

	Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission Operations Manual	No. 04.01
	Firefighter Response and Safety	Effective Date: December 1, 2001 Revised Date: October 3, 2013

I. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to all Queen Anne's County fire service personnel.

II. PURPOSE

- A. To establish guidelines to enhance the safety of Emergency Service Personnel responding to incidents.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All personnel affiliated with a Queen Anne's County Fire Department will be responsible for ensuring strict adherence to this policy.

IV. POLICY

- A. All firefighters riding fire apparatus must pass the MFRI Firefighter I Training Course or a minimum 24-hour Pre-Basic Training Program developed and approved by the Chief of the department before riding on emergency calls. The 24-hour Pre-Basic Program serves as minimum training until such time the member can complete Firefighter I.

Note: any member who holds a MFRI card for Basic Fire or Essentials to Fire Fighting 1 thru 4 prior to December 1, 2001 will be exempt from the qualifications in Section A of this policy.

- B. All firefighters riding fire apparatus must complete the annual Blood Borne Pathogens Class each year.
- C. New members have up to 2 years to complete minimum training requirements.
- D. Firefighters without the Firefighter I course shall not be permitted to enter an IDLH atmosphere.

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- E. All members must use caution not to use excessive speed when responding to the station. Members must obey posted speed limits when responding to their station.
- F. Members responding in their personal vehicle to the scene of an emergency incident must use caution and be aware of road conditions, scene safety, posted speed limits and obey all laws.
- G. It is the responsibility of the officer in charge of each piece of apparatus to check on the personnel on the apparatus to make sure they are fully dressed, seated with safety belts fastened and the level of trained personnel responding. The officer has the authority to replace a firefighter if the type of response and level of training dictates such a move.
- H. Personnel who respond on the apparatus are expected to give their PAT tags (Personnel Accountability Tags) to the officer in charge of the piece of apparatus they are riding prior to dismounting the vehicle so they can be placed on the collector ring in the cab.
- I. Personnel will remain with the apparatus upon arrival on the scene until the officer of the vehicle gives task assignments. This allows for accountability of personnel and a coordinated fire ground effort. ***No personnel will freelance during any time while on a fire ground.***
- J. Personnel who respond on the apparatus are expected to return with that piece of apparatus unless given permission by the officer of that piece of apparatus.
- K. Upon returning to the station, members must assist in placing the apparatus and equipment back in available status before leaving the station.

William H. Faust, Chairman
Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission