Title: Minimum Apparatus Staffing

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01. Purpose:

To establish minimum staffing requirements for responding emergency apparatus. Adequate staffing levels are necessary to ensure the safety of all personnel and to facilitate the effective delivery of emergency services.

02. Definitions:

CRT Individual who has jurisdictional affiliation and currently certified as a Maryland Cardiac Rescue Technician and has completed a Hazardous Materials Operations Training Program.

ECC Emergency Communications Center

EMR Emergency Medical Responder

EMT Individual who has jurisdictional affiliation and currently certified as a Maryland Emergency Medical Technician and has completed a Hazardous Materials Operations Training Program.

Paramedic Individual who has jurisdictional affiliation and currently certified as a Maryland Paramedic and has completed a Hazardous Materials Operations Training Program.

FF-1 Individual who has completed an accredited Fire Fighter I and Hazardous Materials Operations training program.

FDD Fire Department District

HIPAA Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Rescue Tech Individual who has completed the Rescue Technician – Vehicle and Machinery and Hazardous Materials Operations training program.
03. **Training Program:**

**EMS Operations/Staffing Levels:**

The following designations shall be used when referring to an EMS Unit to identify the staffing level:

"Unit 23-1" This identifies a unit, as not staffed by a CRT, EMT, or Paramedic.

"Ambulance 23-1" This identifies a unit when it is staffed by two or more individuals, of which at least two are trained at an EMT level of care.

"Medic 23-1" This identifies a unit when it is staffed by two or more individuals, one of which must be a CRT and the other an EMT.

"Paramedic 23-1" This identifies a unit when it is staffed by two or more individuals, one of which must be a Paramedic and the other an EMT.

“EMS 23-1” This identifies an ALS chase unit with a minimum staffing of one ALS provider at any ALS level of care.

For fire department first responder units staffing will consist of a minimum of two persons with at least one Emergency Medical Responder or higher level of EMS certification.

04. **Training Requirements:**

Any personnel on an EMS unit shall have completed a course in CPR, Blood Borne Pathogens, HIPAA and hazardous materials operations. Any personnel riding on an EMS unit as an observer shall have a minimum of CPR certification.

05. **Response Requirements:**

An EMS unit on response will state to ECC both their staffing level and their total number of personnel, i.e. “Paramedic 23-1 responding with 2.”

When an EMS Unit responds not meeting the appropriate level of care (ALS or BLS) or without the appropriate staffing, it shall respond “Light,” i.e. "Paramedic 23-1 responding with 2 Light Crew". It will be supplemented by the next due EMS Unit.

If the EMS unit responds with only a driver/operator, the unit shall be identified as "Responding Driver Only". It will be supplemented with a medical assist for the appropriate FDD along with the next appropriate level of response EMS unit.
06. **Rescue Squad/Rescue Engine:**

The minimum staffing levels for rescue squad apparatus shall be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Type</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Staff</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Rescue Technician(s) or FF I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Duty Rescue Squads</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 RT’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue Engine</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 RT &amp; 1 FF I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: For minimum staffing of the Rescue Engine, one or both of the rescue technician positions can be filled by a firefighter with rescue technician certification.

07. **Fire Department Operations:**

The minimum staffing levels for fire department apparatus shall be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Type</th>
<th>Minimum Staffing</th>
<th>Minimum # of FF I (s)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engine / Pumper</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine / Tanker</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerial / Tower/Truck</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanker</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Pumper / Brush Unit</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

1. The driver/operator may not be counted toward meeting the FF I requirement, but is included in the minimum number of staff.

2. When an Engine / Tanker is dispatched only fulfilling a tanker response; the staffing level for tanker can be applied.

Apparatus responding will state to ECC their total staffing level. "Engine 23-1 responding with 6." Apparatus responding with less than the minimum staffing level outlined herein must notify ECC accordingly, at the time of response. The terminology to be used shall be "Engine 23-1 responding with 3 Light Crew". If the apparatus responds with only a driver/operator, the unit shall be identified as "Responding Driver Only" in lieu of "Light Crew."

If any apparatus is not minimally staffed according to this Standard, ECC shall notify the incident commander of the staffing deficiency. If the incident type requires a box or high-risk box assignment, apparatus (specifically engines) on the first alarm assignment not minimally staffed will automatically be replaced upon their response. The incident commander or responding officer of the FDD shall use his/her discretion with regards to supplemental alerts on all other alarm assignments based on the information provided.

Approved
James Sprecher Jr.,
President

WCVFRA

WCVFRA Secretary