

El Dorado County Fire Protection District

Standard Operating Guidelines

Article: 3 Emergency Operations
Section: 29 Apparatus Response

Adopted: 02/20/2025
Revised:

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for the deployment of fire district apparatus to incidents both within and outside the district's response area. This procedure also grants the Duty Chief Officer the authority to modify these guidelines as operational needs dictate.

2. Definitions:

NFPA 1901: Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus.

NFPA 1906: Standard for Wildland Apparatus

FOG manual: Field Operations Guide (ICS 420-1)

3. Guideline:

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District operates a variety of fire apparatus, each designed to meet the district's obligation to respond to incidents as needed. The apparatus will be operated in a safe and effective manner to maintain the public's trust in their fire district. Recognizing its role as an "All-Risk" fire district, the district is committed to staffing and utilizing its equipment appropriately to address diverse emergency situations.

The district follows the ICS 420-1 FOG manual in their definition of "TYPE" apparatus.

Type 1: These fire engines serve as the district's primary fire apparatus and are the "first-out" equipment for daily use. They shall adhere to the FOG manual for minimum equipment requirements and comply with the district's minimum inventory standards. Each engine should be staffed with a minimum of three personnel.

Type 3: These fire engines are the district's secondary fire apparatus. They shall adhere to the FOG manual for minimum equipment requirements and comply with the district's minimum inventory standards. These engines are primarily designated for wildland or inclement weather operations but may be used as first-out apparatus at the discretion of the daily Duty Chief Officer. Each engine should be staffed with a minimum of three personnel.

Type 6: These fire engines are special-use engines, utilized as backup or on an as-needed basis. Their minimum inventory shall comply with the FOG manual. Each apparatus shall be staffed with a minimum of two personnel.

Ladder Truck: This apparatus is designated as "first-out" units for commercial structure fires and multi-family structure fires. They shall adhere to the FOG manual for minimum inventory requirements, as well as the district's minimum inventory standards. This apparatus may also be deployed upon special request from the Duty Chief as needed. Their minimum staffing shall be three personnel. Due to the specialized nature of this apparatus, every effort should be made to maintain the three-person minimum staffing standard; however, it may respond in tandem with the first-out engine as directed by the Duty Chief.

Water tender: This apparatus serves as the district's primary rural water supply unit. They shall adhere to the FOG manual for minimum inventory requirements, as well as the district's minimum inventory standards. The minimum staffing for this apparatus is one person, and they may respond in tandem with the station's first-out apparatus.

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Rescue: The district operates two types of rescue apparatus: Medium Rescue and Light Rescue. Both apparatus shall adhere to the district's minimum inventory standards. The primary mission of the Medium Rescue includes, but is not limited to, building collapse, trench rescue, and extrication incidents. The primary mission of the Light Rescue includes, but is not limited to, remote area rescues, swift water rescues, and static water rescues. The minimum staffing for both types of rescue apparatus is one person, and they may respond in tandem with the station's first-out apparatus.

Additional Equipment:

The district operates several pieces of equipment that may or may not be included in the FOG manual. These include:

- Command Vehicles: Assigned to the district's chief officers.
- Prevention Vehicles: Assigned to the district's prevention office.
- Utilities: The district has assigned utility vehicles at all its stations.
- Trailers: The district has multiple trailers for vehicle movement and special requests, such as air trailer, rescue trailer, etc.
- Watercraft: The district operates two types of watercraft—motorized and non-motorized. Both are available for special requests or may be assigned to a Light Rescue.
- Parade Apparatus: The district has multiple historical apparatus used for special events.

4. Staffing:

The district's staffing model for its first-out apparatus consists of a Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter.

All apparatus must be operated by qualified personnel. While the district acknowledges that operational needs may necessitate adjustments to staffing, only qualified personnel are authorized to operate apparatus.

Refer to the district's training manual for operator qualification requirements.

5. Response:

The district adheres to the dispatch matrix established through the Emergency Communication Center (ECC). This matrix is reviewed annually by the Operations Chiefs and the Fire Chief's Association. Any changes or requests must be submitted through these channels.

The ECC dispatches resources as requested by individual agencies while aligning with the county's "Dropped Boundary Guidelines."