Emergency Response

301.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and appropriate response to emergencies while maintaining the safety of department members and the public by requiring operators of department vehicles to conform to applicable Utah laws and regulations during an emergency response (Utah Code 41-6a-212).

301.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Authorized emergency vehicle – Fire department vehicles and ambulances equipped as required by Utah law (Utah Code 41-6a-102; Utah Code 41-6a-212(1)).

Emergency response - Response to but not returning from any call for service or assistance involving fire, explosion or violent rupture; human rescue; human entrapment; illness or injury; hazardous materials release or threat of contamination; flooding; threatened or actual acts of violence; any explosive, bomb or threatened bombing; any act of terrorism; any natural disaster; or any other circumstance that presents a threat to life-safety or to property (Utah Code 41-6a-212(2)).

301.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the South Jordan Fire Department to appropriately respond to all emergency calls.

301.3 EMERGENCY CALLS

Fire personnel dispatched to an emergency shall proceed immediately, shall continuously operate emergency lighting equipment and shall sound the siren as reasonably necessary (Utah Code 41-6a-1625(4)(d)).

Responding with emergency lights and siren does not relieve personnel of the duty to act as a reasonably prudent emergency vehicle operator under the circumstances and to continue to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons (Utah Code 41-6a-212(7)(a)).

The use of any other warning equipment without a red light and siren does not provide any exemption from the Utah law.

Personnel should only respond with emergency lights and siren when dispatched to an emergency or when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is required.

Personnel not authorized to respond with emergency lights and siren shall observe all traffic laws and proceed without the use of emergency lights and siren.

301.4 MULTIPLE EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESPONSES

When more than one apparatus responds to an emergency, emergency vehicle operators should remain alert to the presence of other emergency vehicles and exercise due caution. Personnel

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must further exercise due caution in recognizing that traffic yielding to one emergency vehicle may not expect other emergency vehicles to follow.

301.5 INITIATING AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

If a Fire Officer believes an emergency response to any call is appropriate, the Fire Officer or ranking crewmember assigned to the apparatus shall ensure proper notifications are made as necessary, and will ensure safe vehicle operations are maintained at all times.

301.6 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING PERSONNEL

Emergency vehicle operators shall exercise sound judgment and care, with due regard for life and property, while operating a vehicle en route to an emergency response.

In addition, emergency vehicle operators should reduce speed at all intersections and should come to a complete stop at all blind street intersections or intersections where there is either a red light, a flashing red light or a stop sign. Emergency vehicle operators should also come to a complete stop at intersections whenever they reasonably believe they cannot account for traffic in approaching lanes or when vehicles have not yielded the right-of-way. After coming to a complete stop, emergency vehicle operators should only proceed when it is safe to do so. Emergency vehicle operators should be able to come to a complete stop at all intersections, including those with green lights, such that the emergency vehicle operator may be able to recognize and avoid any unforeseen circumstances that may present a danger to people or property, or which may result in a vehicle collision.

The decision to continue an emergency response is at the discretion of the emergency vehicle operator or Fire Officer. If, in the judgment of either individual, the roadway conditions or traffic congestion do not permit such a response without unreasonable risk, the response may be continued without the use of red lights and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event, the Fire Officer should ensure the Dispatch Center is promptly notified. Personnel shall also discontinue the emergency response when directed by any supervisor.

301.7 FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the vehicle operator must terminate the emergency response and respond accordingly. In all cases, the Captain shall notify the Dispatch Center of the equipment failure so that another apparatus may be assigned to the emergency response.

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