
Section: 5.3 Alarm Levels

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Approved by: Asst. Chief Erickson 05/01/2009

SCOPE

This guideline applies to all South Metro Fire Department personnel responsible for emergency response

PURPOSE

To identify alarm levels for the purposes of dispatching of appropriate fire units to emergency scenes, based on the type and severity of the emergency. Additionally, these alarm levels will predetermine mutual aid responses based on the alarm level that is requested and the location of the emergency.

PROCEDURE

1st Alarm (On-Duty Units) – The first alarm response is determined by the fire dispatcher at the time the emergency call is received. This alarm level includes any combination of on-duty South Metro Fire units.

2nd Alarm (Off-Duty Personnel) – This alarm level is the callback of off-duty personnel. To request that off-duty personnel be called back to work as 2nd Alarm should be requested from dispatch. The actual needs of the Incident Commander (IC) requesting the 2nd Alarm should be given at the time of the request.

3rd Alarm (2 Mutual Aid Engines) – This is the first level of a mutual aid response. The responding departments have been predetermined in CAD and do not need to be identified in the request.

4th Alarm (2 Mutual Aid Engines & 1 Mutual Aid Ladder) – This brings the total mutual aid response to 4 engines and 1 ladder. The responding departments have been predetermined in CAD and do not need to be identified in the request.

5th Alarm (2 Mutual Aid Engines & 1 Mutual Aid Ladder) – This brings the total mutual aid response to 6 engines and 2 ladders. The responding departments have been predetermined in CAD and do not need to be identified in the request. In total a 5th Alarm could have as many as 11 engines and 4 ladders on scene.

Additional Alarms – Additional resource needs beyond a 5th Alarm should be specifically requested.

Escalation of Alarms – If the IC needs to immediately go to an alarm level that is more than one step beyond the current level, then each of the needed alarm levels should be requested to ensure they do not get missed. For example: If the IC arrives on scene and needs a mutual aid response, then the IC should request 2nd and 3rd alarms at the same time.

Specific Needs – If the IC has a specific need that does not match the above alarm levels, that need should be specifically requested.