

San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: Vehicle Response Code

Policy No. 2010-03

Adopted 04/12/2010

Revised XX/XX/XXXX

Purpose: To reduce risk of injury to the public and to fire department personnel by reducing the number of fire vehicles responding Code 3 to specific incident types. The reduction of Code 3 driving increases the safety to the community and responding fire department personnel.

Policy: It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that all fire companies shall follow the procedures for vehicle response outlined in this policy unless additional information or other conditions dictate otherwise.

Background: Incidents such as fire alarm activations, reported non-injury accidents, and staging for scene security have the potential to be false alarms or non-emergency incidents. This policy addresses the need to reduce the number of vehicles and personnel responding "Code 3" to specific incident types and still provide a timely response of resources.

Procedures:

Fire alarms The first due apparatus responds "Code 3;" all other responding apparatus respond "Code 2." The Battalion Chief or the initial IC may modify the response.

**Code 2
Traffic accidents** All fire apparatus will respond "Code 2." The Battalion Chief or the initial IC may modify the response.

**Stage for scene
Secure** The first-in unit will respond "Code 3", subsequent units will respond Code 2 and then upgrade to "Code 3" once the scene is secured. The Battalion Chief or the initial IC may modify the response.