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|  | BEDFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & RESCUE Standard Operating Guideline | |
| | Discipline: Operations | DATE: June 1, 2022 |
| | Reference Number: F/R-09 | |
| | APPROVED BY: Chief Janet Blankenship | |
| | SUBJECT: Minimum Staffing Apparatus | |

Purpose:

The purpose of this guideline is to establish standard operating guidance for Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue Field Personnel on minimum staffing for apparatus response in accordance with NFPA 1720 Section 4.1.5.

Scope:

The SOG applies to all apparatus response under the authority of the Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue Chief.

Definitions:

NFPA Standard 1720-4.1.5 states that “The fire department shall identify minimum staffing requirements to ensure that sufficient numbers of members are available to operate safely and effectively.”

Minimum Staffing Level: The least number of qualified non-probationary personnel required to staff specified apparatus. Additional personnel may respond on apparatus to exceed the minimum stated levels as personnel availability and needs allows.

Procedure/Requirements:

It is the policy of the Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue to ensure the safety of fire and rescue personnel and enhance the delivery of fire, rescue, and emergency services on all types of incidents by establishing minimum staffing levels of qualified personnel for all apparatus responding to various incidents.

To be counted as part of the minimum staffing requirement, personnel must be an active member of a Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue organization, be covered under the County insurance policy and meet minimum certification requirements for the type of incident in which they are responding.

Minimum Staffing Levels are required for the following type of apparatus response:

- Engine/Wagon: 3 trained members or to approved capacity of the apparatus
- Ladder/Aerial/Quint: 4 trained members
- Rescue: 4 trained members **RIT Response 4 trained members in RIT**
- Tanker: 1 Driver/Operator proficient in Rural Water Supply
- Brush/Utility Truck: 2 trained members
- Command/Response Vehicles: 1 trained member
- Air Trucks: 1 trained member

- Fire Boat: 2 trained members
- Fire Boat acting as water supply: 1 trained member

Virginia Office of EMS (VAOEMS) guidelines dictate the following:

- ALS Medic Unit: 2 certified VAOEMS providers- 1 at an Advanced Life Support Level and 1 at a minimum of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Level
- BLS Medic Unit: 1 certified VAOEMS provider at a minimum of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Level and an EVOC trained driver

All apparatus responding to incidents must announce their staffing level at the time they mark enroute to the incident. If units are understaffed, they may still respond, however, they are required to advise Dispatch to add the next due company. The purpose of this requirement is to get the appropriate number of trained personnel on scene in the most efficient manner possible.

The Incident Commander may request a specific resource from a company as opposed to a company response. When a single resource request is made, the responding company should adhere to the minimum staffing requirements to ensure incident needs are met.

Once a response has been committed to an incident, the resource shall respond in accordance with the stated guidelines and be dedicated to the incident until the Incident Commander gives orders otherwise.

Enforcement

It is the responsibility of each agency under the direction of Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue to implement and enforce this guideline to ensure safe operations on any incident.