

**CCEMS
OPERATIONS POLICY 100-49
STRUCTURE FIRE RESPONSE**

I. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To clarify EMS position when responding with Fire Companies.

II. POLICY

- 2.1 CCEMS will respond emergency status to all active (working) structure fires.
- 2.2 CCEMS will give the right away to other Fire Apparatus responding to a structure fire.
- 2.3 CCEMS will position ambulances in a safe area with a quick means of egress.
- 2.4 Fire Company Chiefs and/or company officers are in charge of all fire scene responsibilities except for medical interventions of patients in a safe zone.
- 2.5 CCEMS units arriving at “working” fires with no initial victims involved must work with the incident commander to set up a Firefighter Rehab area if one is not already established by the incident commander or Fire Chief. A rehab area will be maintained by CCEMS personnel until released by the incident commander or Fire Chief.

III. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 CCEMS crews responding to structural fire calls dispatched as a “working” fire will respond emergency status.
- 3.2 A “working” fire or incident is defined as structural fire calls that present with visible smoke or flames from the structure.
- 3.3 CCEMS crews paged to respond with Fire Companies for incidents such as vehicle fires, mechanical alarms, CO calls or any requests that do not involve an actual “working” incident should respond non emergency, **unless** dispatch or on scene personnel advise of any potential threat to life or health of residents or citizens.
- 3.4 On EMS arrival, at structure fires, CCEMS crews will position their ambulance in a safe area close to the scene, but not to impede access of additional fire apparatus. Extra precaution should be taken to ensure quick egress from the scene.
- 3.5 CCEMS crews will need to report to the officer in charge (also known as command) on arrival for accountability. Typically, the officer in charge will be the Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain or Lieutenant.
- 3.6 CCEMS crews will stage outside of the ambulance and (or) near the front of the structure. Crews will take Oxygen equipment, “First In” bag and/or the trauma bag with them to their staging area. Crews should never leave the ambulance and report to the staging area without this equipment.
- 3.7 Only the officer in charge (or incident commander) at the scene can release EMS personnel to go back in service.

- 3.8 In the event a patient or firefighter needs treated at the scene, and will be transported, EMS crews will need to notify the officer in charge (or incident commander) and call in an additional ambulance to continue staging.
- 3.9 The incident commander or Fire Chief may request CCEMS personnel to operate or assist other personnel in a Firefighter Rehab area. These rehab areas will usually be in a safe area outside of the "hot zone". CCEMS will be responsible for assessment of vital signs, SPO2/CO monitoring using the RAD 57, Oxygen administration and normal rehydration procedures.
- 3.9.1 At no time should any CCEMS personnel administer IV fluid for rehydration to any fire personnel or victims at any scene and not strongly advise them to be transported for further medical evaluation. Fire personnel and victims retain the right to refuse transport but must be advised of the potentially life threatening consequences of not being evaluated at the hospital of their choice.
- 3.9.2 In the event a firefighter receives IV fluid for rehydration or has a high blood CO concentration of 20% or greater and refuses transport to a hospital for further treatment a fire ground officer, incident commander or Fire Chief must sign as a witness to the refusal.

Director:



Effective:

10/06/2008

Reviewed: _____

Revised: _____