

	Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission Operations Manual	No. 02.03
	Fire Suppression Response Policy	Effective Date: April 1, 2008
		Revised Date: June 6, 2024

I. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to all Queen Anne's County fire service personnel.

II. PURPOSE

- A. To provide guidance for any unit and/or personnel responding to a fire suppression call for service.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All personnel affiliated with a Queen Anne's County Fire Department will be responsible for ensuring strict adherence to this policy.

IV. DEFINITIONS

1. Cold – A non-emergent response without the use of any audible or visual warning devices.
2. Hot – An emergent response with the use of all audible and visual warning devices.

V. POLICY

- A. When a fire suppression call for service is received by the Department of Emergency Services (DES) Communications center, it shall be screened using the National Academy Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD) Priority Dispatch System. Based on the information received, DES personnel shall assign an EFD response code and dispatch the appropriate units. Once the call for service is dispatched and units respond, the dispatcher shall provide the EFD response code to each unit. Once provided, all units shall respond based on the EFD response code guidelines.

VI. RESPONSE CODES

- A. The following Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD) response guidelines shall be adhered to by all units and/or personnel when responding to any fire suppression call for service:
1. Omega – An Omega response is classified as the lowest priority response. All units shall respond cold.
 2. Alpha – An Alpha response is classified as a low priority non-emergent response. All units shall respond cold.
 3. Bravo – A Bravo response is classified as a low priority emergent response. All units shall respond hot.
 4. Charlie – A Charlie response is classified as a moderate priority emergent response. All units shall respond hot.
 5. Delta – A Delta response is classified as a high priority emergent response. All units shall respond hot.
 6. Echo – An Echo response is the highest priority response. All units shall respond hot.

VII. RESPONSE

- A. Any suppression unit(s) may respond to any call for service within their station's first due response jurisdiction.
- B. Any suppression unit(s) outside of their first due response area, but closer to an incident than the unit(s) dispatched, may respond to any call for service in addition to the dispatched units.
- C. Chief's units may respond to any call for service in accordance with Queen Anne's County Fire and EMS Commission Operations Manual Section 2 policy 02.01 Chief's Unit Response.
- D. If and when a running assignment is filled with the units who were originally dispatched, DES shall consult with the Incident Commander or the highest ranking personnel from the first due response jurisdiction informing them of the responding units and determine if they wish for the additional units to continue or cancel.
- E. Other than the scenarios listed in Article VII Sections A - C, no unit(s) may respond to any call for service unless dispatched by DES – Communications.

- F. Any unit who responds to a call for service outside of the guidelines established by this policy shall be considered an unauthorized response.
- G. Unauthorized responses shall not be tracked in CAD. They will not receive an incident number nor will their incident times be documented.
- H. Any unauthorized responses will be documented by DES – Communications personnel and forwarded to the FEC Chairman for review.

VIII. NOTES

- A. Regardless of the response code provided, all personnel shall respond in a manner which is in compliance with all applicable laws dictated under the Maryland Motor Vehicles Law.
- B. An Incident Commander, or the highest ranking Fire Line Officer from the first due response jurisdiction, may use their discretion and either upgrade or downgrade the response of any unit.
- C. Based on the information received, the Dispatch Supervisor may use their discretion and upgrade the response of any unit. They may not downgrade any response.
- D. Since EFD does not recommend a response code for establishing a MEDEVAC landing zone, the decision as to the level of the response shall be the discretion of the highest ranking Fire Line Officer from the first due response jurisdiction, based on the circumstances and ETA of the helicopter.



William H. Faust, Chairman
Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission