



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
Apparatus Response Options

SOG: 002

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Purpose:

Galena Fire Department response to and from emergency incidents as well as emergency operations on roadways present a high level of risk to fire fighter safety.

This procedure identifies requirements for the implementation of a safe GFD vehicle operations guideline, and specifically addresses the occasional need for a non-emergency response.

This procedure shall be enforced for all GFD vehicle operations. The Officer in Charge (OIC) and the Driver of the apparatus (includes all GFD apparatus) are responsible for the safety of all vehicle operations as well as managing compliance of this procedure. The OIC will determine the type of response as listed below.

Policy:

GFD apparatus shall be operated in either an emergency mode utilizing vehicle emergency lights and siren, or a non-emergency mode, not utilizing emergency lights and siren. Regardless of the vehicle operation mode, it is the responsibility of the driver of each GFD vehicle to drive safely.

The non-emergency responses (Running Silent) may include but are not limited to the following:

When responding in emergency mode, warning lights must be on and sirens must be sounded to warn drivers of other apparatus, as required by the Federal, State and/or Motor Vehicle Code. When responding or returning in a non-emergency mode, warning lights and sirens shall not be used.

The use of sirens and warning lights does not automatically give the right-of-way to the emergency vehicle. These emergency devices simply request the right-of-way from other drivers, based on their awareness of the emergency vehicle presence. Emergency vehicle Driver-Operators and GFD Officers must make every effort to make their presence and intended actions known to other drivers and must drive defensively to be prepared for the unexpected or inappropriate actions of others.

Options:

An emergency incident may be reduced to a Code 1 response upon the order of the OIC who has received and acknowledged additional information regarding the nature and extent of the alarm. In this situation the Driver will revert to no sirens and no emergency lights. The following situations do not address all possible call responses. Decisions rest with the Officer in Charge.

There are situations that may necessitate a non-emergency response. These include but are not limited to:

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm with confirmation that there is no exposure or illness reported and that all affected parties are out of the exposed area.



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- Searches that make it clear that there is no immediate need to run Code-3.
- Spill control and wash-down situations.
- Transfer assignment to a Mutual Aid assistance in another jurisdiction.
- Animal Rescue calls.
- Wires, transformer, and impacted burning trees related to 'wires down in situations in which there is no human or structural anticipated exposure.
- Fire Alarms with confirmation of a false alarm or 'trouble' warning with no evidence of smoke or fire.
- Providing support to local EMS, PD or SO organizations that require assistance assuming that this is not a specific emergency for GFD.
- Any other incident in which common sense dictates a Code 1 response.

Any non-emergency incident can be changed to an emergency response based upon shared reliable information. The OIC of the responding GFD apparatus, or the Incident Commander, if applicable, will determine the most appropriate response for incoming apparatus.

The OIC can contact the Sheriff's Office to determine additional information if he/she chooses. This can be of value for clarification if 'red-box' alarm information is being provided by Dispatch. Worst-case scenario situations can result from a lack of relevant information being shared with fire service responders.

Upon arrival at a non-emergency incident, visual warning devices may be deployed depending on existing circumstances for the safety of public safety personnel already on scene, for those arriving on scene, and for the bystanders and others who may be impacted. Vehicle placement and personnel safety are critical considerations in these situations. Our goal is '**Everyone Goes Home**'.

It is important to acknowledge that there may be situations in which the first due apparatus will respond Code 3 and, based on additional information, the second (and other) apparatus will respond Code 1. Once on the road, the second apparatus can always change to Code 3 if a more rapid response is necessary.

If a resident at the address, or an alarm company attempts to cancel an alarm, or there appears to be an attempt to cancel an alarm that is not an automatic alarm system, all units should continue responding via emergency response mode until the first GFD Officer on scene acknowledges a verification of 'all clear'.