



**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER**

General Order Number: 02-18	Effective Date: October 18, 2017
Division: Apparatus and Equipment	
Chapter: Uniform Vehicle Markings and Lettering	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Benjamin M. Barksdale <i>BMB</i>	Issue Date: October 18, 2017

POLICY

This General Order shall set forth a policy and procedure to govern the standard uniform markings and lettering for all duly authorized Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department emergency response vehicles. The intent is to ensure Fire/EMS Department emergency response vehicles are marked in a uniform and consistent manner with permanent and non-magnetic markings. The public should be able to clearly and easily recognize our vehicles as Fire/EMS Department response vehicles.

Additionally, these markings with unit identifications will enable our Fire/EMS Department personnel at the scene to identify units during multi-company operations.

DEFINITIONS

N/A

PROCEDURES/RESPONSIBILITIES

I. General Information

- A. It shall be the responsibility of all Chiefs and stations to ensure they follow this General Order in order to maintain uniformity.
- B. Only vehicles duly authorized by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee shall be approved for emergency response (installation of lights, sirens, and other emergency warning devices). These vehicles shall also have an "M number" issued by Apparatus Maintenance to be duly authorized for emergency or non-emergency response.
- C. All County-owned emergency response vehicles purchased or repainted shall be painted the color as decided upon by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.

*NOTE: Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, Office of the Fire Marshal vehicles are exempt from the marking requirements of this General Order, and may remain unmarked and of various colors as approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.

- D. Two levels of markings are recognized: traditional (primary emergency response vehicles) and subdued (generally administration vehicles).



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- E. The approved Council of Governments (COG) 800 series numbering must be used for unit labeling and identification. This will provide identifiable operational designations between units. Volunteer-owned apparatus may also utilize traditional corporation identity numbers, in addition to the COG 800 series numbering. Example: "Laurel Volunteer Fire Department Company 10" and "ENGINE 810" or "E810."
- F. Existing operational apparatus, including existing Chief's vehicles (not parade pieces), that are non-compliant with the 800 series numbering will be expected to come into compliance no later than twelve (12) months from the effective date of this order. No other modifications are required.
- G. Existing unmarked Chief's vehicles that are non-compliant with this General Order will be expected to come into full compliance no later than twelve (12) months from the effective date of this order.
- H. The marking levels listed are minimum requirements, including National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1901 for apparatus and NFPA 1917 for ambulances and medic units. Only markings and lettering contained in this General Order shall be permitted on County-owned vehicles. Any other markings must be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.
- I. Additional markings and lettering on volunteer-owned vehicles must identify the volunteer corporate entity, be professional, and maintain the "public's trust."
- J. Due to the peculiarity of the custom apparatus and vehicles, it may be necessary to adjust the size of the lettering, seal, or rearrange the layout in order for them to fit. It shall be adjusted at the direction of the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.
- K. All markings referenced in this document will be based on the current fleet of vehicles. Any variations to vehicle markings must be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.
- L. Any requests for non-traditional crew or unit logos such as "pride patches" or marking waiver requests on County-owned apparatus and vehicles must be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.
- M. Requests for graphics approval on volunteer corporations' apparatus and vehicles are included in the "Application for Introducing a Vehicle Into the Fleet" form. This introduction into the fleet should start with Apparatus Maintenance. The approval for these graphics will be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.
- N. Current in-service vehicles or apparatus that will require graphics to meet this General Order's requirements shall be coordinated with Apparatus Maintenance.



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II. Passenger Vehicles

A. Each sedan authorized as an emergency response vehicle must have permanently-affixed, non-magnetic, reflective markings distributed on both sides and the rear of the vehicle to include:

1. County-owned

a) Traditional

- (1) A minimum 4" reflective permanently-affixed triple stripe (gold/white/gold) pattern with the "PGFD Safety First Everyone Goes Home" logo incorporated with the stripe, fully across each side and the rear.
- (2) A reflective, permanently-affixed Fire/EMS Department County seal, 4 to 6" in height, on each side front door.
- (3) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located under the door seals.

b) Subdued

- (1) A minimum 4" reflective permanently-affixed reflective transition red "wave" color stripe with the "PGFD Safety First Everyone Goes Home" logo incorporated with the stripe fully across the rear.
- (2) A Fire/EMS Department County seal, 4 to 6" in height, on each side front door.
- (3) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located underneath the door seals.

