

**Purpose:** To establish procedures/policy for default mode of response to dispatched incidents for drivers and officers on board Cumru Township Fire Department Fire Vehicles. This policy is a supplement to, and in no way supersedes, Policy 8.4, Operation of Fire Department Vehicles

**Administration:** The Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Deputy Chief of Health and Safety will have primary responsibility for administration of this policy within the scope of their job descriptions.

**Policy:** The Officer in Charge (OIC) shall determine the appropriate mode of response for CTFD vehicles responding to an incident based upon incident information available during response and after arrival on scene. Mode of response for vehicles responding to an incident prior to, or in the absence of, the OIC's determination shall follow the procedures given in this policy based on the incident type given in the dispatch information by the Berks County Communications Center.

**Definitions:**

**Officer in Charge (OIC):** Fire department officer in command of an incident, drill, detail or other CTFD activity, or the ranking officer on board the vehicle being operated by CTFD personnel.

**Normal Flow Driving:** Driving which dictates that vehicle speed is consistent with the normal flow of traffic, obedience to laws pertaining to operation of vehicles and posted signs, adherence to commonly understood "rules of the road," and courtesy.

**Emergency Driving:** Driving in response to a reported or observed emergency. The risk created by emergency driving must be balanced by the personnel operating fire vehicle with the need to safeguard life and health of persons.

**Hot Response Mode:** All CTFD vehicles responding to the incident may employ emergency driving, unless the driver or officer on board determines that employing emergency driving presents an unacceptable safety risk to personnel or the public.

**Warm Response Mode:** The first CTFD vehicle responding to the incident from each station may employ emergency driving, unless the driver or officer on board determines that employing emergency driving presents an unacceptable safety risk to personnel or the public. All other CTFD vehicle responding to the incident shall employ normal flow driving.

**Cold Response Mode:** All CTFD vehicles responding to the incident shall employ normal flow driving.

**Procedures**

- Determinations of the OIC with respect to the mode of response for CTFD vehicle will supersede the default mode of response for each incident type as determined in this policy. As set forth in Policy 8.4, Operation of Fire Department Vehicle, determinations made by the officer in command will take precedence over those of the officer on board the vehicle unless the officer on board the vehicle judges conditions to merit changing the mode of response to protect the safety of the personnel on board or the public likely to be affected by the vehicle during response.
- Prior to, or in the absence of, the OIC's determination of mode of response, CTFD personnel may follow Hot Response Mode if the incident type given in the dispatch information by the Berks County Communications Center is any of the following:
  1. Structure fire or possible structure fire
  2. Brush or wildland fire, except mulch fire
  3. Motor vehicle accident with unknown injuries, injuries or entrapment
  4. Carbon monoxide detector activation with reported victims
  5. Generic rescue
  6. Building collapse
  7. Confined space rescue

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8. High angle rescue
  9. Trench rescue
  10. Water accident/rescue
  11. Air crash/emergency
  12. Medical assist
  13. Tanker Task Force response
- Prior to, or in the absence of, the OIC's determination of mode of response, CTFD personnel may follow Warm Response Mode if the incident type given in the dispatch information by the Berks County Communications Center is any of the following:
    1. Automatic fire alarm
    2. Smoke or odor investigation, no other hazard reported
    3. Miscellaneous/unknown fire
    4. Hazardous materials incident
    5. Helicopter standby
  - Prior to, or in the absence of, the OIC's determination of mode of response, CTFD personnel shall follow Cold Response Mode if the incident type given in the dispatch information by the Berks County Communications Center is any of the following:
    1. Bomb threat
    2. Fluids down from motor vehicle accident, no other hazards
    3. Carbon monoxide detector activation with no victims
    4. Wires down/pole fire
    5. Trees down
    6. Pump detail
    7. Stand-by/Relocate assignments
  - Specific request for a particular response mode from emergency responders (Fire, EMS, PD, etc.) on-scene, as relayed by the Berks County Communications Center (e.g., "emergency speed" or "normal flow"), should be honored in the absence of a determination to the contrary by the OIC or unless the officer on board the vehicle judges conditions to merit changing the mode of response to protect the safety of the personnel on board or the public likely to be affected by the vehicle during response.

**References:**

8.4 Operation of Fire Department Vehicles