

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE - 1.3.1

TOPIC: ALARM RESPONSE - POV

PURPOSE:

To clarify circumstances and conditions relating to personal vehicle (privately owned vehicle [POV]) response by personnel.

GENERAL:

Though the District generally discourages POV response to emergency incidents, it is recognized that there may be exceptions. To effectively utilize this option the benefits must clearly outweigh the deficits.

GUIDELINES:

Prohibition: Do not respond POV to an incident that is either the result of automatic aid or mutual aid. The nature of these incidents require a high degree of coordination between the needs of the incident and the needs of the District, with the purpose being to provide well staffed, appropriate resources.

Personnel may respond via POV under the following circumstances:

1. By order of the Incident Commander.
2. If you will pass the incident en-route to a station, or closer to your location than the station; **and**

If you are able and equipped to provide effective, safe assistance which will significantly improve the outcome of the incident prior to the arrival of apparatus; **and**

If you are certain that apparatus is responding to the incident.
3. Personnel must obey the speed limit and other driving laws while responding POV.
4. POV responders must also comply with the following rules:
 - a. Do not operate hazard lights while responding POV
 - b. Park your vehicle well out of the way of any other responding units.
 - c. If you park your vehicle on the street be sure to lock it and give the keys to either the IC or the engineer of the first in engine.
 - d. It may be best to wait in your vehicle until the first LCFD#1 apparatus arrives.

If you are unwilling to comply with the above, do not respond POV.

The following are deficits involving of POV response:

1. A lack of radio communication capabilities, and as a result a lack of capability to either gain or send additional critical information.
2. A potential lack of proper equipment.
3. Being alone at the scene may increase adverse safety issues.
4. Coordination of apparatus placement may become more difficult.
5. Promotes vehicular congestion at the scene.
6. District image may be compromised due to expectations of performance by our public, if a district representative is unable to accomplish necessary tasks as a result of complications associated with POV response.