

Delaware County Emergency Medical Service Standard Operating Guidelines

Subject	Effective	Supersedes	This Sheet	Total
Chain of Command	August 1, 2007	All	1	1

In order for an organization such as DCEMS to operate smoothly, there must be a clearly defined chain of command, and it must be adhered to as closely as possible. This procedure is designed to outline for all personnel the direct chain of command they are to follow when addressing departmental issues. Every effort should be made to follow this chain of command in order to keep all levels of management and personnel informed and instructed on their particular job function. In addition, this outlines the procedure for the delegation of authority within the Department.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

- An organizational chart has been provided which clearly depicts each position in relation to the established chain of command.
- All personnel, either on or off duty, should follow this chain of command. Some individuals have been given special responsibilities in addition to their normal duties. At times it will become necessary to have a direct contact with a member of management without following the direct chain of command. The member's direct supervisor shall be notified of any special responsibilities given to any of their personnel.
- On emergency scenes, the chain, by necessity, may be broken. For example, the Assistant Chief and/or the Chief may give an order directly to a paramedic and expect the paramedic to report directly back to him.
- If you are given one order by a superior officer, and either before, or during your carrying out of that order, you are given an additional order by another officer, you must inform the second officer of your previous order. The second officer may permit you to carry out his or her order. If you are directed to carry out the second order, the officer who does so accepts the responsibility for the original officer's order.
- When off-duty personnel are called-in, the highest ranking officer (not the senior paramedic) will assume command at the Station location. If the highest rank, regardless of seniority, is the same as the on-duty officer, then command will remain with the officer who was originally assigned on-duty, unless otherwise specified by the on-duty Captain.
- When personnel from off-duty shifts are being compensated to participate in department-sponsored activities such as classes as a student or instructor, public relations work, and other similar activities, they are working under the immediate direction of the on-duty Command Staff.
- The Chief is the one person who has ultimate responsibility for the actions of the entire department; however, certain areas of responsibility and authority are delegated to other officers within the operation.
- In the absence of the Chief and the Assistant Chief, the on-duty Captains or the Chief's designee is in charge of the operations of the Department.

Issuing Authority:



DCEMS Chief Rob Farmer

08/01/2007

Date