

BIRMINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY NO. 93-8-9

(Revised 12/6/12)

VOLUME: 1

SUBJECT:

ALARM DISPATCH ASSIGNMENT POLICY

SIGNED:


IVOR J. BROOKS, FIRE CHIEF

12/6/12
DATE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the appropriate alarm dispatch assignments for all applicable emergency incidents. This policy will also provide a standard written reference of alarm dispatch assignments for all department personnel. In addition, this document will identify staff personnel to be notified during major alarms.

POLICY

The Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Services Department will dispatch the appropriate resources necessary to mitigate emergency incidents.

AUTHORITY

The authority vested in the Fire Chief by Code of Alabama, Section 11-43-140 and the General City Code of Birmingham, (1980) Section 9-3-5.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the Assistant Chiefs of Operations to review and update the policy. It is the responsibility of Fire Communication to administer and dispatch in accordance.

DEFINITIONS

Notification

Notification of department personnel by cell phone and/or e-mail.

Confirmed Notification

Confirmed notification will be accomplished by e-mail and reply, oral communications; via telephone or radio between a Fire Communications Operator and the personnel being notified.

Dispatching

Dispatching a process by which an alarm is received at the communication center, is retransmitted to emergency response units in the field, and is acknowledged when received.

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PROCEDURE

I. STANDARD DEPARTMENTAL ALARM DISPATCH AND ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES:

- A. All alarm assignments will be **dispatched** in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.
- B. **Normal dispatch procedures.** BF&RS unit will be dispatched by Fire Communications Bureau via radio (F1 Dispatch).
- C. **Selective Dispatch System**
Fire Communications Bureau will use the Selective Dispatch System when dispatching units. The Battalion Chief in the respective battalions shall be notified on single response calls involving unusual situations. (See Selective Dispatch Policy)
- D. When an alarm assignment is dispatched, all dispatched units will **acknowledge and respond** as directed to the emergency scene unless otherwise directed to alter or cancel the response by a Public Safety Dispatcher, the appropriate Battalion Chief, or higher ranking officer.
- E. Units out of quarters, upon being dispatched, will **acknowledge** the alarm via radio communication giving their location or Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and **respond** immediately.
- F. The O.I.C. of the first arriving company/unit will **report** via radio communications upon arriving at the incident scene and give a detailed status report in accordance with the Urban Tactical Fire Suppression Plan (7-21-94) (Incident description, conditions and code, etc.) When a detailed report is not needed arriving company/units may report on the scene via the unit's MDT.

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II. STAFF NOTIFICATION AND DISPATCH PROCEDURES:

The following procedures are established to provide standard guidelines for notifying, confirm notifying and/or dispatching staff and administrative personnel of incidents. The Department's Fire Communications Bureau is responsible for making notifications and dispatching. When requested by the Duty Chief or other Chief Officer Fire Communications will dispatch staff personnel via confirmed notification procedures.

III. GENERAL NOTIFICATION

All fire department personnel issued a blackberry will be notified of all working fires or greater, department motor vehicle accidents and firefighter injuries and other information when directed by a chief officer.

IV. STAFF PERSONNEL

Respective staff personnel (i.e., Chief of Training, Training/Safety Captains, Airport Chief, Fire Marshal, EMS Chief, Chief of Fire Communication and Administrative Officer) will be notified of incidents within the City including the following. (See Definition above) Other staff personnel will be notified when requested by the Duty Chief. Staff personnel will be dispatched and required to respond in a timely fashion when requested by the duty chief or other chief officer

- A. Second Alarm or greater assignments are dispatched on a high-rise, apartment building, multiple residential occupancy, *and* commercial *and/or* industrial facility fires.
- B. Major hazardous material incidents (Second Alarm.)
- C. Special Rescue Alarms - structure collapse or explosion in multiple occupancy commercial or industrial structure; Second Alarm Incidents - confined space rescue; Mass Casualty Incidents - aircraft crash.
- D. S.W.I.F.T.T. alert of activation.
- E. Any other major incidents when requested by Incident Commander.

