



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

To: All Officers and Members
From: Justin Wells, Assistant Chief
Through: Robert I. Garcia, Assistant Fire Chief
Subject: EMS Response Changes for COVID-19
Date: March 20, 2020

Mayor
Sylvester Turner

City Council

District A
Amy Peck

District B
Jerry Davis

District C
Abbie Kamin

District D
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

District E
Dave Martin

District F
Tiffany Thomas

District G
Greg Travis

District H
Karla Cisneros

District I
Robert Gallegos

District J
Edward Pollard

District K
Martha Castex-Tatum

At-Large 1
Mike Knox

At-Large 2
David Robinson

At-Large 3
Michael Kubosh

At-Large 4
Letitia Plummer

At-Large 5
Sallie Alcorn

Controller,
Chris Brown

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak and to reduce the risk of exposure for the Department’s responders, adjustments to EMS response will be made for numerous low-acuity call types associated with possible COVID-19 symptomatic patients. BLS Transport Units (BLS TX) will continue to be dispatched to provide care and transport if needed, but the frequency of a heavy apparatus responding to assist will be reduced. These changes will not affect current dispatch procedures for Special Response Plan Areas.

Effective Saturday, March 21, 2020, FESIAI (Sick Person), FEABAI (Abdominal Pain), FEBLAI (Bleeding Problem), FEHDAI (Headache), FEPFAI (Pediatric Fever), and FEUNAI (Unknown Problem) will be designated as “BLS Priority”. BLS TX units will be dispatched by themselves if the response is ten (10) territories away or less. If the response would be greater than ten (10) territories away for a BLS TX unit, a heavy apparatus will be dispatched by themselves to mitigate the emergency and call for additional resources as needed.

Once dispatched, crews are to comply as dispatched and any deviations will be directed through OEC. The above changes are being implemented to conserve resources and reduce risks to members during this period. Any questions or concerns regarding this order will be addressed through the chain of command.

20-098



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“Courage, Commitment and Compassion”
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