

# Incident Response/Command Notification

**Index Code:** 1604

**Effective Date:** 11/15/02 (Revised 5/29/2018)

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## **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this directive is to establish standardized procedures for deputies responding to calls for service.

## **II. Policy**

It is the policy of the Office of the Sheriff to provide an effective, safe and timely response to all calls for service, consistent with equipment and personnel availability.

## **III. Responding to Calls for Service**

A. The dispatching of deputies to calls for service will be conducted by the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services (DES) utilizing the Emergency Police Dispatch System (EPD) adopted by the National Academy of Emergency Police Dispatch, in conjunction with procedures established in this directive.

B. Deputies will respond to all calls for service except for; (1) those handled over the telephone by a supervisor, (2) those turned over to another agency, and (3) those determined by a supervisor to be unfounded.

C. Deputies responding to calls for service will do so in a reasonable and prudent manner, consistent with the safety of the responding deputy and the public. Operation of a vehicle during an emergency response must conform to all directives issued by the Office of the Sheriff and the requirements of Section 21-106 of the Transportation Article.

## **IV. Response Codes**

Response codes are classified to provide the most efficient response for service, while taking into consideration the safety of all persons involved. Response codes are provided by the dispatcher at the time the call for service is dispatched and is intended to be a guide for the responding deputy. Response codes may be upgraded or downgraded by a supervisor or the responding deputy if known circumstances merit such a change.

## **A. Delta Code 1 Response**

A "Delta Code 1 Response" directs an expeditious response and authorizes the use of emergency equipment (lights and siren). A Delta Code 1 Response requires at least two units and is usually prompted by one of the following requests for service:

1. A law enforcement officer needs immediate help, and the circumstances indicate that the safety of the officer or others is involved.
2. A situation where there are reasonable grounds to believe that human life is in imminent danger, and an emergency response could prevent the loss of life or serious injury.
3. The incident is in progress, and the escape of a suspect could further endanger human life.

## **B. Delta Code 2 Response**

A "Delta Code 2 Response" directs a non-emergency response, where emergency equipment (lights and siren) is generally not needed and therefore not authorized under normal circumstances. However, under certain circumstances emergency equipment may be used to expedite movement through traffic if the responding deputy has good reason to believe that time may make a difference in the outcome of any ensuing investigation, and can justify doing so. A Delta Code 2 Response requires two units to respond.

## **C. Charlie Response**

A "Charlie Response" directs a non-emergency response and therefore does not authorize emergency equipment. If available, a Charlie Response requires two units to respond.

## **D. Bravo Response**

A "Bravo Response" directs a non-emergency response and therefore does not authorize emergency equipment. A Bravo Response only requires one unit to respond.