Note: All staff personnel assigned a 24-hour vehicle are expected to respond when requested by the Duty Chief or other chief officers and will report to the I.C. upon arrival on the scene of an incident.

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V. THE ASSISTANT CHIEFS AND DUTY CHIEF

Fire Alarm will confirm notification to the Duty Chief and notify the other Assistant Chiefs, of incidents occurring in the City including the following categories.

- A. Fire Incidents-When a working fire is reported on a Commercial Fire.
- B. Fire Incidents-When a second alarm assignment is dispatched to something other than a single family dwelling or an initial dispatch is equal to a second alarm assignment.
- C. Hazardous Material Incidents: Involving major hazardous material spills, leaks releases or fires. These incidents will include the following:
- D. Transport tanker, bulk storage tanks, large commercial storage tanks, large pipeline rupture, underground storage tank rupture with flowing product release, hazardous material spill or release within a building with an accompanying report of a major release or spill, fires involving any of the previous categories or fires occurring in any building used for hazardous material storage or manufacturing.
- E. Special Rescue
- F. Multiple occupancy structure collapse, including commercial and industrial structures, commercial or industrial structure explosions, any confined space rescue requiring a second alarm, mass casualty incidents, aircraft crash, on or off airport grounds, any structural collapse requiring extensive or prolonged rescue efforts.
- G. Special Notification - Line of duty firefighter death and/or injury, civilian fire fatalities, major civil disturbances, any significant department personnel injury requiring transport and/or hospitalization.
- H. S.W.I.F.T.T. alert of activation.
- I. The Duty Chief will request any additional assistance as needed (i.e. staff personnel, the Assistant Chiefs, and Fire Chief.

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VI. FIRE CHIEF

Fire Alarm will confirm notification of the Fire Chief of incidents occurring within the city when the incident is of the following status:

- A. Fire Incidents - third alarm house fires, second alarm high rise, apartment building, multiple occupancy, and commercial or industrial facility fire.
- B. Major hazardous material incidents, any minor hazardous material incident that is upgraded to a second alarm.
- C. Special Rescue Alarms - Multiple occupancy structural collapse with people trapped, including commercial and industrial structures, industrial or commercial explosion, mass casualty incidents, aircraft crash on or off airport grounds, any structural collapse or any incident requiring extensive or prolonged rescue operations.
- D. Special Notification - Line of duty firefighter death and/or injury, civilian fire fatalities, major civil disturbances, any significant department personnel injury requiring transport and/or hospitalization.
- E. S.W.I.F.T.T. alert of activation.
- F. When requested by the Duty Chief

ALARM ASSIGNMENT AND DISPATCH PROCEDURES

The following guidelines identify the standard dispatch assignments that are to be implemented according to designated territory assignments, incident severity and situational needs.

All responding staff personnel shall report to the Incident Commander and await assignment.

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FIRE SUPPRESSION ALARM ASSIGNMENT DISPATCH:

A.

- Multiple alarm assignments dispatches pertain to non-mechanical reported incidents only. (Not those reported by automatic detection systems)
- House fire (single family dwelling), mobile homes or duplex homes.
- Explosion – a one (1) or two (2) family dwelling with ordinary construction (with or without fire).
- Outdoor structure material storage facilities (building construction material or material storage shed).
- Outbuildings or residential garages not attached to a dwelling. **(The Truck Company will be deleted from the assignment for type of situation.)**

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Batt. Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	3	1	1	1				1							
NOTIFY							X 1								

X Dispatch on working fire.

B.

- Multi-occupancy structure fires including boarding houses, apartment buildings, town houses, condominiums, commercial occupancies not over four (4) stories, or any building of similar construction.
- Commercial/Mercantile not over four (4) stories.
- Large (Industrial/Manufacturer) building fire or similar type building not more than five (5) stories.

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Batt. Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	3	1	1	1	1			1							
NOTIFY						1	X 1						4	1	

*Staff personnel will be confirmed dispatched when requested.

