

Approved by: Wayne Drouin
Date: 8/7/2003

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose for this procedure is to establish policies and procedures governing traffic control activities by the Silver Bluff Fire Department in response to emergencies within the Silver Bluff Fire District. These policies and procedures also govern firefighter activities when responding to and providing mutual aid to adjoining fire districts.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Emergent response – A response to an emergency, using approved lights, sirens, and other emergency warning devices, as stipulated by South Carolina Law and the SBFD

Firefighter – A member of the SBFD, qualified and approved by the SBFD to respond to and extinguish fires.

Incident Commander (IC) – That person who has assumed and is recognized by personnel as having scene control and responsibility

Mutual Aid – Assistance provided by the SBFD to or received from adjoining fire protection districts or other agencies.

Personally Owned Vehicle (POV) – A vehicle used for emergency response, owned and licensed by a Silver Bluff Fire Department volunteer

Reflective clothing – Reflective clothing includes reflective traffic vests, provided by the SBFD and may include bunker gear. This safety equipment makes the firefighter visible to the on-coming motorists.

Silver Bluff Fire Department (SBFD) – The incorporated entity providing emergency services within the Silver Bluff Fire Protection District

3.0 POLICY

- SBFD priorities at an emergency scene are life safety, scene stabilization, and property protection. Firefighter safety is the number one priority at the scene.
- The SBFD will provide traffic control in order to meet the established priorities.
- The SBFD will not supplant the role and responsibilities of law enforcement agencies and personnel when providing traffic control.
- Traffic control is a tactical objective to meet the scene priorities and strategy and should not distract the focus from that which is important.
- A SBFD fire fighter should always be alert to hazardous situations and has the right to withdraw rather than place him/her in harms way.

4.0 PROCEDURE

4.1 Stabilization and organization

4.1.1 Apparatus

- SBFD apparatus will respond to emergency calls as directed and dispatched by Aiken County or a SBFD officer.
- SBFD apparatus will be placed at the scene in accordance with existing practices, to facilitate vehicle response to emergencies. The apparatus will be placed as to provide protection to the personnel at the scene, without unduly interrupting traffic flow.
- The IC and the apparatus driver have the responsibility for vehicle placement at the scene.

4.1.2 POV

- All SBFD personnel should attempt to ride to the scene with the responding apparatus.
- POV's are allowed to respond to the scene, provided an apparatus is in route.
- Only SBFD approved POV's will respond emergent to the scene.
- Only appropriately equipped POV may be used as a warning indicator for on coming traffic.
- POV's that are not certified as emergency vehicles may respond code 1 to the scene. Non-certified vehicles will park off the roadway, outside the emergency scene and will not interfere with traffic flow and patterns.

4.1.3 Scene Organization

- The IC is responsible for the organization and execution of traffic control.
- The IC may delegate this responsibility to a responsible officer or fire fighter.
- Traffic will be redirected in accordance with local and state law, and in such a manner that reduces risk at the emergency scene and without placing motorists at risk.

4.2 Safety

- 4.2.1 All personnel engaged in traffic control and/or working on a roadway will wear reflective clothing at all times.
- 4.2.2 Personnel directly engaged with traffic control will use DOT approved flashlights with a reflective cone. These flashlights are provided by the SBFD and are located on SBFD apparatus.
- 4.2.3 Where possible Personnel will avoid standing in the roadway and will direct traffic from a safe vantage point
- 4.2.4 Personnel engaged in traffic control will be trained by the SBFD. Individuals not specifically trained will not engage in traffic control.

4.3 Communications

- 4.3.1 Personnel engaged in traffic control will maintain radio communications with the IC or designated officer.
- 4.3.2 Personnel engage in traffic control will communicate with each other via radio or using Uniform Hand Signals.

4.4 Traffic Control

- 4.4.1 Traffic cones will be used to protect SBFD apparatus and the emergency scene, where possible.
- 4.4.2 Firefighter and bystander SAFETY is primary focus, with a secondary focus being to establishing the most expedient path for passing motorists during an emergency operation, minimizing traffic disruption.
- 4.4.3 The SBFD will not engage in long term traffic control, unless in support of SBFD activities at the emergency scene.

5.0 TRAINING

- 5.1 The SBFD will provide task specific training for traffic control operations for the fire fighters.

CHANGE RECORD

<u>Revision</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Responsible Person</u>	<u>Description of Change</u>
Rev. 0	08/06/03	Scott McMullin	Initial issue of procedure