

Standard Operating Guidelines

Alarm Responses

1.01 PURPOSE

- A. To provide uniform response guidelines to various emergencies and non-emergencies.
- B. To provide a minimum response time to alarms in the city and urban areas around the city.
- C. To identify inherent safety hazards in emergency responses.

1.02 POLICY

- A. The Kemah Fire Department apparatus responses to emergencies, non-emergencies, and operations shall endeavor to conform to those policies and procedures contained herein.
- B. It shall be the policy of this department to answer all emergency alarms within the city limits within ten (10) minutes of receiving an alarm ninety (90) percent of the time.
- C. In non-emergency situations the department shall endeavor to handle these situations as quickly as time, equipment, and resources allow.

1.03 CLASSIFICATION OF ALARMS

A. Priority One Alarms (multiple apparatus)

- 1. Any fire reported within a structure
- 2. Any fire reported adjacent to a structure.
- 3. Building collapse.
- 4. Any gas leak.
- 5. Any odor of smoke inside a structure.
- 6. Vehicle fires
- 7. Anytime the Officer in Charge feels the alarm should be a full response.

B. Priority 2 Alarms (single apparatus)

- 1. Automobile accident.

2. Investigations
3. Details (washdowns, medic assist, etc.)
4. Brush or grass fires with no exposures.
5. Tree fire.
6. Utility shut off.
7. Lockouts- home (with food cooking) and auto (with children inside or the engine is running).
8. Person trapped (elevator. etc).
9. Carbon monoxide inside structure.

C. Priority 3 Alarms (non-emergency)

1. Service calls with no hazards.
2. Animal trapped or stuck in a tree.

1.04 PROCEDURES

A. Alarm Responses

1. It shall be the policy of this department that Priority One alarms within the city shall be answered with two (2) engine companies and one (1) rescue company.
2. All responses within the city that are Priority Two alarms shall be answered with one (1) Engine Company or (1)rescue company as appropriate.
3. All mutual aid alarms shall be answered according to City/County mutual aid agreements.

B. Responses to the Waterfront

1. The Waterfront shall be divided into two areas
 - a. Area 1 shall be from Cadallic Bar to the West end of the Waterfront. This area shall be approached from the south by way of Bradford Avenue staging adjacent to the Boardwalk Hotel.
 - b. Area 2 shall be from Joe's Crab Shack to the East end of the Waterfront. This area shall be approached by way of Kipp Street staging in front of Landry's.
2. Apparatus assignment when entering the Waterfront
 - a. First due engine shall proceed first to staging followed by the second due engine and Rescue unit. Where permitted, the engine should be placed off the access streets to

minimize the possible blocking of the Waterfront area for other fire apparatus.

- b. The second due engine should stage by the hydrant nearest where the emergency is located until proper evaluation of the situation is conducted.
- c. Due to the congestion of the Waterfront area, hose lines should not be laid automatically unless ordered to do so by the Incident Commander or if there is an obvious fire situation in progress.
- d. Due to the various locations of standpipe and sprinkler connections on the Waterfront buildings, it shall be the responsibility of the first in Command to assign an engine to these connections.
- e. These assignments are for a standard response to the Waterfront, if the situation deems necessary, the assignments may be changed by the Incident Commander.

C. Safety

1. All apparatus shall proceed to Priority One and Priority Two alarms with all available emergency warning devices operating (sirens, lights, horns).
2. All apparatus shall slow at all traffic lights and signs
3. When responding to the Waterfront, warning devices should be used only as necessary and extreme care used when maneuvering through pedestrian traffic.
2. All apparatus drivers shall operate emergency vehicles in a safe manner taking into account traffic conditions and weather conditions.
3. Under no conditions shall apparatus exceed the maximum of ten (10) miles per hour over the posted speed limit.
 - a. As determined by the traffic and weather conditions.
4. All personnel shall wear seat belts while apparatus is in motion.
5. Multiple responding apparatus shall communicate when approaching common intersections.