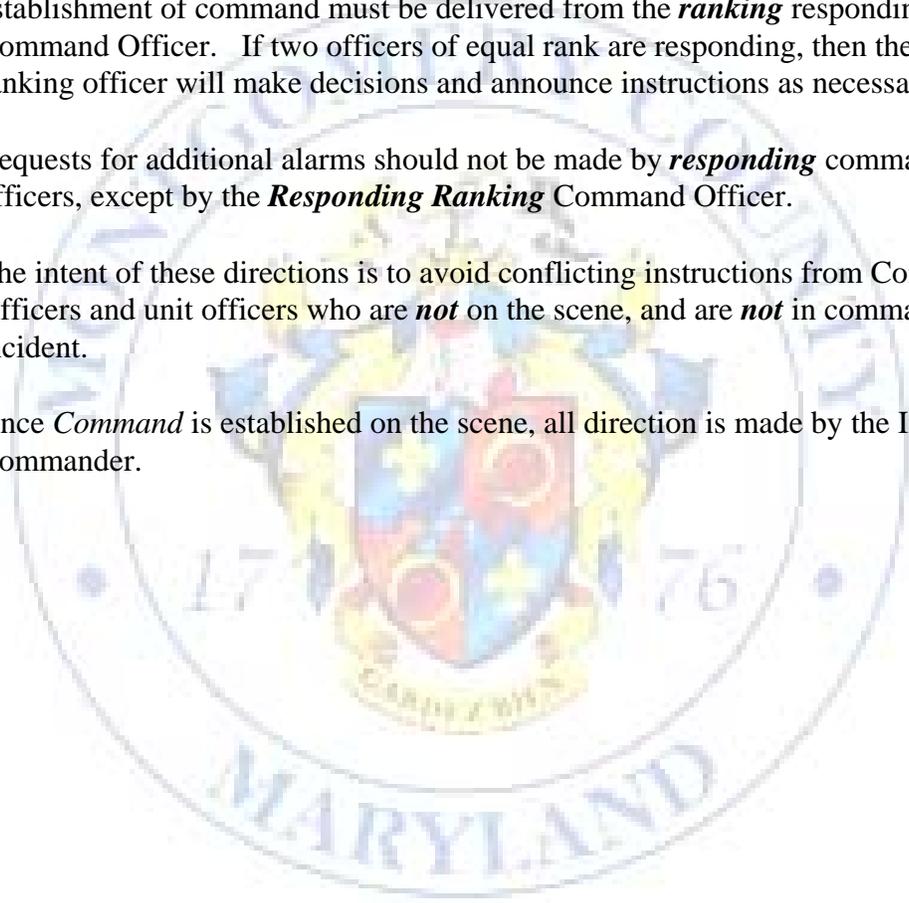
- Automatic dispatch of Command Officers on Second Alarm and Greater fires ***is eliminated.***
- ***Command*** will request additional Command Officers as required. Division and Group Supervisor positions can and should be filled with company officers, as appropriate.

## MUTUAL AID STRUCTURE FIRES - AMENDMENT

- When two or more primary units are dispatched on a structure fire in another jurisdiction, one Rostered Battalion Chief and an associated LFRD Command Officer may respond to the incident. The response of additional Command Officers is ***not authorized***, unless requested by the jurisdiction.

## COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE FOR COMMAND OFFICERS AND UNIT OFFICERS WHILE EN ROUTE TO THE INCIDENT, AND BEFORE THE ARRIVAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMAND

- Instructions for responding units to follow before the arrival of the first unit and establishment of command must be delivered from the ***ranking*** responding Command Officer. If two officers of equal rank are responding, then the ***closer*** ranking officer will make decisions and announce instructions as necessary.
- Requests for additional alarms should not be made by ***responding*** command officers, except by the ***Responding Ranking*** Command Officer.
- The intent of these directions is to avoid conflicting instructions from Command Officers and unit officers who are ***not*** on the scene, and are ***not*** in command of the incident.
- Once ***Command*** is established on the scene, all direction is made by the Incident Commander.



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