



City of Virginia Beach

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DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN For the Department and the Volunteer Rescue Squads of Virginia Beach

Designated Response Agency

Emergency Medical Services in Virginia Beach are provided by a combined force of career and volunteer personnel. In accordance with City Code Sec-2-421, the Virginia Beach Department of EMS is the Designated Emergency Response Agency (DERA) for the City of Virginia Beach. As such, the Department of Emergency Medical Services shall be responsible for controlling and supervising the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical and rescue services in the city to protect and promote the health, welfare and safety of the general public. The Director of EMS and the Operational Medical Director are responsible for the supervision and control of all department personnel engaged in providing emergency medical and rescue services.

Department Membership

The Department of EMS consists of the career and volunteer employees of the department, the members of the operational volunteer rescue squads serving the City, personnel assigned to the Fire Department when engaged in EMS activities, municipal early defibrillation teams, and members of the Emergency Communications and Citizen Services Department while engaged in emergency medical dispatch activities.

The following rescue squads are formally considered a part of the Department of EMS:

- Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Davis Corner Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Chesapeake Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Princess Anne Courthouse Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Creeds Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad

Blackwater Volunteer Rescue Squad
Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad
Plaza Volunteer Rescue Squad
Sandbridge Volunteer Rescue Squad

Each rescue squad is considered to be a citywide responder for purposes of deployment. While fund drive boundaries and primary rescue squad zones may be established, dispatching and response is conducted under the overall umbrella of the Department of EMS DERA. Each individual rescue squad maintains its own corporate charter and EMS agency licensure.

Virginia Beach City Code sections related to EMS are provided in Attachment A. A map of station locations is provided in Attachment B.

Virginia Beach Emergency Response System

Coordination and operation of the various organizations under the Department of EMS agency are conducted as part of an overall concept known as the Virginia Beach Emergency Response System (ERS). Under the ERS, policies, training standards, medical protocols, administrative requirements, equipment, etc are all standardized to ensure a unified approach to providing pre-hospital patient care and rescue services across the community. This systems approach is the foundation for organizational design and customer service delivery.

Training and Certification

The Department of EMS maintains a full time training staff and offers a variety of training programs. Coordination is maintained with training officers from all ERS agencies to ensure that appropriate medical instruction is provided.

Patient care provider certification and sanctioning guidelines are established by the Chief of EMS and the Operational Medical Director. Any member who is released to function at a designated level under the Department of EMS is authorized to provide that service anywhere in the City on any ERS apparatus. While an individual may have a primary affiliation with a particular rescue squad, he/she is always considered a member of the Department when acting as a DERA responder. For example, a member of the Creeds Volunteer Rescue Squad who is certified as an ambulance attendant-in-charge (AIC) may function as an AIC on a Sandbridge Volunteer Rescue Squad ambulance. In the event there is a question about a individual members' credentials, rescue squad commanders have access to master training records for any member of the organization.

To facilitate sharing of personnel resources, career EMS Department employees are affiliated as members of each rescue squad. For affiliation purposes, they are classified as auxiliary members.

Any member of the Department assigned to drive either a city-owned or volunteer-owned vehicle must meet both baseline Virginia Department of Health regulations as well as complete the Department of EMS driver certification program.

ERS Vehicles

The various organizations functioning under the Department of EMS provide a wide range of vehicles and equipment. The Department of EMS itself maintains and operates a number of permitted non-transport vehicles, special operations units and staff vehicles. Ambulances are owned by each of the ten volunteer rescue squad transport agencies. Some rescue squads also operate non-transport vehicles. The Fire Department operates a large fleet of vehicles. Any Fire apparatus engaged in EMS response is permitted as a non-transport vehicle under the Department of EMS agency license.

Any Department of EMS member meeting City administrative and training requirements is authorized to operate any ambulance or auxiliary vehicle operated by any of the City's volunteer rescue squads. Any driver meeting requirements for operation of a large vehicle may operate any squad truck owned one of the City's volunteer rescue squads. All qualified personnel are authorized to operate one of the Department's quick response zone cars.

In accordance with this Response Plan, all rescue squads participate in a shared vehicle arrangement. Authorization to operate a vehicle is in no way related to the member's status as a career or volunteer member of the department. Nor is authorization related to the member's status as a member of a particular Virginia Beach rescue squad agency.

Operations

1. All members and rescue squad agencies are required to comply with rules, regulations, policies and protocols established by the department in accordance with City Code Sec-2-422. Rules, regulations and policies are posted on a public website for easy access by all members. Members, agency officers and individual agencies are accountable for compliance to the department's rules, regulations and policies.
2. All patient care providers function under the Tidewater EMS Council Regional Protocols as amended by the OMD.
3. Responders are dispatched by the Virginia Beach Emergency Communications Center. This center provides Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) services under the oversight of the Department of EMS.
4. All rescue squads and City responders are considered mutually supporting as one unified citywide DERA. Response citywide is automatic and should not be considered as mutual aid even though a rescue squad may cross boundaries established for fund raising purposes.
5. Ambulances and zone cars are staffed via a coordinated scheduling process that aligns the personnel resources of the rescue squads and career medic force. While individual member preference and home squad will be a consideration for

assignments, a baseline level of strategic ambulance placement is maintained (i.e. at least three staffed ambulances will be staffed at stations along the I264 corridor).

