



**KING OF PRUSSIA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**  
**170 ALLENDALE ROAD**  
**KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406**  
610-265-1063 Allendale Road Station  
610-337-8230 West Beidler Road Station  
610-265-3205 FAX  
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## Standard Operating Guidelines

**SOG NO.:** KP-1-0007  
**SOG TITLE:** DRIVING TO FIRES IN PRIVATE VEHICLES  
**ADOPTION DATE:** 01/92  
**REVISION DATE:** 01/01  
**NO. OF PAGES:** 2

**Purpose:** To establish guidelines governing the response to fires in private vehicles and integrate the Upper Merion Township approved policy into the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company Standard Operating Guidelines.

No Firefighter is permitted to respond directly to a fire emergency scene in his/her private vehicle unless:

- A. The scene is in a direct path between the origin of the response and the Fire Station
- B. There is a report of entrapment or other extenuating circumstance and the scene is within a reasonable variance from the path of normal response.

All Firefighters are expected to respond to the Allendale Road Station or the Beidler Road Station, don their running gear, and ride the apparatus to the fire scene.

Officers may respond directly to the fire scene in their personal vehicles. No Officer should pass either station in his/her private vehicles. If a Fire Station must be passed, the Officer should come into the station and ride the apparatus unless:

- A. The first out unit is responding.
- B. He/she is the highest ranking responding Officer

When responding to fires outside First Due Zone, all Officers except the Fire Chief should respond to a Station and ride the apparatus.

Lieutenants are to respond to a Fire Station unless they must pass the general area of the fire scene.

When responding to fires all personnel should:

- A. Obey all traffic laws  
(Blue lights/red lights do not give anyone the authority to speed of "blow" red lights or stop signs)
- B. Show reasonable courtesy to civilian motorists. Do not blow horn or flash lights.
- C. Never pass police cars, ambulances, or other fire apparatus.
- D. All school zone restrictions and school bus restrictions apply. Violation of school zone/bus restrictions shall result in immediate suspension from the Fire Company.

Refer to SOG KP-1-0007A (Upper Merion Township policy SCE-.02.01) for further details.

**Upper Merion Township  
Policy and Procedures**

**Policy#:** SCE.02.01

**Supersedes:**

**Page**

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of

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**Effective:**

**Subject:** Use of Personal Vehicles

**Department:** Safety & Codes Enforcement

**Division:** Fire & Rescue Services

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**PURPOSE:**

To establish guidelines for the service providers of the member companies of the fire and rescue services division in regard to responding to emergencies in their personal vehicles.

**POLICY:**

It shall be the policy of the Fire and Rescue Services Division to limit the number of service providers who respond to emergency scenes in their personal vehicles.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- Service Providers - Active members of the King of Prussia, Swedeland and Swedesburg Fire Companies, as well as the Lafayette Ambulance Squad
- Personal Vehicles - Vehicles neither owned, nor leased, to Upper Merion Township, the fire companies or the ambulance squad.
- Company Officers - Duly elected/appointed chiefs, captains, lieutenants

**PROCEDURES:**

1.

All service providers are expected to respond to their respective stations, don their running gear and ride the apparatus to the scene of dispatched emergencies.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

- 1a. Those service providers who have been assigned a vehicle.
- 1b. First-due company officers may respond directly to the fire scene, but shall not pass their respective stations while responding, unless they are the highest ranking responding officer.

2. Direct response to emergencies outside of the first-due area is limited to the fire chief only, all company officers and service providers are to respond to their respective stations and ride the apparatus.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

- 2a. If the officer must pass the scene of the emergency.
- 2b. All apparatus has left the station and are "on-radio."

**Upper Merion Township  
Policy and Procedures**

**Policy#:**

**Effective:**

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3. Neither the Township, nor the emergency services companies, assume any liability for accidents involving the use of personal vehicles while responding to emergencies.  
EXCEPTION:
    - 3a. Statutory worker's compensation liability.
  4. The use of "blue lights" must be authorized by the chief of the respective company.
  5. The use of "blue lights" gives the vehicle no additional rights.
  6. If "blue lights" are used, they should be turned off upon receipt of a command of "reduce speed, non-emergency response, or level III."
  7. Violations of this policy shall be brought to the attention of the Fire and Rescue Service Board.
  8. In the event a company is found in violation, a letter shall be sent to the Chief of the Company, requesting compliance. Continued violations could result in a halt to all allocations to that company, or other appropriate action, as deemed necessary.
    - 8a. This "other appropriate action" could include the revocation of that company's authorization to respond to emergencies.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Service Provider - shall obey all traffic laws  
*all school zone and school bus restrictions apply*  
shall show reasonable courtesy to civilian motorists & pedestrians  
shall not pass any emergency vehicles

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Fire Marshal

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman - Fire & Rescue Service Board

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: Township Manager  
Board of Supervisors  
Members of Fire & Rescue Services Board