



**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER**

General Order Number: 06-31	Effective Date: October 20, 2014
Division: Emergency Operations	
Chapter: Use of Personally Owned Vehicles to Incident Scenes	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Marc S. Bashoor <i>[Signature]</i>	Revision Date: N/A

POLICY

This general order shall set forth a policy regarding the use of personally owned vehicles in regards to emergency operations, for the purpose of achieving better safety and accountability at emergency incidents. This policy is not intended to limit the free movement of an individual in their personally owned vehicle and shall apply to those individuals operating in an official capacity.

DEFINITIONS

Personally Owned Vehicle (POV) –A vehicle not owned, maintained, or insured by Prince George’s County, other governmental agency, or any fire/rescue volunteer corporation.

Fire/EMS Department Vehicle – Any vehicle owned or operated by the Fire/EMS Department, including those owned or operated by volunteer corporations in an official capacity.

PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Procedures

Personnel are prohibited from using a personally owned vehicle to travel to the scene of an emergency. Personnel authorized to respond on incidents shall utilize a Fire/EMS Department vehicle whenever available. Except as noted below, under no circumstances may personally owned vehicles be used for emergency response.

2. Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy are as follows:

- This General Order is not intended to prohibit personnel from acting in response to an emergency that occurs in their presence or immediate vicinity, provided that they notify Public Safety Communications as soon as possible, obey all traffic laws, do not take unnecessary risks, and cease participation in emergency operations immediately upon the arrival of Fire/EMS Department units. Public Safety Communications shall be advised of the name and ID number of the individual(s) on the scene, a callback number, the nature of the emergency, and resources needed.
- This General Order is not intended to prohibit the use of POVs for non-emergency support functions such as the canteen, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams, clergy, clerical support, and rehab units from proceeding to emergency scenes. These units shall



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not participate in emergency operations or enter an IDLH environment and must check in with the incident commander.

- This General Order is not intended to prohibit “call backs” of off-duty personnel who may be required to report directly to the scene of an incident by order of the Fire Chief or his designee, in accordance with *G.O. 06-13 Emergency Operations Plan* and *G.O. 06-25 Response Responsibilities of Off Duty Personnel* or members of a specialty team alerted for an incident. Personnel shall not participate in emergency operations prior to being assigned by the incident commander or staff.
- This General Order is not intended to prohibit volunteer members from traveling from their home or other location to a fire station for the purpose of responding to a call. However, it is prohibited for members to travel from home or other location directly to the scene of an emergency in a POV.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS / ATTACHMENTS

N/A