2. Volunteer-owned

a) Traditional

- (1) A minimum 4" reflective, permanently-affixed stripe, fully across each side and the rear.
- (2) A reflective permanently-affixed recognized volunteer corporation seal, minimum height of 4", on each side and the rear.
- (3) Corporation name shall be displayed on the sides of the vehicle and the rear, at least 3" in height.
- (4) If a traditional series company identifier is used, the COG 800 series identifier must also be used. COG numbers shall be at least 3" in height.
- (5) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located on the inside of the driver's door.

b) Subdued

- (1) A minimum 4" reflective, permanently-affixed stripe, fully across each side and the rear. The stripe and logo may be complimentary or similar color to the vehicle.



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- (2) A combination of text, company numbers (800 series, minimum height of 3") and/or recognized corporate seals (minimum height of 4") on the sides and rear of the vehicle.
- (3) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located on the inside or outside of the driver's door.
- (4) If a traditional series company identifier is used, the COG 800 series identifier must also be used. 800 series numbers shall be at least 3" in height.

III. SUV's, Light Trucks, Brush Vehicles

A. Each SUV or light truck authorized as an emergency response vehicle must have a combined total of at least one thousand two hundred (1,200) square inches of permanently-affixed, non-magnetic, reflective markings distributed on both sides and the rear of the vehicle, to include:

1. County-owned

a) Traditional

- (1) A 4" reflective, permanently-affixed triple stripe (gold/white/gold) pattern with the "PGFD Safety First Everyone Goes Home" logo incorporated with the stripe, fully across each side and the rear.
- (2) A reflective, permanently-affixed Fire/EMS Department County seal, 4 to 6" in height, on each side front door and the rear.
- (3) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located underneath affixed door seals on each side and rear.
- (4) Minimum 2" "Fire/EMS" and "RADIO DESIGNATION" permanently affixed on the rear.
- (5) Approved titling including 800 series number on the rear side windows for SUV's. Pickup trucks side designations shall be on the side of the body, to the rear, or where rear windows (cap) are located if not available. Example: BC883.
- (6) Alternating upward chevron stripes of contrasting colors on rear tailgate/hatch area.

b) Subdued

- (1) NO subdued markings are allowable for primary response vehicles. Example: Battalion Chief, brush trucks, mini-pumpers.
- (2) A minimum 4" reflective, permanently-affixed transition red "wave" color stripe with the "PGFD Safety First Everyone Goes Home" logo incorporated, with the stripe fully across each side and the rear.
- (3) A reflective Fire/EMS Department County seal, 4 to 6" in height, on each side front door and the rear.
- (4) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located under the seal on the driver's door.



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2. Volunteer-owned

a) Traditional

- (1) A minimum 4" reflective, permanently-affixed stripe, fully across each side and the rear.
- (2) A reflective, permanently-affixed recognized volunteer corporation seal (minimum height 4") on each side and the rear.
- (3) A combination of text, company numbers (800 series, minimum height of 10"), and/or recognized corporate seals (minimum height of 4") on the sides and rear of the vehicle in permanently-affixed styles.
- (4) If a traditional series company identifier is used, the COG 800 series identifier must also be used. 800 series numbers shall be at least 3" in height.
- (5) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located on the inside or outside of the driver's door.
- (6) Recognized corporate name, permanently-affixed letters located on the rear of the vehicle.
- (7) Alternating chevron stripes of contrasting colors on rear tailgate/hatch area.

b) Subdued

- (1) No subdued markings are allowable for primary response vehicles. Example: Battalion Chief, brush trucks, mini-pumpers.
- (2) A minimum 4" reflective, permanently-affixed stripe, fully across each side and the rear. The stripe and logo may be complimentary or similar color to the vehicle.
- (3) If a traditional series company identifier is used, the COG 800 series identifier must also be used. 800 series numbers shall be at least 3" in height.
- (4) A combination of text, company numbers (800 series, minimum height of 3") and/or recognized corporate seals (minimum height of 4") on the sides and rear of the vehicle in reflective, permanently-affixed styles.
- (5) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" reflective, permanently-affixed complimentary color letters/numbers located on the inside or outside of the driver's door.

IV. Ambulances/Medic Units

A. There is NO subdued marking pattern for any County/volunteer-owned ambulances or medic units. Each ambulance or medic unit shall conform to the standards set forth in NFPA 1917, Standard for Automotive Ambulances. The following NFPA 1917 guidelines were used in consideration of the minimum standards set forth below:

1. Stripe, combination of stripes, and/or Battenberg symbol, 25% length of cab side and 75% patient compartment, as approaching from side.
2. Stripe or combination of stripes, minimum 6" vertical width.
3. Graphics in lieu of stripe are ok as long as the same surface area is covered.
4. Vertically hinged doors must have at least 60 square inches retro-reflective material affixed to the inside of the door, or a flashing amber or red LED light.



