

# **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

## **Crew Retrievals and Procedures**

### **CHAPTER 8.2**

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**Approved By: Chief of Fire Rescue**

### **PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines to establish a common approach to the issue of crew retrievals and increased unit availability. Due to the unpredictable work environment and conditions there are many instances where additional crew members from other apparatus are required to assist during the transportation of a patient to the hospital. This guideline seeks to provide guidance in the process of returning crew members to their respective stations. The goal of this guideline should always be to maximize unit availability in a safe and effective manner.

### **POLICY**

There are primarily two types of fire companies in Alachua County. Urban and Rural fire companies. Urban Engine Companies are defined as St. 60, 80, 81, 23, 24. Rural Fire Companies are defined as St. 21, 40, 62, 82.

Fire Companies should explore all options rather than donate their company officer to accompany the transport to the hospital.

Urban fire companies who donate crew members to the point they only retain two members will remain in-service (ALS or BLS), reduced crew and retrieve their crew member directly from the hospital.

Urban fire companies who donate their officer or reduce their crew to only one member will be out of service and en route to the hospital to retrieve their crew.

Rural companies who donate crew members to the point they only retain two members will remain in-service (ALS or BLS), reduced crew and remain in territory. Crew members of the engine company will be returned to their station by the ambulance company who took them or by the District Chief.

Rural fire companies who donate their officer or reduce their crew to only one member will be out of service and en route to the hospital to retrieve their crew.

Crews should exhaust all options rather than abandon their apparatus. If in the extreme circumstances the unit has to donate all crew members, the on duty District Chief shall be notified immediately. The closest ACFR unit will be requested to be en route to

secure the apparatus. LEA will be requested to provide security for the apparatus until an ACFR unit arrives on scene.

At no time will any non-ACFR employee be allowed to drive/move an ACFR unit.

### **RETRIEVAL OF CREWMEMBERS**

For crews who are required to retrieve personnel from the hospital, the emphasis is placed upon returning the unit to an available status and return to their assigned territory in the most expeditious means safely possible. No stops or delays are permitted until the unit is back in service, full crew and inside their assigned territory.

In the case where the unit is available reduced crew status, coordination between the District Chief and the transport who took the crew to the hospital is needed to deliver the individual back to their assigned apparatus in the most efficient manner.

All changes in status must be communicated with CCC.