

Policy: Prohibition of Self-Dispatch

Purpose: To ensure the disciplined response of first responders to emergencies, significant criminal acts, terrorist attacks and/or active shooter incidents in the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission by prohibiting the self-dispatch of officers and staff, both on and off duty.

Definitions.

National Incident Management System (NIMS): A set of principles that provides a systematic, proactive approach guiding government agencies at all levels, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life or property and harm to the environment.

Incident Command System (ICS): A standardized on-scene emergency management construct specifically designed to provide for the adoption of an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. It is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex incidents. ICS is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, to organize field-level incident management operations.

Authorities.

- A.
- B.

Applicability.

This policy is applicable to all first responders in the *insert name of agency and jurisdiction.*

Background

Self-dispatch is a violation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System.

Instances of self-dispatch have led to:

- Security concerns due to the appearance of unrecognized and non-credentialed individuals at the incident scene

- Confusion at the incident scene due to the presence and actions of unassigned individuals working outside the chain-of-command
- Unwarranted logistical burdens on the Incident Command and the jurisdiction in which the emergency occurred
- Blockages in traffic access which led to slower response by other responders
- Added threat to the safety of other first responders

Support Components.

Violations of this Policy.

In the event that an officer/responder violates this policy and is reported for self-dispatch:

- Officers reported for instances of self-dispatch will undergo a mandatory disciplinary review for violation of this policy.
- As a results of the disciplinary review board, instances of self-dispatch may result in suspension, position reassignment, reduction in grade, or fines.
- Instances of self-dispatch will be annotated in the reported officer's next performance review.