

# Emergency Medical Services

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## 15.2200 Scope:

The Town of Menasha Fire Department began offering a limited response First Responder Program in February of 1997. Prior to this date, no EMS services had been provided by the fire department. Service priority is to supplement Gold Cross Ambulance (primary provider) on life-threatening EMS incidents to the best of our ability and available resources at the time of an incident. Only fire department personnel who meet the criteria of TMFD S.O.G. 3.60-3.64 (First responder Position Description) can provide First Responder services.

## 15.2201 Operations:

The following level of service will be provided to patients in the Town of Menasha or in the event of a Mutual Aid request outside the Town of Menasha:

- a. Fire Department Training Evolutions/Drills
- b. Use at TMFD Emergency Operations along with Gold Cross Ambulance
- c. Major Disasters - multiple patients when all other EMS resources have been utilized
- d. Specific incident requests from law enforcement agencies such as TMPD, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office or the State Patrol
- e. Specific incident requests from Gold Cross Ambulance
- f. Town of Menasha Fire Department First Responders will be dispatched, by the Winnebago County E911 System when a citizen requests emergency medical aid. The TMFD First Responders will work closely with the TMPD, Winnebago County Sheriff and State Patrol to coordinate use and need, keeping in mind, Gold Cross Ambulance is the primary provider of EMS.

## 15.2202 Response:

- a. Normally TMFDFR's respond in personal vehicles abiding by all appropriate statutory traffic laws. If written authorization is obtained annually from the Fire Chief, the use of rotating red lights are optional and must ONLY be used when parked at an emergency.
- b. If not at a fire emergency, the TMFDFR, in consultation with the Officer of the vehicle, can respond to a medical emergency in a TMFD vehicle using an emergency response. The TMFDFR is in charge of any issues concerning patient care while on the scene, with the vehicle Officer maintaining control of the fire apparatus.
- c. Accidents with injuries responses now include the dispatching of fire apparatus along with the TMFDFR's. Vehicle accident scenes can provide unique circumstances along with personnel safety concerns. While some TMFDFR's may respond to the scene

additional personnel are needed to staff the fire apparatus. Good communication must be utilized so that we have TMFDFR's responding along with necessary fire apparatus.

**15.2203 Primary Provider:**

- a. Gold Cross Ambulance is currently the primary provider of EMS in the Town of Menasha. Guidance related to TMFDFR care shall be coordinated and supervised through Gold Cross Ambulance Medical Control.
- b. Once TMFDFR's are dispatched to an incident, with a "patient", ALL patients must be transferred to Gold Cross Ambulance personnel for final disposition.
- c. Under NO circumstances shall a TMFD First Responder or any fire department employee provide "transport" service with a private vehicle or Town of Menasha vehicle.

**15.2204 Radio:**

- a. Responding First Responders shall use "FR - 40, FR - 41 or FR - 2- 40, FR - 2-41" as the official Unit radio designations.

**15.2205 Documentation:**

- a. An official fire department EMS Report shall be completed for each patient encountered with a minimum of the following documented:
  - i. Chief Complaint
  - ii. Vital Signs
  - iii. Care Rendered
  - iv. Disposition
  - v. Time Dispatched-Time "On Location"- Time "In-Service"

**15.2206 Alcohol Consumption:**

- a. Do Not respond to dispatched incidents if alcohol has been consumed within the last 4-6 hours or blood levels would indicate "under-the-influence" limits.

**15.2207 Safety/Identification:**

At any time First Responders are on location of an EMS call, the First Responder vest (bright orange reflective tape) shall be worn, unless a uniform with badge and name tag is being worn. If dispatched to an accident with injuries or working in the area of the roadway, reflective safety vests (lime yellow) are required for your safety.

If dispatch information or a situation seems to be of a potential criminal/violent nature, First Responders shall wait until proper law enforcement clearance is given. Crimes scenes shall be protected carefully by First Responders.

**15.2208 Lead First Responder:**

At any EMS incident where more than one TMFD First Responder is present, the First Responders shall self appoint a "Lead First Responder" that shall manage radio communications, designate report responsibilities and direct other appropriate personnel. This should be a First Responder that is not the primary care provider which leaves the primary care provider with only patient care duties for proper concentration. If the Fire Department is present, this Lead First Responder will likely become the EMS Operations Sector also.

**15.2209 Joint Response – Fire & First Responders:**

- a. Incident Command – If the Town of Menasha Fire Department is dispatched to the same location as the First Responders, it shall be considered a Fire Department response and Incident Command shall be established by a Fire Department Officer or crew leader.
- b. A reasonable number of First Responders would be expected to respond in private vehicles (in most cases, two First Responders is sufficient). Adequate staffing and access for fire apparatus response should be considered.
- c. After arrival of the initial First Responder, if additional First Responders are not needed at the scene in private vehicles, they shall be directed by the First Responder on scene to respond to their respective fire station.
- d. After arrival on scene for an accident with injuries when the fire department has been dispatched and the First Responder determines that the fire apparatus is not needed the First Responder shall direct the fire apparatus to return to quarters.
- e. EMS Operations Sector – if more than one First Responder is on location, the First Responders will designate a "Lead First Responder" which will become the EMS Operations Sector. That Operations Sector will report directly to the Incident Commander and an EMS ICS Vest should be worn if at all possible. All First Responders will be directed and supervised by this EMS Operations Sector.

**15.2210 Fire Department Drills & Other Organized Events:**

- a. A Lead First Responder (or the EMS Coordinator) will be designated (selected by the First Responders) at these events.
- b. The Lead First Responder or EMS Coordinator shall immediately report to the Emergency Operations Captain (appropriate station area where the drill or event is being conducted) or Training Captain (if no Operation Captains are available) and

identify TWO First Responders that would be available to respond in a squad or private vehicle to any EMS calls during the event.

- c. It is preferable that the selected First Responders are from different stations.

**15.2211 Limited Access Highway Responses:**

First Responders responding to EMS incidents on Limited Access Highways are a genuine Safety concern due to limited emergency lighting, audible warning devices, limited scene lighting, safe parking limitations, and vehicle speeds.

- a. Private vehicles should be limited to only the minimum necessary to complete direct patient care.
- b. Private vehicles should only be parked on the side of the highway where the accident has occurred. First Responders should not be parking on the other side of the highway and crossing over the median to get to the accident scene. Private vehicles should also be parked in front of the accident scene to provide a level of safety and also so that approaching traffic can see the other emergency vehicles protecting the scene.
- c. On incidents with injuries, the Fire Department will respond in order to provide proper lighting, patient access (jaws), scene protection and accident clean-up. First Responders have the option of responding on Fire Department vehicles. This should be communicated to all First Responders responding to the call to report to the station. They can then respond to the scene on an apparatus.
- d. Reflective safety vests (lime yellow) are REQUIRED to be worn while on Limited Access Highways. As soon as possible, First Responders not needed for direct patient care should leave the scene to minimize exposure to additional traffic accidents.