

MEMORANDUM

April 26, 2004

TO: Distribution

FROM: Gordon A. Aoyagi, Fire Administrator

SUBJECT: Adoption of Amended Response Policy for ALS First Responder Apparatus, FRC 21-04AM

With this memorandum, I am forwarding to you the amended *Response Policy for ALS First Responder Apparatus*, FRC 21-04AM, which the Fire and Rescue Commission adopt when it met on April 8, 2004. This policy amends the guidelines promoting the rapid dispatch and effective use of fire and rescue apparatus furnished with complete ALS equipment inventories, and staffed by qualified EMS first responders who are certified to deliver advanced life support services. Only fully-equipped and appropriately staffed primary units are recommended, dispatched, and perform as ALS first responders. This substantially revised policy supersedes the *Interim Response Policy for ALS First Responder Apparatus*, former FRC Policy No. 21-04.

Please **discard** *Interim Response Policy for ALS First Responder Apparatus*, FRC Policy No. 21-04, from your FRC Fire and Rescue Operations Manual and **insert** this amended policy in its place. I recommend that you amend both the manual's Table of Contents and its Alphabetical Index to indicate the amended policy's **effective date of May 1, 2004**. You may call Assistant Chief Buddy Ey, EMS Section Chief, on (240) 777-2472 if you have any questions regarding the amended policy.

Attachment

Distribution: FRC manual holders



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

No. 21-04AM

EFFECTIVE DATE:

5/1/2004

TITLE

RESPONSE POLICY FOR ALS FIRST RESPONDER APPARATUS

PAGE 1 OF 6

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission Policy

RESPONSE POLICY FOR ALS FIRST RESPONDER APPARATUS

Issued by: Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission
Policy No. 21-04AM

Supersedes: *Interim Response Policy for ALS First Responder Apparatus*,
Policy No. 21-04, July 1, 2000.

Authority: Montgomery County Code Section 21-2.(d)(2)

Effective Date: May 1, 2004

- SUMMARY:** This policy amends the guidelines promoting the rapid dispatch and effective use of fire and rescue apparatus furnished with complete ALS equipment inventories, and staffed by qualified EMS first responders who are certified to deliver advanced life support services.
- DEADLINES:** Montgomery County Fire Board Comment: February 15, 2004
Division of Fire and Rescue Services Comment: February 15, 2004
Local Fire and Rescue Departments Review: February 15, 2004
- ADDRESS:** Send comments pertaining to the proposed policy to Beth Feldman, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, 12th Floor, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850
- STAFF:** For additional information, you may contact A/C Buddy Ey, EMS Section Chief, (240) 777-2472.
- BACKGROUND:** This response policy expedites the delivery of appropriate emergency medical care to ALS patients. Providing full ALS equipment inventories on designated primary units is an option that expedites the response of qualified CRT, EMT-I, and EMT-P staffing in delivering ALS first responder care. Only fully-equipped and appropriately staffed primary units are recommended, dispatched, and perform as ALS First Responder. This policy supersedes *Interim Response Policy for ALS First Responder Apparatus*, FRC Policy No. 21-04.



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 21-04AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

5/1/2004

TITLE

RESPONSE POLICY FOR ALS FIRST RESPONDER APPARATUS

PAGE 2 OF 6

Sec 1. Purpose: To amend the dispatch criteria and procedures promoting the use of appropriately equipped primary units, staffed by qualified personnel acting as first responders to deliver advanced life support services.

Sec. 2. Applicability: This policy applies to all appropriately IECS-certified Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service firefighter, rescuer, and emergency medical services providers riding primary units.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

- a. **ALS.** Abbreviation for Advanced Life Support
- b. **ALS Equipment Inventory.** The minimum ALS equipment required for ALS First Responder Apparatus includes the items below, as listed in the EMS Operations Manual:
 - ALS Drug Bag for MICUs
 - ALS Airway Bag with Suction
 - Monitor/Defibrillator with pacing capability
 - Portable oxygen bag
 - Security mechanism for pharmaceuticals
- c. **ALS First Responder Apparatus (AFRA).** Fire and rescue apparatus that meet ALS staffing and complete ALS equipment inventory requirements.
- d. **AVRR.** Abbreviation for Automatic Vehicle Route Recommendation, a CAD feature indicating a unit's projected distance and time from its present location, to its arrival at the incident scene.
- e. **BLS.** Abbreviation for Basic Life Support.
- f. **Charlie Event.** An ALS incident designation indicating a stable Priority 2 patient.
- g. **Delta Event.** An ALS incident designation indicating a Priority 1 patient.
- h. **Echo Event.** An ALS incident designation indicating an unstable Priority 1 patient.



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 21-04AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

5/1/2004

TITLE

RESPONSE POLICY FOR ALS FIRST RESPONDER APPARATUS

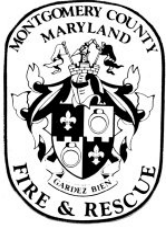
PAGE 3 OF 6

- i. **Medic.** Recommended prefix used for radio designation of an AFRA that meets the criteria for ALS response. E.g., Engine 271 would be designated "Medic Engine 271"; Rescue Squad 27 would be designated "Medic Rescue Squad 27."
- j. **Medic Unit (MICU).** Abbreviation for Mobile Intensive Care Unit, an apparatus equipped and staffed to provide the highest level of pre-hospital care.
- k. **OIC.** Abbreviation for Officer-in-Charge.
- l. **Paramedic in Charge (PMIC).** CRT, EMT-I, or EMT-P charge medic.

