

San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: Apparatus Reduction and Diversion

Policy No. 1999-02

Adopted 10/06/03

Revised 11/19/08

- Title:** Apparatus Reduction and Diversion
- Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a standard procedure for response reduction and the diversion from one incident to another.
- Policy:** It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that all fire companies shall follow the procedures outlined in this policy for emergency response level reduction and to divert to a higher priority incident when requested.
- Background:** Multiple diversions of a Priority 3 EMS call and the reduction of a priority 3 EMS call per Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD).

Procedure:

While enroute to an incident, fire apparatus are subject to diversion to a higher priority call. Upon diversion, the lower priority incident shall be immediately re-dispatched.

Once the lower priority incident is re-dispatched, the replacement apparatus shall be subject to continued diversion unless the incident is EMS related, in which case, the apparatus shall remain committed to the incident unless otherwise directed by a Chief Officer.

All changes to any responder's code of response or resource allocation, including but not limited to reductions or cancellations of ambulance, Fire or Law Enforcement, shall be relayed by the dispatcher to the Company Officer / IC whether enroute or on scene. In addition, the dispatcher shall inform the assigned crew of any other changes involving the ambulance response such as diversion, extended eta (out of zone), etc.

Upon receipt of a response reduction to an incident, the fire dispatcher shall direct the responding apparatus to reduce per the source (EMD, Police, etc). Should the apparatus be on scene at the time of reduction, the dispatcher shall advise the crew that the ambulance has been reduced.

Upon receipt of an Omega determinant (excluding ingestion), the Fire dispatcher shall direct the responding apparatus to reduce per EMD and inform the Company Officer that

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the ambulance has been cancelled. Should the apparatus be on scene at the time of reduction, the dispatcher shall advise the crew that the ambulance has been cancelled.

Upon receipt of an ingestion Omega determinant, the Fire dispatcher shall cancel the responding apparatus and inform the Company Officer that the ambulance has been cancelled. Should the apparatus be on scene at the time of reduction, the dispatcher shall advise the crew that the ambulance has been cancelled.

The on scene fire crew is not expected or required to provide a patient update when changing the response code of a responding ambulance.