

BULLETIN

NO.: 22-108

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TO: All Personnel

FROM: Dan Eddy, Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Commander, A Division
Kelly Zombro, Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Commander, B Division
David Gerboth, Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Commander, C Division

SUBJECT: Company Officers Adding Themselves to Incidents

Company officers are reminded that they are to add themselves to incidents only when they will arrive on scene as either the first or second in unit. Operations Manual Policy SI 03 Section 01 Dispatch Response and Availability Policy states:

If a unit hears another unit dispatched to an incident, and the officer feels their response will significantly enhance public and firefighter safety (will be one of the first two arriving units), the officer should request to be added to the call and proceed no code toward the incident until assigned.

Company officers, after thoroughly reviewing their location and the location of other responding units, may determine that their addition to the incident will significantly enhance public and firefighter safety. When a company officer requests to be added to a call without reviewing their location and confirming that they will be one of the first two units on scene, ECDC is unnecessarily impacted and overall department operational readiness is compromised.

Company officers are to use the following process when determining whether to add themselves to an incident:

1. Determine that they will arrive on scene as the first or second in unit by reviewing their location and the locations of other responding units. Officers are NOT to ask 'Metro' if they are closer than other units.
2. Contact ECDC on 7A Admin. Provide current location and request to be added to the incident.
For example, "Metro from E1 on Admin, E1 is available at Broadway and 1st, place E1 on the incident at 4th and G Street, we are closer than E8"
3. Continue no code in the direction of the incident until dispatched.

When crews are away from the apparatus, and unable to access the MDC in a timely manner, (for example while completing a medical aid and assisting the ambulance crew), company officers may contact ECDC on 7A requesting if they may be closer than another unit and to be placed on the call.

Officers are responsible for justifying their decision when adding themselves to an incident.

When the correct process is followed, incident management improves as:

1. Public and firefighter safety is improved when units arrive at scene quickly.
2. Fire or medical radio dispatcher is not unduly disturbed by units on the command channel and can continue updating the incident with information as it arrives at ECDC.
3. Only incident relevant traffic is on the incident command channel.