***NOTE : This policy addresses only AFRA dispatches and responses;
first responders and manpower units should continue to be dispatched in
accordance with existing FRC policy for those units.***

Sec. 4. Procedure.

- a. If a primary unit meets the complete minimum requirements for both **ALS equipment inventory** and certified staffing, the unit's **OIC** may designate the unit as an **AFRA**.
- b. An **AFRA** will be dispatched to an **ALS** incident as the first **ALS** responder using the criteria below.
 - 1. Dispatch an **AFRA** and an **MICU**:
 - A. when an **AFRA** is the first responder; or
 - B. when **AFRA** and **MICU AVRR** time is equal to or is greater than 3 minutes apart on a **Delta event**, or on a **Charlie event** with a patient "not alert;" or
 - C. on an **Echo event**, regardless of time difference, when **AVRR** time indicates that the **AFRA** is closer.
 - 2. Dispatch an **MICU** without an **AFRA**, when **AFRA** and **MICU AVRR** times are less than 3 minutes apart.



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 21-04AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

5/1/2004

TITLE

RESPONSE POLICY FOR ALS FIRST RESPONDER APPARATUS

PAGE 4 OF 6

3. Dispatch a **BLS** unit and an **AFRA** (an **MICU** is not required, but consider requesting a rendezvous) when **MICU** and **BLS AVRR** times are greater than 15 minutes apart.
- c. The ECC Call Taker and Dispatch Corral Supervisor may override the recommendations above if the information provided indicates a more appropriate response. When **AVRR** times are not available, the ECC Dispatcher and Dispatch Corral Supervisor must use all available information to make the appropriate response assignment.
- d. An **AFRA PMIC** is not routinely expected to become the transporting **PMIC** for all **ALS** patients. The **AFRA's PMIC** may upgrade an available **BLS** transport unit to an **ALS** unit and transport the patient to the hospital if it is medically in the patient's best interest, and if it enhances the efficient delivery of fire and rescue services. The **AFRA PMIC** will upgrade the **BLS** transport unit and transport the patient if:
 1. the patient's condition warrants immediate transportation; and/or
 2. the expected arrival on the scene of the dispatched **MICU** is greater than 10 minutes.
- e. If a unit is upgraded, the **AFRA** may proceed routine to the receiving hospital and return to service promptly after its paramedic transfers patient care to another qualified provider.
- f. The **AFRA's** unit officer may use on-scene personnel who are not involved in the patient transport to maintain the staffing complement of the fire and rescue apparatus until the **AFRA'S PMIC** returns to his/her **AFRA** assignment.
- g. Transfer of Patient Care. After the **AFRA's PMIC** begins patient care, it may be transferred later only after the **PMIC** gives a thorough verbal report to the receiving EMS personnel, and both EMS providers concur on the patient's status.
 1. The **AFRA's** unit officer will facilitate the manpower needs of the transporting unit.
 2. Both the **AFRA PMIC** who initiated patient care, and the EMS provider who later assumes patient care, must complete appropriate reports in accordance with MCFRS incident documentation policy.



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 21-04AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

5/1/2004

TITLE

RESPONSE POLICY FOR ALS FIRST RESPONDER APPARATUS

PAGE 5 OF 6

- h. **ALS Equipment Storage and Security.** All **AFRAs** must comply with the drug security and storage requirements established in the MCFRS *EMS Operations Manual*.

Sec. 5. Responsibilities.

- a. The **OIC** or designee must:

1. determine when a primary unit may be designated an **AFRA**;
2. notify the ECC to place a unit in controlled status when it is to be staffed as an **AFRA**, providing his/her name and rank and the apparatus identification; and
3. notify ECC to place a unit in uncontrolled status when the unit's status is altered due to staffing or equipment changes.

- b. The **AFRA PMIC** must:

1. notify the station's **OIC** when the status of an **AFRA** changes;
2. complete the **ALS equipment inventory** checkout procedure, including accountable and expired pharmaceuticals;
3. make an entry in the station logbook reflecting the **AFRA's** status changes;
4. maintain control of the drug security keys and the integrity of the **AFRA's ALS equipment inventory**;
5. secure the **ALS equipment inventory** when an **AFRA** becomes uncontrolled; and
6. complete all appropriate reports, in accordance with MCFRS incident documentation policy.

Sec. 6. Enforcement. The Fire Administrator is the enforcement authority for all policies and regulations of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service.



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 21-04AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

5/1/2004

TITLE

RESPONSE POLICY FOR ALS FIRST RESPONDER APPARATUS

PAGE 6 OF 6

Sec. 7. Effective Date. This policy is effective on May 1, 2004

Attest:

Gordon A. Aoyagi, Chairman
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

Date

AFRA Policy final BF WP 4-15-04