

Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue

OPERATING PROCEDURE

No. 501

Responder in Danger

Effective Date: July 21, 2017

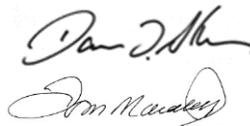
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Forms:

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Approved By: Tom Marable, President VFRA



PURPOSE

To define and standardize terminology, response, and procedures associated with the call type “Signal 1”, responder in danger.

SCOPE

All personnel within the Fauquier County Department of Fire and Rescue as well as members of the Fauquier County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.

I. PREFACE

Responders who arrive on location to an emergency incident not encompassed within an IDLH atmosphere and encounter a hostile situation which places them in significant danger or whom experience a potentially life threatening situation shall use the terminology “**SIGNAL 1**” to alert the Fauquier County communications center to the danger they have encountered.

The terminology “Signal 1” is universally utilized by the Northern Virginia Fire and Law Enforcement Agencies. It is imperative that Fauquier County jurisdictionally adopt the usage of this terminology in an effort to gain compliance and likeness with procedures utilized regionally.

Responders who encounter a hostile situation often times are incapable of completing the call due to the unforeseen stressors of a potentially life threatening situation. Therefore it is imperative that the appropriate resources are compiled and utilized to mitigate the incident. During these circumstances responders may not be physically harmed during the encounter but senior staff needs to monitor personnel for the negative signs of stress and emotional detriments that may impact a responder completing his/her assigned shift. Procedures for handling personnel experiencing emotional distress can be found defined in additional policies and procedures.

Desire to Serve

Ability to Perform

Courage to Act

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A verbal “Signal 1” will not prompt a canned response of “confirm” or “deny” from communications personnel. The use of the term will prompt the communications center to dispatch a “Signal 1” response. Communications will acknowledge the receipt of the “Signal 1” call for assistance by the simple statement of: *Fauquier Copies “Signal 1” from Engine 1*

The Signal 1 response shall consist of the following units and follow the defined guidelines for response.

- A. All available Law Enforcement Personnel in the vicinity
 - Per normal Emergency Alert Activations
- B. Re-Alert the first due company
 - Prompts an additional response in the form of Engine/Ambulance company plus addition of Chief Officer notification
- C. Alert Closest Staffed Command/Battalion Officer
 - Provides notification to Staffed Officers to respond to a potentially hostile situation involving initial responders.
- D. Alert next due staffed EMS unit
 - Provides additional medical care if needed for first responders who may have been injured during the hostile situation.

II. PROCEDURE

Upon receipt of a “Signal 1” communications will follow procedures outlined within this policy.

- A. Step 1: Acknowledge the receipt of the Signal 1
- B. Step 2: Alert Law Enforcement to Respond.
- C. Step 3: Alert the Signal 1 response for Fire and Rescue Unit.
- D. Step 4: Instruct responding Signal 1 units to utilize tactical channel for response (initiating unit will remain on original response channel).
 - a. The intent of additional units communicating on alternate channel will be to minimize a potentially hostile subject from being alerted to the additional response en-route to their location.

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- E. Step 5: Instruct units of the need to stage prior to arrival on scene and await Law Enforcement personnel to secure scene.

- F. Step 6: Keep responding units updated on any potential change in the situation surrounding the utilization of the Signal 1 code type.