

SOUTH VAN ZANDT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedure

Emergency Responses

Purpose-This SOP is for the purpose of outlining South Van Zandt VFD's firefighter and apparatus responses to Emergency Incidents. This SOP may be altered at officer's direction.

- I. Firefighters Responding to Emergency Incidents
 - a. All SVZ Firefighters will respond to their Station when paged out for all emergency responses, unless the firefighter will pass the emergency incident and has the necessary personal protective equipment and tools to mitigate the incident in his/her possession.
 - b. All firefighters (excluding command officers) are required to store their personal protective equipment at their station, unless a letter from the Chief of the Department has been provided in their training/personnel file. Each firefighter requesting permission to carry his/her PPE in his vehicle will be reviewed by the Fire Officers and if approved, will receive a letter from the Chief of the Department.
 - c. Command Officers with Mobil Radios will be allowed to respond directly to incidents, provided they monitor the radio and the necessary equipment checks enroute in a timely fashion and they have their PPE in their possession. However, it is preferred that command officers ride the officer's seat on the apparatus.
 - d. Firefighters may respond to EMS First Responder Incidents in their personal vehicles provided they have in their possession a BLS Medical Bag and have the required Texas Department of Health level of certification to use the tools in that bag. Firefighters must also be appropriately dressed when responding to EMS First Responder calls as defined by the SVZVFD SOP on PPE and Clothing. If the EMS 1st Responder call is for MVC or Aero medical transport, firefighters must report to station.

- e. Firefighters that respond to their station and find that no apparatus are left in that station or are not authorized to operate apparatus left in station will contact the 1st out apparatus by radio with proper radio communications and determine from incident command as to their need to respond in their personal vehicle. If no radio is available in the station, the firefighter will document in the logbook as to his arrival at the station and will proceed to the emergency scene.
- f. All firefighters and command officers will not have emergency lighting on their personal vehicles and will obey all traffic laws, including speed limits when responding to emergency incidents in their personal vehicles.

II. Apparatus Response

- a. In an effort to try to preserve the fire department fleet and control fuel costs, the fire department has implemented the following tiered response.
 - 1. Calls for service will be received from the Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center via alpha-numeric pagers.
 - a. The dispatchers will dispatch calls using the VZCFCFFA policy of 1st page to closest fire department. If no response within 5 minutes, repeat page to closest fire department and page next closest mutual aid department.
 - 2. South Van Zandt VFD will operate on a 2 alarm system within our department. The 1st page represents the first alarm. The 2nd page represents the 2nd alarm.
 - 3. A fire officer enroute to any emergency may request a 2nd page(2nd alarm) to the fire dispatch office at any time based on their assessment of the emergency and responding resources.
- b. The fire district has been divided into four boxes.
 - 1. Box 1=Southwest quarter of the fire district.
 - 2. Box 2=Southeast quarter of the fire district.
 - 3. Box 4A=Northwest quarter of the fire district.
 - 4. Box 4B=Northeast quarter of the fire district.
 - 5. See map for boundaries.

- c. Emergency Responses will be governed by the following guide
1. Structure fire=All stations on 1st alarm.
 2. Grass fires
 - a. 1st Alarm=closest two stations.
 - b. 2nd Alarm=All stations.
 3. Motor Vehicle Collisions
 - a. 1st Alarm=closest two rescue stations.
 - b. 2nd Alarm=remaining rescue station.
 - c. Stations 1, 2, & 4 are designated as rescue stations.
 4. 1st Responder Calls=closest station only.

B. All firefighters authorized and trained to operate SVZ Fire Apparatus will do so in a safe and effective manner. Fire Apparatus will not violate traffic laws, such as crossing intersections against right of way, and speed limits, unless it is safe and other motorists have given right of way.

C. All SVZ Fire Apparatus shall not exceed the posted speed limit by more than 10 mph. SVZ Fire Apparatus shall not exceed posted speed limit or operate at an unsafe speed when conditions warrant a slower speed.

D. All SVZ Firefighters operating SVZ Fire Apparatus shall have the correct state licensure, training, and authority from the Chief of the Department to operate apparatus. A copy of State license, and training certificate must be on file in training/personnel file.

Signed by _____ Heath Morris, Fire Chief

Revised by Captain Kyle Harris

Dec. 4, 2009