



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR/FIRE CHIEF

March 6, 2013

INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN: 13-09

TO: All Fire and Rescue Personnel

FROM: Marty Senterfitt, Director/Fire Chief



**SUBJECT: Medical Priority Dispatching System (MPDS)
EMD Determinate Level**

On March 6, 2013 at 0900, the JFRD will institute Phase II of Emergency Medical Dispatching.

Phase I

The MPDS is a medically approved, unified system based on published standards by the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Medical Association (AMA). MPDS was developed by Dr. Jeff Clawson of Salt Lake City, Utah in 1977 and introduced to the Salt Lake City Fire Department in 1978. MPDS is currently being used to manage resources by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue, L.A. County Fire and Rescue, Pinellas County Fire and Rescue, Houston Fire Department and Hillsborough County Fire Department just to name a few. In Florida, MPDS is governed by F.S.A. § 768.1335 "Emergency Medical Dispatch Act".

In 1997 MPDS became a required certification for all JFRD dispatchers. Using the MPDS flip card system, EMS calls were processed using a medically approved interrogation sequence that contains pre-determined, fully scripted key questions to assess the severity of the chief complaint and incident type. The questions have been medically determined as the minimum amount of interrogation necessary to adequately establish the Response Determinant Code, not a diagnosis. The MPDS universal Response Determinate Codes are the dispatch equivalent of the hospital diagnosis-related groups that are used to bill for medical incidents. The Response Determinates range from **A** (Minor) to **E** (Immediately Life Threatening). Today, the old flip card system used by FRCC has been replaced by ProQA software. Interfacing the ProQA software with the Motorola CAD system has significantly streamlined the MPDS process.

Phase II

In Phase II, unit response modes based upon EMS protocols and MPDS Response Determinants will be successfully instituted in the daily operations of the JFRD.

Contingent upon the assigned MPDS Determinate Code, FRCC shall dispatch JFRD units to EMS incidents with no lights and sirens, “**COLD**” or with lights and sirens, “**HOT**”.

The response type shall be provided during the initial broadcast, on the station printout and on the unit PMDC. Remember the MPDS Response Determinant Code is **not** a diagnosis.

Field units, as they do today, may upgrade or downgrade the Determinant Response based on prior knowledge, unit location, patient status or additional information received once on scene.

NOTE:

- 1. The closest available fully staffed suppression unit regardless of capabilities shall be dispatched along with the rescue on single shot rescue response incidents when the rescue is not responding from its first due territory.**
- 2. All EMS incidents, regardless of type, in fire districts 16, 33, 40, 45, 46, and 53 shall receive both an engine and rescue.**
- 3. FRCC shall announce the appropriate Response Determinate immediately after the fire district during initial dispatch.**
- 4. On scene units shall advise responding units either “HOT” or “COLD” when upgrading or downgrading an EMS Determinate.**

If you have any questions, please ask your District or Battalion Chief as appropriate.

