



FIRE RESCUE

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Subject: ALS Response

Reference Number: SOG-OPS-020

Effective Date: 1 July 2007

Last Revision Date: N/A

Signature of Approval:

J. Dan Eggleston, Chief

Purpose:

To ensure consistent and timely advanced life support (ALS) response throughout the County as needed.

Background:

Appropriate ALS ambulance responses, as determined by dispatch information, may be delayed because of multiple calls and/or intermittent staffing. Because ALS calls for service may involve life threatening situations, the closest ALS resource (including fire department first responders) should be immediately dispatched.

Definitions:

ALS level staffing: An OMD-released provider at the appropriate level for the call being answered. Medic level calls shall be answered by an EMT-Paramedic, EMT-Cardiac, or EMT-Intermediate. Trauma level calls shall be answered by any of the above named level of providers and may also be answered by EMT-Trauma or EMT-Enhanced providers.

Policy:

1. As previously determined by policy, rescue stations shall keep the Emergency Communication Center (ECC) informed of their level of staffing which includes their ALS level staffing. At a minimum, a rescue station's staffing level must be updated at every shift change. Rescue staffing reports should include whether or not the rescue station has an ALS provider (at the station or within the reasonable distance from the station) that is available to respond.
2. Fire Departments with ALS capabilities should also keep the ECC informed of their level of their ALS staffing and notify the ECC when ALS staffing changes occur.
3. When the first-due rescue station is being dispatched for an ALS call, and:
 - a. The rescue station staffing report at ECC indicates that the dispatched rescue station does not have an ALS resource; the ECC shall immediately dispatch the call as an ALS type call and dispatch the next closest ALS resource.
 - b. The rescue station staffing report at ECC indicates that the dispatched rescue station has an ALS resource; the ECC shall dispatch the call as an ALS type call. If an ALS resource is not enroute within 2 minutes, the ECC shall immediately dispatch the next closest ALS resource.
4. Chief/Duty officers may reassign resources as deemed necessary based upon specific dispatch information.