SOP 1105 – **FIRST RESPONSE VEHICLE (2-8-ABLE)**

The Dix Hills Fire Department Rescue Squad will operate and maintain a first response unit designated 2-8-ABLE. The purpose to this first response unit is to get medically qualified personnel to a scene to begin patient assessment and stabilization. The first responder that will staff the car shall be a responsible, active EMT-D or EMT-CC that satisfies the listed qualification criteria.

Qualification Criteria

Personnel utilized for the First Responder (ABLE) unit will include the Rescue Squad's active and responsible EMT-D and AEMT-D members. General criteria which qualifies to be a First Responder is recommended as follows:

1. Must hold a valid EMT-D or EMT-CC certification.
2. Must complete their probationary period.
3. Qualified ambulance driver for at least six months.
4. Must be an active responder and squad member.
5. Complete the mandatory squad ABLE orientation and class.
6. Attend at least one training per month.

A designated rescue officer will certify drivers of 2-8-ABLE. Each driver will be in-serviced on all the equipment, inventory, policies and procedures of the ABLE car program. It is a privilege of rescue squad members to use and drive the car and therefore, the privilege can be revoked at any time by the rescue officers and Chief's if the above are not followed.

Schedule/Hours of Operation

Hours of operation for will be weekday evenings, weekday holidays and weekends. The hourly breakdown will be as follows:

1. Weekdays: 1600 hours - 0700 hours
2. Weekday holidays: 0800 - 1600 hours
3. Weekends: 1600 hours Friday - 1930 hours Sunday

Weekdays

First Responder coverage for the weekday tours will begin at 1600 hours and provided in conjunction with that nights scheduled duty crew. A member will have until 1900 hours to pick up 2-8-ABLE. One qualified member from the rescue squad will staff the unit Sunday through Thursday. The Sunday night tour will begin at 1930 hours. The schedule will be generated by the rescue officers and will accompany the monthly duty crew list in the department mail out. It will be general policy of the squad to have non-duty crew personnel cover the car on their duty crew nights.

Weekends

Coverage for the weekend will begin at 1600 hours Friday and run through 1930 hours on Sunday. Weekend coverage will consist of four (4) twelve-hour tours, which will be covered by the squad membership. Members will be permitted to sign up for the weekend coverage on the list found in the dispatcher's office. Members will be permitted to keep the car for more then one tour a weekend, provided no other member has requested that time slot. Weekend tours consist of the following:

1. Friday 1600 hours - Saturday 0800 hours
2. Saturday 0800 hours –2000 hours
3. Saturday 2000 hours - Sunday 0800 hours
4. Sunday 0800 hours – 1930 hours

Members will be permitted to divide the ABLE tours between different members. However, it shall be the responsibility of assigned member to make arrangements for the tour to be divided. Members will be allowed to sign up, in person or by telephone, for all weekday holidays on the monthly ABLE car sign up sheet in the dispatcher's office.

Vehicle/Equipment

It will be the operator's responsibility to check for and replace any used equipment. If a certain piece of equipment can not be replaced for any reason, it will be the operator's responsibility to leave in memo form, for the officers, the equipment shortage. The vehicle shall be equipped in compliance with Article 30, Part 800, of the New York State Department of Emergency Medical Services.

Policies and Procedures

1. The unit will respond directly to the seen on all signal 16's, 16 MVA's and 16/23 carbon monoxide alarms.

2. On signal 13 General alarms, the first response will respond to the closest station. The unit will also respond to the firehouse on all fire calls for which the operator's engine company has been activated. It shall be the responsibility of the ABLE operator to turnout the ambulance unless otherwise directed by a chief or an officer.

3. The Dix Hills Fire Department first response vehicle, 2-8-ABLE, shall respond outside of the district when the Dix Hills Fire Department is covering a neighboring EMS department.

4. On all 24/16's, the unit will respond to the nearest house and roll on the ambulance if a full crew is not available. The car will not respond directly to the seen unless directed by the Chief to do so.

5. The first response unit will stay within the general response area of the Dix Hills Fire district.

6. Cleanliness of the interior and exterior of the vehicle will be the responsibility of the member assigned each tour.

7. All safety precautions and vehicle / traffic laws will be excised when using the vehicle, especially when responding.

8. Absolutely no alcohol, drugs, or medications, which shall interfere with patient care or judgment, shall be consumed during a members assigned tour.

9. A vehicle log will be completed after each tour for both medical / general equipment and vehicle operation.

10. Member's responding to calls will adhere to following the department's policy on rescue gear (SOP 102).

11. Non-department members will not be permitted to respond on alarms in the ABLE vehicle.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRST RESPONDER

1. Determine scene safety.
   - If it has not been done so by a Chief or a police officer.
2. Begin patient safety.
   - The first responder must exhibit professionalism and courtesy during all aspects of patient interview and assessment.
3. Relay pertinent information to the first arriving Chief or the first due ambulance.
4. Initiate patient stabilization and treatment.

It is important to note that in the absence of a Chief or officer on scene of a MCI, the first responder acts as the triage officer.

The ABLE operator must be aware of the proper equipment necessary for each alarm:

- Signal 16/ unconscious ....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, Heartstart 1000, Intubation kit
- Signal 16/ seizures .....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box, pediatric Airway Kit
- Signal 16/ 51 .....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box
- Signal 16/ 52 .....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box
- Signal 16/ 53 .....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box, Water gel
- Signal 16/ 54 .....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box
- Signal 16/ 55 .....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box, Heartstart 1000, Intubation kit
- Signal 16/ 56 .....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box, Collar bag
- Signal 16/ 57 .....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box, Childbirth kit
- Signal 16/ 58 .....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box, Splints
- Signal 16/ 23 MVA.....Oxygen / trauma kit, radio, PCR box, Collar bag