X Dispatch on working fire.

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C. Shopping centers/malls or large complexes.

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS Superv.	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	3	1	1	1	1		1	1							
NOTIFY						*1									

*Staff personnel will be the confirmed dispatched when requested.

D.

- High Rise Fire (five stories, 60 feet or more) of any type occupancy.
- Mass occupancy buildings, (assembly buildings, arenas, schools, pavilions, multi-story department stores, Hospital or any structure of similar construction and use).

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Batt Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	4	2	1	2	1		1	1				1			1
NOTIFY						*1							4	1	

*Staff personnel will be the confirmed dispatched when requested.

E.

- Woodland/forest fires
- Vehicle fires (passenger cars, pickup trucks, family vans, step vans, buses, large trucks tractor trailers, train cars, box cars, earth moving equipment).

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	1			#1											
NOTIFY															

Battalion Chief is dispatched if the vehicle fire is located on the interstate.

Note: The I.C. will request resources as needed on large woodland/forest fires

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D. Hazardous material rail incident (spill only)

- Transport tanker fire
- Hazardous material spill/leak within a structure

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	3	1	2	2			1	1	1	1		1			
NOTIFY					1	*1	1						4	1	1

*Staff personnel will be confirmed dispatch when requested by the Duty Chief.

E. Hazardous material rail incident (spill only)

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	2	1	1	1	1			1	1	1		1			1
NOTIFY						*1							4		1

*Staff personnel will be confirmed dispatch when requested by the Duty Chief.

F. Hazardous material rail incident fires and storage tank product release (tank farm size)

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	3	1	1	2			1	1	1	1	1	1			1
NOTIFY					1	*1							4	1	1

*Staff personnel will be confirmed dispatch when requested by the Duty Chief.

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AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS

- A. Aircraft crash off municipal airport facility, (any type or size aircraft). Dispatch/notify Airport Fire Chief. This dispatch will be supplemented by the airport station's normal dispatch for an incident of this type.

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4.	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	4	1	2	2	1		1	1				1			1
NOTIFY						1							4	1	1

Appropriate Airport equipment and personnel will be dispatched.

- B. Aircraft crash on municipal airport facility. (Large multi engine air craft) Dispatch/notify Airport Fire Chief. The units listed will supplement the airports station's normal response of;

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	3	1	2	1	1		1					1			
NOTIFY						1		1					4	1	1

- C. Incidents involving small twin engine or single engine aircraft that occur on airport grounds will be managed by the airport station's normal alarm assignment in addition to the following dispatch.

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4	Deputy Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	2	1	2	1			1								1
NOTIFY					1	*1		1					4	1	

*Staff personnel will be confirmed dispatched when requested by the Duty Chief

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- D. Basic Life Support** - The following incidents are identified as assignments and may be managed by a single engine company response (BLS).

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Mass casualty incidents

- A Mass casualty incidents (train derailments-collisions, building collapse with people trapped, explosion with injuries, reports of civil disorder, or any incident involving 10 or more casualties).

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	3	1	2	1	1		1	1	#						1
NOTIFY						1							1	1	
CONFIRMED DISPATCH															

*Staff personnel will be confirmed dispatched when requested by the Duty Chief

#The Haz-Mat or Air Unit will be dispatched when applicable.

- B. Mass casualty industrial incident where casualties are reported. (An explosion or a massive number of casualties resulting from an industrial accident)

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	3	2	2	1	1		1	1					1	1	
NOTIFY						1									
CONFIRMED DISPATCH						*1									

- C. **Multiple** casualty incidents, where the count is in excess of two (2), for any type of incident.

UNIT	Eng	Trk	RU	Bat Chief	EMS 4	Duty Chief	Fire Inves.	Safe Off	Haz Mat	Decon Unit	Foam Unit	Air Unit	Asst. Chiefs	Fire Chief	HR
DISPATCH	1		2	1	1										
NOTIFY															

*Staff personnel will be confirmed dispatched when requested by the Duty Chief

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