

## **NORTH BERRIEN FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

**Category: Responses**

**Issued: 2010, 01 Updated:**

**Title: Response Definitions**

## **OPERATIONAL POLICIES**

**Policy: 09-402**

**Issued By: F/C Spiegel**

### **PURPOSE**

The response policy will indicate the established running order for the most common types of calls for service by the fire district. The Officer-in-Charge may request additional resources or diminish the response as needed.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**True Alarm / Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA):** Activated residential smoke alarms, local fire alarms called in, activated fire alarms called in by a central station or received / monitored at dispatch. Included are water flows, smoke/heat detectors, and manual pull stations.

**Trouble Alarm:** Activated trouble or supervisory alarm received at dispatch or local fire

**Supervisory Alarm:** Activated alarm in a trouble / supervisory condition.

**Structure Fire:** Include fire, smoke, smoke odor, electrical odor/sparks within a residential or commercial property. Also unknown type fires / plumes of smoke.

**Car Fire:** Car, truck or other type of vehicle fire / smoke.

**Dumpster Rubbish Fire:** Dumpsters, compactors, trash can, rubbish piles, and other trash containers.

**Open Burning Complaint:** Piles of landscape waste, leaves, trees, branches, that may not be in compliance with the local ordinances or Michigan environmental guidelines.

**Grass / Field Fire:** Prairie / dune grass, field, crop, swamp, brush, and forest fires.

**Car Crash:** Motor vehicle accidents that may require fire suppression, hazardous material mitigation or extrication / rescue.

**Industrial Accidents:** Accidents on a construction site, factory or other industrial site that may require and extrication / rescue.

**Drowning / Water Rescue:** On the water rescue and recovery, underwater rescue and recovery, ice rescue, and recovery of people or animals.

**Technical Rescue:** These incidents may or may not require a Technical Rescue Team to respond, however the response may require OSHA regulations be followed and the response of specially trained personnel and equipment.

- **Confined space rescue** such as a sewer, pit, or silo.
- **Trench rescue** in a utility or other construction excavation.
- **High angle rescue** in or on a water tower, building, or other elevated structure.
- **Structural collapse** of a building or other material that may entrap a person.

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**Bomb Threat:** A call has been made with a credible / non-credible claim of a bomb being at a location.

**Confirmed Explosive Device:** The police or other agency has confirmed a potential explosive device has been identified.

**Police Assist:** Assist police with whatever request they may have. This may include assist in searching, providing a ladder, forcible entry, etc.

**CO Detector without symptoms:** Activated carbon monoxide alarms where occupants do not complain of symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**CO Detector with symptoms:** Activated carbon monoxide detectors where the building occupants are complaining of carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms.

**Haz-Mat Level 1:** Small gasoline, diesel, and oil spills. Included are inside or outside low pressure natural gas leaks or odors; spills, leaks, broken containers of other consumer commodities such as bleach, solvents, pool chemicals, fertilizers, & pesticides. Included are also investigations of unknown substances or containers.

**Haz-Mat Level 2:** Large spills of gasoline, diesel fuel or oil, high pressure gas main leaks. Spills or leaks of hazardous materials that will require technician level response and the use of chemical protective clothing. Evacuation maybe required. Plugging, patching, dikes, damming or other containment measures may be required along with small scale de-con operations may be required. Fires involving fuels or chemicals may also be included. The response of the Berrien County Haz-Mat Team may be required.

**Haz-Mat Level 3:** Large scale incidents that involve local, state and federal response agencies, industry specialists, and multi-jurisdictional response. Specialized leak, spill control, and clean up equipment. Incidents that are large scale or involve long term evacuation. Incidents may include those beyond the capabilities of the Berrien County Haz-Mat Team.

**Public Assist / Investigation:** Includes lockouts, lock-ins, animal assists, water problems, low battery smoke alarms, and other miscellaneous service calls

**Ambulance Assist:** Lift assists for personal injury, illness to ambulance provider. These are considered a mutual aid given response.

**Mutual Aid / Automatic Response Agreements (ARA's),** MABAS requests or other special requests for equipment and/or manpower to the scene of an incident or to standby at a station in another jurisdiction.

**Well Being Checks / Searches:** Calls where the occupant has not been seen or heard from and it is presumed to be a life threatening emergency or missing person searches.