




MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

DIRECTIVE

NUMBER: 04-07

March 9, 2004

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Gordon A. Aoyagi, Fire Administrator 

SUBJECT: Use of Turnarounds on Limited Access Highways

Responding to emergency incidents on any roadway is inherently dangerous. This danger is compounded on limited access highways that have high speed limits and multiple lanes of traffic in each direction. Turnarounds have been placed on limited access highways to allow authorized emergency vehicles to change their direction of travel. However, these turnarounds provide limited clearances that require merging into traffic without the benefit of a merge lane, which is an unsafe practice. While this Directive applies to all MCFRS vehicles, heavy apparatus requires greater acceleration distances than sedan police vehicles to safely merge into traffic.

Therefore, MCFRS personnel operating MCFRS apparatus are prohibited from using all turnarounds on limited access highways, including those located outside of the County. The only exception to this prohibition is when law enforcement or official transportation representatives are present to control traffic at a turnaround, and fire and rescue apparatus can maneuver through the turnaround safely.