6. Virginia Beach EMS utilizes a fixed station model for initial apparatus assignments. However, supervisors can and will relocate ambulances to alternate stations or posting locations in order to optimize deployment of resources to meet ongoing demands for services.
7. The closest available ambulance is dispatched to all calls regardless of rescue squad primary service zone.
8. When closer by time and distance than the ambulance to Priority 1 calls, a first response unit is also dispatched. The closest available first response apparatus is dispatched to all calls regardless of engine company primary service zone. First responders are deployed in non-transport vehicles such as fire engines, ladder trucks, and heavy rescue trucks. Early defibrillation teams may also be activated, when appropriate.
9. A first responder may also be dispatched to Priority 2 calls when the ambulance is responding from a distance. This is done via CAD recommendation, by request of the ambulance crew, or by request of an EMS supervisor.

Response Time Standards

A core philosophy of the Virginia Beach ERS is to provide the most appropriate response unit in a timely fashion. As such, the primary performance measure is based on the unit arriving first to the scene of the emergency. This unit may be an ambulance or a non-transport vehicle. Rescue squad or engine company district boundaries are not a consideration.

For purposes of OEMS regulatory compliance, a local standard shall be established and monitored. As of the effective date of this document, the local standard for ambulance response shall be to arrive on scene within 15 minutes of the initial alarm for a Priority 1 incident, on at least 90% of incidents. This standard does not prohibit the organization from establishing even stricter targets/goals for performance monitoring and strategic planning. These targets can be found in the Department of EMS Response Time Monitoring Policy.

An annual response time report shall be provided to the OMD and Chief of EMS.

Mutual Aid

Mutual aid agreements will be maintained between the Virginia Beach Department of EMS and the DERAs in Norfolk, Chesapeake and Currituck County. As feasible, agreements should be created Northampton County, Norfolk International Airport and local military bases.

Any time the duty EMS Supervisor or any other EMS chief officer feels that an ERS resource will not arrive within a timely fashion, he/she is authorized to contact the appropriate mutual aid agency for assistance. Consideration shall be given to nature of the call, travel time, and potential availability of a closer local unit response. Mutual aid may be requested for first response, ALS response, and transport response as needed.

All requests for mutual aid assistance from a neighboring jurisdiction will be forwarded to the duty EMS Supervisor. He/she will evaluate current resources and provide the requested assistance whenever possible.

Communications

1. Primary communications between Department of EMS agencies and the Virginia Beach Emergency Communications Center is via 800 mghz radio. Complete interoperability exists between all permitted EMS vehicles owned by the City and any volunteer rescue squad.
2. Hospital communication is via 800 mghz portable radios.
3. All apparatus are equipped with mutual aid radio capability to communicate with Norfolk, Chesapeake, Norfolk International Airport, and military fire departments.
4. All ambulances and primary Department of EMS apparatus are equipped with VHF radio capability.

Equipment Standardization

In addition to Virginia Office of EMS requirements, all agencies and vehicles are designed and equipped within the parameters set by the department's Apparatus and Equipment Standardization Policy.

Medical Direction

All members of the Department of EMS function under a single Operational Medical Director (OMD) appointed by the City Manager as specified in City Code.

Quality Management Plan

The Department of EMS employs a full-time Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Coordinator. This officer shall monitor system performance in all areas of patient care. This work will also be supported through the analysis function provided by the department's Planning and Analysis Office. The Department of EMS participates on quality improvement committees hosted by local hospitals and the Tidewater EMS Council. A continuous dialogue is maintained between the CQI Coordinator, the OMD, training staff, and operational officers of all participating agencies.

Quality management activities are conducted according to the Department of EMS Quality Management Plan, which is posted on a public website for easy access by all members and partners.

Regulation and Enforcement

The Department of EMS has a designated officer assigned to oversee compliance issues for all ERS agencies. This officer serves as the primary link to the Virginia Office of EMS.

All City departments and volunteer rescue squads are expected to complete their bi-annual agency inspections via a consolidated process arranged with the Virginia Office of EMS.

The Department of EMS issues permits to all non-DERA EMS agencies operating in Virginia Beach. This allows for local regulation as defined by State Code.

Records

By direction of the Operational Medical Director, all Department of EMS responses are documented via field electronic reporting. Reports are submitted to a central database. Data element reports for the Department of EMS and the volunteer rescue squads are submitted by the Department of EMS on a monthly basis.

Copies of personnel and training records for Department of EMS and each rescue squad are maintained by the Department of EMS. These files are considered the official file of record for purposes of internal human resources processes, including promotions and disciplinary matters. Personnel and training records for Virginia Beach firefighters are maintained by the Virginia Beach Fire Department.

