

San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: Apparatus Reduction and Diversion

Policy No. 1999-02

Adopted 10/06/03

Revised 09/27/06

- Title:** Apparatus Reduction and Diversion
- Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a standard procedure for response reduction and the diversion from one incident to another.
- Policy:** It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that all fire companies shall follow the procedures outlined in this policy for emergency response level reduction and to divert to a higher priority incident when requested.
- Background:** Multiple diversions of a Priority 3 EMS call and the reduction of a priority 3 EMS call per Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD).

Procedure:

While enroute to an incident, fire apparatus are subject to diversion to a higher priority call. Upon diversion, the lower priority incident shall be immediately re-dispatched.

Once the lower priority incident is re-dispatched, the replacement apparatus shall be subject to continued diversion unless the incident is EMS related, in which case, the apparatus shall remain committed to the incident unless otherwise directed by a Chief Officer.

When a medical response is reduced to priority 3, affected Fire and EMS dispatcher's receive a change notice indicating the reduction. Upon receipt of the reduction, the fire dispatcher shall direct the responding apparatus to reduce per EMD. This is a directive and not an informational advisement.

Should the apparatus be on scene at the time of reduction, the dispatcher shall advise the crew that the incident has been reduced. The dispatcher shall inform the assigned crew of any changes involving the ambulance response such as diversion, extended (out of zone) e.t.a., etc.

In the event of an Obvious Death determination by EMD (Card 9B1 or 9Omega1), the ambulance shall be canceled, and the engine company reduced to Priority 3.