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5. 50% of rear-facing surface must be covered (other than lenses/glass), visible when facing from the rear of ambulance, and shall have retro-reflective material in a chevron pattern.
6. Battenberg markings, if used, must cover 144 square inches, each box.
7. Retro-reflective materials must conform to ASTM D4596.

B. County-owned

1. The color and graphics package of County-owned apparatus is at the discretion of the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.
2. Fire/EMS Department County seal, reflective and permanently affixed.
 - a) Cab – one on each front door.
 - b) Front – right and left top corners.
 - c) Rear – both windows in a perforated graphic.
3. Community name, permanently-affixed letters.
 - a) Centered under the cab door seals.
4. Striping, reflective, permanently affixed.
 - a) Triple stripe (gold/white/gold on front and both sides) transitioning to white/gold/white through the “Z” with the “PGFD SAFETY FIRST EVERYONE GOES HOME” logo incorporated with the stripe.
 - b) Half of the “star of life” with chevron-style alternating reflective gold over body paint.
5. COG 800 series unit number identifier, reflective and permanently affixed.
 - a) Front – sized to fit area on front of apparatus.
 - b) Sides – numbers each side to be at least 10” in height.
 - c) Rear – sized to fit area on rear of apparatus.
 - d) Top – minimum 30” (size may be dependent on design).
6. “PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT” as large as possible, depending on body style of apparatus.
7. Flags
 - a) American – driver’s side of box as high and forward as possible.
 - b) Maryland – passenger’s side of box as high and forward as possible.
8. A 1-1/4” “M number” vertically stacked low on the front and rear corners, each side.
9. PGFD logo
 - a) Centered on rear patient doors.
10. Chevron striping
 - a) Front bumper.
 - b) Rear of apparatus at least 50%.



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C. Volunteer-owned

1. Color should be consistent with safety standards and corporate identity.
2. A reflective, permanently-affixed recognized volunteer corporate seal (minimum 12" in height) on each cab door.
3. Recognized corporate name, reflective and permanently affixed to each side, as large as possible.
4. Reflective striping, consistent with at least the minimum requirements listed in NFPA 1917.
5. Chevron striping
 - a) Front bumper.
 - b) Rear of apparatus at least 50%.
6. COG 800 series unit number identifier, reflective, permanently affixed, and conspicuously visible.
 - a) Front – sized to fit area on front of apparatus.
 - b) Sides – numbers each side to be at least 10" in height.
 - c) Rear – sized to fit area on rear of apparatus.
 - d) Top – minimum 30" (size may be dependent on design).
 - e) 1-1/4" permanently-affixed "M number" on the inside or outside of the driver's door.
7. Graphics packages for all apparatus shall be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee. This will be accomplished at initial review of specifications and "Application Intro to Fleet" sign-off sheet.

V. Engines (Includes Engines, Rescue-Engines, and Engine-Tankers)

- A. There is NO subdued marking pattern for any County/volunteer-owned engines. Each engine shall conform to the standards set forth in NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus. The following NFPA 1901 guidelines were used in consideration of the minimum standards set forth below:
1. County-owned (Note: Details for County-owned engines generally apply similarly to trucks, towers, and rescue squads)
 - a) The color and graphics package of County-owned apparatus is at the discretion of the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.
 - b) Fire/EMS Department County seal, reflective and permanently affixed.
 - (1) Side – one on each front door.
 - (2) Side – on each side, to the left of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department wording on signboard.
 - (3) Front – one on front of apparatus where space is available.
 - (4) Rear – Where space is available.



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- c) Community name, permanently-affixed letters.
 - (1) Centered over the side County door seals.
 - (2) Centered under front windshield if space is available.

- d) Striping, reflective, permanently affixed.
 - (1) Triple stripe (gold/white/gold on front and both sides) transitioning to white/gold/white through the "Z," with the "PGFD Safety First Everyone Goes Home" logo incorporated with the stripe at the crew door (total stripe 10" high - 1" gold/1" space/6" white/1" space/1" gold).
 - (2) 6" white stripe, low side from the front side of the rear wheel well area, wrapped around to the rear; a burgundy stripe to match paint color will be used on brushed aluminum doors.

- e) COG 800 series unit number identifier, reflective and permanently affixed.
 - (1) Sides – Numbers each side to be at least 12" in height.
 - (2) Front – 4" minimum on the front.
 - (3) Rear – 4" minimum on the rear (size may be dependent on design).
 - (4) Top – 30" minimum (size may be dependent on design).

- f) "Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department" in minimum 6" height or scaled to fit, reflective, permanently-affixed gold letters, with white outline and black shadow on high side sign boards.

