

4. Responding to the Fire Station

4.1 Initial Dispatch

4.1.1 The firefighters response to an alarm must be performed as safe and as professional as the firefighting activities themselves. A safe arrival at the station, in a clear frame of mind to perform activities expected, is paramount to overall response effectiveness.

4.1.2 Upon receiving a page tone, the firefighter is to await the dispatchers verbal message for alarm location, type, or special announcement.

4.1.3 Should the firefighter be "involved" upon hearing a tone which requires a response, terminate activities as best and safely as possible.

4.1.4 Prior to the firefighter leaving his/her residence or place of pager activation, he/she shall be sure all potential hazards are terminated, such as stoves off, water shut off, lock all doors, etc..

4.1.5 Each firefighter shall use extreme caution when exiting their driveway or pulling away from the curb, being sure traffic lanes are clear. Under no circumstances shall firefighters force their entry into the traffic lane.

4.1.6 Once a response is initiated to a dispatched alarm, all members are under command of the IC and are responsible for their actions as specified in these SOG's and the fire company By-Laws.

4.1.7 Dress appropriately for weather conditions.

4.2 Enroute to the Station

4.2.1 Observation of local and New Jersey State traffic regulations and signaling devices are to be observed at all times. The Fire District will assume no responsibility for driving negligence on the part of a member responding to the firehouse and will provide no monetary or legal assistance should such negligence result in a citation and/or accident.

4.2.2 The Motor Vehicle and Traffic Laws of the State of New Jersey permit the use of blue warning lights by firemen responding to an alarm. Authorized use of blue lights is dependent upon possession of the proper, valid permit. Applications are available from the Chief. The Chief may revoke the privilege to utilize a blue light, at any time.

4.2.3 The use of a blue light does not require other drivers to yield to the blue light user. It gives no

special privileges or exceptions to any motor vehicle laws. No member shall utilize any red emergency lights, sirens, or any type or alternating head lights in personal vehicles, with the exception of Chief and Deputy Chief, after the proper permit has been received.

4.2.4 No member may proceed in his/her private vehicle directly to the scene, unless so assigned by the Chief, or the firefighter must pass the fire scene while enroute to his/her respective station. All private vehicles at the scene should be parked at least three hundred (300) feet from the location of the incident.

4.2.5 Upon discretion of the Chief, firefighters shall be assigned to respond to a specific Station. This will be based upon station staffing and geographical location of that firefighters residence.

4.3 At the Station

4.3.1 Extreme caution must be used upon approaching the station since conflict may occur with exiting apparatus. Under no circumstances should responding firefighters cross the entrance/exit of the station without yielding to emergency apparatus.

4.3.2 Parking at the station must be such that no compromise is made to the station parking spaces or driveways. Vehicles must be properly secured, including turning off all lights. Under no circumstances should vehicles be left running or parked in non-designated areas.

4.3.3 In the event that the firefighter responded with civilians, who will not be taking the vehicle, they are to proceed into the fire station and await the firefighters return. No one other than Wall Township Fire Department (West Belmar, Glendola, South Wall Fire Company) members are to board responding apparatus.

4.3.4 The first firefighter at the station will open the proper bay door for the responding apparatus. At NO time is the bay door to be opened half way.

4.3.5 Prior to boarding responding apparatus, all members will don proper protective gear. Members will then board the apparatus in accordance with Riding Assignment Policy Chapter 13.

4.3.6 The officer of the apparatus responding out of the station is responsible for closing the bay doors. Under no circumstances shall bay door controls be activated prior to the apparatus being entirely clear of the bay doors.

