



General Order

Department of Fire & EMS
G.O. #: 02-1-23

Subject: EMS First Responder Dispatch

Date: February 6, 2023

Authority: Chief Michael W. Robinson, Director/MWR

Effective immediately the following changes will be made for BLS level first responder unit dispatches:

- 1. The dispatch of a first responder unit shall not occur until the third due EMS transport unit is dispatched for BLS calls.*
- 2. There will be no change for ALS calls.*
- 3. Companies may still respond at their discretion and the APS alert systems will notify of such calls in the “pre-alert” mode only without radio/pager notification.*

The intent of this change is to limit a response to low acuity BLS call types. In most cases our data shows that first responder units are arriving at the same time or in close proximity to the transport unit and are frequently being placed in service. This change will allow companies to focus on higher priority calls that may occur while their EMS transport is committed on another incident. It will also reduce the level of “risk” that is incurred by these calls. This will be superseded by a normal first responder dispatch should the ECC determine a higher priority of the patient.

The FROPS leadership along with the ECC and DFEMS administration have thoroughly evaluated this policy and are in concurrence with its implementation.

MWR/cw
C: G.O. file