- g) Flags – perforated window graphic film.
 - (1) American flag, driver's side middle crew window.
 - (2) Maryland flag integrated into front grill.
 - (3) County flag, officer's side middle crew window.

- h) 2" white reflective and permanently affixed "M number" inside or outside driver's door.

- i) PGFD logo, permanently affixed.
 - (1) Front bumper.
 - (2) Rear step area.

- j) Chevron striping shall be permanently affixed.
 - (1) Front bumper.
 - (2) Rear step area.

- k) Graphics packages for all apparatus shall be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee. This will be accomplished at initial review of specifications and "Introduction into Fleet Application."



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2. Volunteer-owned

- a) Color should be consistent with safety standards and corporate identity.
- b) A reflective, permanently-affixed, recognized volunteer corporate seal (minimum 12" in height) on each front door.
- c) Recognized corporate name conspicuously located, reflective and permanently affixed.
- d) Reflective striping, consistent with at least the minimum requirements listed in NFPA 1901.
- e) COG 800 series unit number identifier, reflective, permanently affixed, and conspicuously visible.
 - (1) Sides – 12" minimum.
 - (2) Front – 4" minimum on the front.
 - (3) Rear – 4" minimum on the rear (size may be dependent on design).
 - (4) Top – 30" minimum (size may be dependent on design).
- f) 2" permanently-affixed "M number" on the inside or outside of the driver's door.
- g) If a traditional series company identifier is used, the COG 800 series identifier must also be used. Minimum sizes as outlined above.
- h) Graphics packages for all apparatus shall be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee. This will be accomplished at initial review of specifications and "Introduction into Fleet Application."

VI. Aerial Ladder Trucks, Towers, or Quints (Trucks)

A. There is NO subdued marking pattern for any County/volunteer-owned trucks. Each truck shall conform to the minimum standards set forth in NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus. The following NFPA 1901 guidelines were used in consideration of the minimum standards set forth below:

1. County-owned

- a) Same general front, side, top, and rear marking directions as engines, including the COG 800 series unit identifier.
- b) Ladder signboards on both sides of the ladder, with "Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department" in approximately 8" gold with white outline and black shadow letters.
- c) Fire/EMS Department County seal, a minimum of 12" tall, shall be located to the left of the lettering on the ladder signboard, and on rear mount aerial devices, shall be located on a signboard on the rear of the turn table.
- d) For trucks, COG 800 series unit identifier, permanently-affixed, reflective 3" or larger at the tip on both sides of the fly-section, and 12" or larger on the tip end of the ladder signboards.
- e) For towers, COG 800 series unit identifier, permanently-affixed, reflective 12" or larger number, on sides and front of the bucket. An appropriately scaled Fire/EMS



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Department County seal will be centered on the officer's side basket door, and COG 800 series unit identifier vertically on the driver's side basket door.

2. Volunteer-owned

- a) Same general front, side, top, and rear marking directions as engines, including the COG 800 series unit identifier.

VII. Rescue Squads

A. There is NO subdued marking pattern for any County/volunteer-owned rescue squads. Each rescue squad shall conform to the standards set forth in NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus. The following NFPA 1901 guidelines were used in consideration of the minimum standards set forth below:

1. County-owned

- a) Same general front, side, top, and rear marking directions as engines, including the COG 800 series unit identifier.
- b) "RESCUE SQUAD" in conjunction with the high side markings, including the County seal and "Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department."

2. Volunteer-owned

- a) Same general front, side, top, and rear marking directions as engines, including the COG 800 series unit identifier.
- b) "RESCUE SQUAD" in conjunction with the high side recognized corporate identity markings.

VIII. Special Units; Not Fitting Vehicle Types Above (Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials Units, Bomb Squad, Rehab Unit, Auxiliary/Rehab Support Unit-Canteen, Medical Ambulance Bus, Water Rescue Vehicles, Public Education Vehicles, Trailers, Vans, etc.)

- A. Each special unit authorized as an emergency response vehicle or that is a non-emergency response vehicle, but is to be covered on County fuel and/or maintenance, must have appropriate permanently-affixed, non-magnetic, reflective markings distributed on both sides and the rear of the vehicle, to include the COG 800 series unit identifier, as appropriate.
- B. Layout of markings and/or requests for variations on special units will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and should closely match the above requirements. These variations **MUST** be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee prior to construction and the attempt to place the unit in service.



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IX. Reserve Apparatus

- A. All reserve apparatus shall be marked as outlined above with the exception of the SPECIFIC COG 890 series unit identifier.
- B. COG unit identifiers on reserve apparatus shall use 12" reflective numbers in the "890" series, with "Reserve" above the numbers.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A