

MAHANOY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guidelines
#4806 – Response to Emergencies

Effective: 1/01/06
Revised: 11/01/07

1. Minimum Staffing Requirements & Run Cards

1.1 MCFD has what is considered primary and support pieces of apparatus. The following apparatus shall be considered primary response apparatus for structure fires in both the Borough of Mahanoy City and Mahanoy Township:

1.1.1 The following apparatus shall be considered primary response apparatus for structure fires in both the Borough of Mahanoy City and Mahanoy Township when dispatched:

Citizens: Engine 454, Tower 456

Good American: Tanker 461

Humane: Engine 451

Washington H&L: Ladder 457

West End: Engine 465

1.1.2 All squads, light rescues, equipment carriers and fire police shall be considered support vehicles.

1.1.3 Engine 462 shall be considered a support vehicle unless otherwise decided by the OIC.

1.1.4 Rescue 993 shall be considered the primary response rescue for all rescue incidents in the Borough of Mahanoy City, Mahanoy Township and all rescue mutual-aid responses.

1.1.5 Ambulances 4802 and 4803 shall be considered primary response vehicles for any incident in the Borough of Mahanoy City or Mahanoy Township where injury is reported, otherwise they are considered support vehicles.

1.2 Borough of Mahanoy City Responses

1.2.1 While it is understood that personnel may respond directly to the scene and be available to assist, no apparatus shall respond with less than the following:

1.2.1.1 Engine: Two (2) persons. The Tanker is considered an engine for responses within the Borough.

1.2.1.2 Aerial: One (1) person.

1.2.1.3 Support: One (1) Person.

1.2.1.4 Tanker: Two (2) persons.

1.2.1.5 Rescue: One (1) person.

1.3 Out Of Town (Mahanoy Township, All)

1.3.1 While it is understood that personnel may respond directly to the scene and be available to assist, however no apparatus shall respond to any

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dispatch outside of the Borough limits with less than the following:

1.3.1.1 Engine: Three (3) persons.

1.3.1.2 Aerial: Three (3) persons.

1.3.1.3 Support: One (1) person.

1.3.1.4 Tanker: Two (2) persons.

1.3.1.5 Rescue: Two (2) persons.

1.3.2 RIT Responses may differ. See RIT Team SOG's.

1.4 Apparatus Responses / Run Cards

1.4.1 Borough of Mahanoy City (Fire District 48) - See Borough of Mahanoy City Run Cards.

1.4.2 Township of Mahanoy (Fire District 16) - See Mahanoy Township Run Cards.

1.5 Mutual-Aid Responses.

1.5.1 Unless specifically requested, all mutual-aid responses will be handled by the First Out-Of-Town or First-Due Engine. Apparatus should be staffed as noted in Section 1.2 above.

1.5.1 First Out-of-Town / First Due Engine and Second Out-of-Town/Second Due Engine responsibilities shall rotate in order on June 1st, annually for the following Companies:

1.5.1.1 Humane Fire Co. Engine

1.5.1.2 Citizens Fire Co. Engine

1.5.1.3 West End Fire Co. Engine

1.5.2 Upon request for any other type of apparatus, such as a Tanker, Rescue or Aerial, only that type of apparatus shall respond.

1.5.3 It shall be the responsibility of the Asst. Chief or highest ranking Officer to insure the MCFD primary coverage area has adequate fire protection (both apparatus and manpower) when responding to emergencies in Mahanoy Township and Mutual-Aid requests. This may include dispatching other companies for a "Move Up" assignment to a fire station in Mahanoy City.

1.6 Special Run Cards - See Run Cards. Example. SCI-Mahanoy SOG #4815.

1.7 Traveling to the Scene

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- 1.7.1 All personnel shall dress in full turn-out gear prior to boarding and shall remain in a seated position while en-route to the scene. Seat belts shall be worn by all personnel and verified by the Unit Officer. No unit shall respond with personnel unable to be seated (over-crowded) and no personnel shall be standing during responses. No personnel shall ride the tailboard or any other part of the apparatus in a standing position. No personnel should dress while en-route to a call, while the vehicle is in motion.
- 1.7.2 The location of the call and route of travel must be understood by the driver and Unit Officer before leaving the station. The Unit Officer shall assist the driver with directions as needed.
- 1.7.3 The person sitting in the Officer's Seat shall operate the radio and siren. The driver may operate them only if they are alone in the vehicle while responding.
 - 1.7.3.1 See SOG #4810 Radio Protocol.
- 1.7.4 Headlights and all emergency lighting shall be activated when en-route to a call.
- 1.7.5 The driver shall operate the vehicle in a safe manner at all times, and shall comply with all applicable vehicle laws, codes and ordinances.
- 1.7.6 All drivers must comply with the PA Vehicle Code pertaining to fire apparatus when responding to an emergency. Note: See PA Vehicle Code.
- 1.7.7 All support vehicles should be parked away from the incident scene and should be parked in a manner that they do not interfere with operations at an incident scene. Personnel traveling to the scene in privately owned vehicles shall comply with all traffic signs and signals at all times, park their vehicle in a safe manner which will not interfere with incoming emergency apparatus or otherwise instructed by fire Officers, Fire Police and or Police Officers.
- 1.7.8 Personnel should make every effort to respond to an MCFD fire station and ride on the apparatus to a call whenever possible and refrain from responding to scenes in personal vehicles as much as possible, especially to areas not conducive or safe to have parked cars (i.e. I-81).
- 1.7.9 The Fire Chief and Asst. Chief of the apparatus shall be informed

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anytime a Department vehicle or fire fighter’s privately owned vehicle is involved in an accident responding to or returning from an incident, regardless of how minor the accident is.

1.8 Non-Emergency Response

1.8.1 For all responses deemed “***non-emergency***”, all units shall respond under normal traffic conditions without utilizing emergency lighting and/or audible warning devices unless it is deemed necessary by an officer or for the safety of the responders at an incident scene.

1.8.2 Examples of “non-emergency” responses include but are not limited to:

1.8.2.1 Trees down not endangering life.

1.8.2.2 Fire to Reported Out.

1.8.2.3 Odor Investigations.

1.8.2.4 Carbon Monoxide or Smoke Alarm Activations not endangering life.

1.8.2.5 Move up assignments to another station.

1.8.2.6 Any other response in which it has been determined to be a non-emergency or not life-threatening.

1.8.3 When informed via radio or other manner by a Fire Department Chief or Line Officer, that a response has been downgraded to non-emergency, all responding units cancelled shall return to station. Units not cancelled shall proceed to the scene under a non-emergency response mode (no lights or audible warning devices).

1.8.3.1 If units are cancelled by other means (i.e. Police or the Comm. Center) and **no** Fire Department Chief or Line Officer is on-scene, the first piece of apparatus shall continue to the scene under non-emergency response mode to investigate the nature of the dispatch. All other fire apparatus and personnel shall cancel and return to station.

1.9 See Apparatus Backing Policy SOG #4811.

1.10 It shall be the responsibility of the Assistant Fire Chief to insure that all members are trained to this SOG.

1.11 Any firefighter not adhering to this SOG shall be subject to Borough and Department disciplinary action.

Fire Chief

Author