



# Waterford Ambulance Service Standard Operating Guideline

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Effective November 30, 2015  
Scope: All WAS Staff  
From: Steven D Garvin, President WAS  
Subject: Responding to Priority Two Calls  
SOG: Administrative 2015 001 Rev. 0  
**Type Year Number Revision**

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## **Purpose**

To establish a policy for Waterford Ambulance Service (WAS) staff in regards to priority two responses in order to establish and clarify WAS standards and expectations in reference to Waterford Dispatch Policy D-06-053, and in keeping with Connecticut General Statutes.

In addition, this policy prevents ambulances and staff from responding with lights and sirens (priority one) from across town for non-emergency incidents which places the WAS in a liability if they are involved in an accident. It is the position of the WAS Board of Directors that this is not driving with "due regard".

## **Requirements**

CT General Statutes, Section 14-283. Rights of emergency vehicles. Obstruction of. (a) "Emergency vehicle", as used in this section, means any ambulance or emergency medical service organization vehicle responding to an emergency call, any vehicle used by a fire department or by any officer of a fire department while on the way to a fire or while responding to an emergency call but not while returning from a fire or emergency call. The provisions of this section shall not relieve the operator of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property.



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### Instructions

It is the policy of WAS that personnel responding in WAS ambulances or driving privately operated vehicles (POV's) to EMS, Fire, Rescue, or other incidents where EMS is requested, and identified as priority two shall not utilize flashing lights or sirens.

This policy would only apply to personnel who are:

1. Driving WAS ambulances.
2. Responding to a scene for a standby in an ambulance or POV.
3. Responding to a scene at the request from an incident commander for additional staff solely for the purpose of "taking refusals" at incidents with multiple civilian casualties, such as MVA's, or to response for standbys, patient evaluations move-ups, transfers, and non-life threatening transports.

In addition, even though the original incident may have been a priority one call, secondary or backup ambulances responding to an incident for the sole purpose to standby or take refusals shall respond as a priority two.

This policy also empowers the Incident Commander at an emergency scene the discretion to request a change in the priority in either direction (lower or higher) if the response of our ambulance(s) necessitates it or as the incident requires.

*Steven D. Garvin*

President, Waterford Ambulance Service