| Effective Date: | 08/26/2009 | |
| Revision Date: | 08/08/2011 | Approved by: J. Ehret, Fire Chief 8/08/11 |

SCOPE

This procedure applies to all South Metro Fire personnel who respond to emergency medical calls.

PURPOSE

To enhance safety for fire crews and general public while we maintain a high level of patient care. To provide a defined level of "routine" response to Alpha Level emergency medical calls.   In accordance with our risk management plans, we have defined an approach to reduce risk. Additionally, define an approach to accurately collect NFIRS data reflecting "routine" response.

DEFINITIONS

> **Routine:** Without delay, proceed directly to the scene, or safe location until directed to the patient. Crews responding to the scene without red lights or siren.

> **EMD:** Emergency Medical Dispatch, collection of critical information regarding the patient conducted through a consistent approach through the communication center. Information obtained via the EMD process allows responders to use the alpha codes to determine the most appropriate response.

> **ALPHA-Level:** Basic level of EMS response as indicated through the EMD process. A non-emergency response is typically indicated by this EMD level.

PROCEDURE

Responding code three is one the most dangerous activities conducted in the course of our occupation. Our risk management plan has recognized the activity and has taken steps to reduce risk, while not compromising patient care. Patient care will remain paramount, however, balanced with standard risk management.

- Upon notification of an ALPHA level response crews will respond routine. This does not relieve the crew of their decision making ability, if in the rare occasion the alarm information presents conditions that may warrant code three, crews have that authority.

- We respond to ALL calls for seizure code 3.

- At the earliest opportunity, crews will complete the NFIRS report and document the EMD level and level of response in the appropriate locations.

- Should the response be elevated to code three, documentation is required to outline the reason.