

Galveston Fire Department

1000.01 First Responder Policy

Fire Chief

Implementation Date: August 1997

Revision Date: December 2011

Review Date: March 2013

First Responder Policy

In an effort to provide rapid, qualified and professional emergency medical care to the citizens and visitors of Galveston, the Galveston Fire Dept. developed an emergency medical first responder program. This program has been in place since 1997 and has successfully supplemented Galveston Emergency Medical Services in the responses to medical emergencies throughout the community.

The following criteria, has been the basis for determining the need for an emergency response by Galveston Fire Dept. units. Whenever the Communications Division receives a call for assistance, and the request meets one or more of the following criteria, a Galveston Fire Dept. unit is dispatched in conjunction with a Galveston EMS unit.

Criteria:

1. Chest Pains
2. Stroke
3. Difficulty Breathing/Not Breathing
4. Head Injury
5. Shooting/Stabbing
6. Elevated Fall
7. Unconscious
8. Drowning
9. Serious Burns
10. Motor Vehicle Accidents with Injuries
11. Multiple Patients
12. Medical Calls on Ships, boat, barge, vessels or any floating rig
13. All Medical Calls west of Jamaica Beach
14. When requested by EMS

Anytime a request for emergency medical response is received by Communications, the closest Fire unit will be dispatched without delay. Exceptions to this are calls to medical facilities as identified by EMS.

Once the Fire unit advises they are responding, Communications will advise them of any pertinent information received and identify which Medic unit is responding with them.