Infection Control

The Department of EMS provides infection control and occupational safety support for both department employees and the volunteer rescue squads. The Fire Department and Police Department provide their own coverage in these areas. All City agencies fall under the City of Virginia Beach Exposure Control Plan.

Major Incident Response

The ERS system follows the Tidewater EMS Council Regional MCI Plan. The Department of EMS is also an active participant in the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS).

The Department of EMS jointly maintains MCI response trucks. While each squad has access to at least 75 triage tags, caches of tags are assigned for rapid deployment citywide on the following apparatus:

- EMS supervisor trucks
- MCI trucks

Other ERS specialty resources include:

Two Fire Department heavy rescue trucks
Fire Department technical rescue team
Fire Department hazardous materials team
EMS tactical paramedics

EMS marine rescue team
EMS SAR/Bike team

Vehicle Procurement

Standards for vehicles, including procurement steps are outlined in the department's Apparatus and Equipment Standardization Policy. No vehicle may be added to the department or an individual rescue squad agency without prior written approval of the Chief of EMS.

Vehicle Maintenance

All city-insured vehicles are maintained by the Department of Public Works in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. Records are maintained at the City Garage.

Vehicle Sharing/Insurance Coverage

Rescue squad and EMS Department vehicle accidents are investigated by Department of EMS officers. Fire Department vehicle accidents are investigated by Fire Department officers.

Insurance coverage for all response vehicles, regardless of ownership, is provided by the City of Virginia Beach via the Risk Management Office. The City of Virginia Beach is self-insured.

System Improvement Process

Committees are established to enhance ERS performance. These committees are comprised of stakeholders from across the system including hospital staff, dispatchers, and field providers. An executive committee of senior staff reviews and implements recommendations from the working groups as appropriate.

An ERS liaison officer is assigned in each participating City department. This officer serves as the primary link between that agency and the Department of EMS medical and operational control system.

APPROVED:



2/20/2019

Edward Brazle
EMS Chief

Date


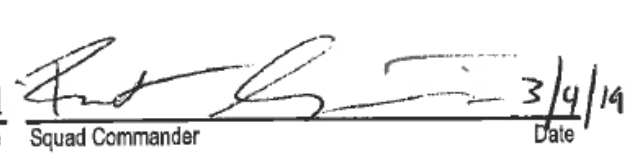


2/20/2019

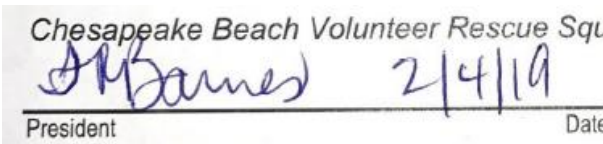
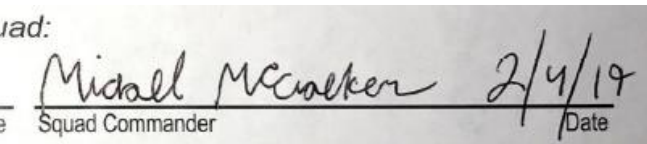
Stewart Martin, MD, FACEP
Operational Medical Director

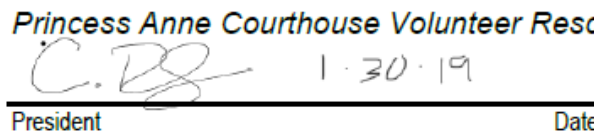
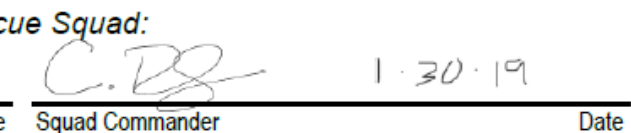
Date

APPROVED (cont):

Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad:
 3/4/19  3/4/19
President Date Squad Commander Date

Davis Corner Volunteer Rescue Squad:
 3-01-19  03/01/19
President Date Squad Commander Date

Chesapeake Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad:
 2/4/19  2/4/19
President Date Squad Commander Date

Princess Anne Courthouse Volunteer Rescue Squad:
 1-30-19  1-30-19
President Date Squad Commander Date

Creeds Volunteer Rescue Squad:

Nancy L. Dugan 2/26/2019
President Date

Deborah R. Volpe 2/26/2019
Squad Commander Date

Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad:

Pat Keen 3/4/19
President Date

[Signature] 8.13.19
Squad Commander Date

Blackwater Volunteer Rescue Squad:

Anna B. Donahue-Muck 2-13-19
President Date

[Signature] 02/13/19
Squad Commander Date

Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad:

[Signature] 1/29/19
President Date

[Signature] 1/29/19
Squad Commander Date

Plaza Volunteer Rescue Squad:

[Signature] 03/15/19
President Date

Bonita Yeard 3/15/19
Squad Commander Date

Sandbridge Volunteer Rescue Squad:

[Signature] 1/29/19
President Date

[Signature] 1/29/19
Squad Commander Date

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Virginia Beach City Code sections related to EMS

Attachment B – Map of station locations

Last update: 3/15/19