

**FAUQUIER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

SUBJECT: EMS Incidents and staffing		NUMBER: 04.015
DATE ISSUED: August 21, 2013	AMENDS:	EFFECTIVE DATE: September 18, 2013

1.0 Policy

It is the policy of the Communications Division to have a simple uniform system of dispatching EMS incidents throughout the county.

2.0 Purpose

To establish protocol necessary for employees to ensure operational integrity and the appropriate allocation of EMS resources utilizing a systematic approach.

3.0 Procedure:

3.1 Staffing Units

If a unit is staffed with a crew, whether in station or at home (within 4 minutes from the station) the duty crew must contact communications to be listed as "staffed."

- 3.1.1 If staffing from home the crew must have radio contact to advise Communications that they are en route to the station upon dispatch.
- 3.1.2 Utilizing emergency medical dispatch (EMD) the dispatcher will determine if the call is advance life support (ALS) or basic life support (BLS). When the first due station is staffed BLS and the call is determined to be BLS then only the first due staffed station will be dispatched. If the station is staffed BLS and the call is determined to be ALS then the first due BLS unit will be dispatched along with the next closest staffed medic unit.
- 3.1.3 If a first due station is not staffed, it will be dispatched along with the nearest appropriate level "staffed" station to ensure a quick response. Staffed units shall be vocalized as STAFFED during vocals.
- 3.1.4 Co 13 will be dispatched to all emergency medical service (EMS) calls within their first due area (any 13 Box)
- 3.1.5 If an ambulance does not respond within 4 minutes and there is a separate engine company in that area (Company 3) the engine will be added to the second dispatch.

3.2 An adequate response shall be met when an ambulance responds with enough personnel to transport a patient.

- 3.2.1 Fauquier will continue to tone EMS units until a staffed transport capable ambulance is en route.

- 3.2.2 Once an ALS unit has been dispatched it cannot be placed in service until such time as an EMS provider is on scene with the patient and done a patient assessment.
- 3.2.3 An ALS unit is defined as an ambulance staffed with at least one emergency medical technician-intermediate (EMT-I) or emergency medical technician paramedic (EMT-P)
- 3.3 Self-Initiating ALS: To ensure the closest available ALS provider responds immediately, any staffed ALS provider may “self-initiate” a response to any call in which ALS care may be needed by marking up and asking Communications to add them to the call.