




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

General Order Number: 02-18	Effective Date: January 11, 2024
Division: Apparatus and Equipment	
Chapter: Uniform Vehicle Markings and Lettering	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Tiffany D. Green 	Prior Revision: 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 and mutual aid operations.

SCOPE

The scope of this General Order is for all sworn, civilian, and volunteer members of the Fire/EMS Department

DEFINITIONS

Ghost Lettering – Graphics that blend into a vehicle's natural appearance rather than contrast it, giving it a stealthy appearance, but are often reflective to increase safety and visibility in low light.

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. All vehicles, apparatus, specialty units, and ambulances shall all have a County M# issued by Apparatus Maintenance, regardless of who is responsible for fueling and maintaining the vehicle.
- 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.



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*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. Three levels of markings are recognized:
 - a. Traditional (primary emergency response vehicles)
 - b. Subdued (generally administration vehicles)
 - c. Unmarked (as authorized by the Fire Chief)
- 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 transport 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



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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.

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 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 stripe 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 4" in height.
- 5) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located on the inside of the driver's door.



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b) Subdued

- 1) A minimum 4" reflective, permanently affixed stripe, fully across each side and the rear. The stripe and logo may be complementary or similar color to the vehicle.
- 2) A combination of text, company numbers (800 series, minimum height of 4"), 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 4" 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 stripe, fully across each side and the rear. Ghost striping is not permitted.
- 2) A reflective, permanently affixed Fire/EMS Department County seal, 4 to 6" in height, on each side front door and the rear. Ghost seals are not permitted.
- 3) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located underneath affixed door seals on each side and rear.
- 4) Approved titling including 800 series number on both sides of operational vehicles. 800 series number shall be 4" on the rear of vehicle.
- 5) Alternating upward chevron stripes of contrasting colors on rear tailgate/hatch area.

b) Subdued

- 1) NO subdued markings are allowable for primary response vehicles. Examples: Battalion Chiefs, brush trucks, and mini pumpers.
- 2) A minimum 4" reflective, permanently affixed transition red color stripe 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. Ghost striping is not permitted.
- 2) A reflective, permanently affixed recognized volunteer corporation seal (minimum height 4") on each side and the rear. Ghost seals are not permitted.
- 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) 1-1/2" vehicle "M number" permanently affixed and located on the inside or outside of the driver's door.
- 5) Recognized corporate name, permanently affixed letters located on the rear of the vehicle.
- 6) 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 Chiefs, Volunteer Chief vehicles, brush trucks, and mini pumpers.
- 2) A minimum 4" reflective, permanently affixed stripe, fully across each side and the rear. The stripe and logo may be complementary or similar color to the vehicle.
- 3) A combination of text, company numbers (800 series, minimum height of 4"), and/or recognized corporate seals (minimum height of 4") on the sides and rear of the vehicle in reflective, permanently affixed styles. Ghost numbers or lettering is not permitted.
- 4) 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 okay 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.
5. 50% of the rear-facing surface must be covered (other than lenses/glass), visible when facing from the rear of the ambulance, and shall have retro-reflective material in a chevron pattern.
6. Battenberg markings, if used, must cover 144 square inches, each box.



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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 – Area determined by AMD.
 - c) Rear – Area determined by AMD.
3. Community name, permanently affixed letters.
 - a) Centered under the cab door seals.
 - b) Reserve units will not have a community name assigned.
4. Striping, reflective, permanently affixed.
 - a) Triple stripe (gold/white/gold on front and both sides)
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. A 1-1/4” “M number” vertically stacked low on the front and rear corners, each side.
8. Chevron striping on the rear of the unit covering at least 50% of the rear of the ambulance.

C. Volunteer-owned

1. Color shall be a base majority color of either red or white as the standard color.
2. A reflective, permanently affixed recognized volunteer corporate seal (minimum 12” in height) on each cab door. Ghost seals are not permitted.
3. Recognized corporate name, reflective and permanently affixed to each side, as large as possible. Ghost lettering is not permitted.
4. Reflective striping, consistent with at least the minimum requirements listed in NFPA 1917.
5. Chevron striping on the rear of the unit shall cover at least 50% of the rear of the vehicle.
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.



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7. Graphics packages for all apparatus shall be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee. This will be accomplished at the 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. Apparatus base colors are to be red or white, and to be approved by the Fire Chief or his/her designee. 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) Front – one on front of apparatus where space is available.
 - 3) Rear – Where space is available.
 - c) Community name, permanently affixed letters.
 - 1) Centered over the side County door seals.
 - 2) Reserve apparatus will not have a community name affixed.
 - d) Striping, reflective, permanently affixed.
 - 1) Triple stripe 1"-6"-1" (gold/white/gold on front and both sides)
 - 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 on each side of the apparatus.
 - g) 2" white reflective and permanently affixed "M number" front left corner of the cab.
 - h) PGFD logo, permanently affixed.
 - 1) Front bumper.
 - 2) Rear step area.
 - i) Chevron striping shall be permanently affixed on the rear and meet all requirements of NFPA 1901.
 - j) Graphics packages for all apparatus shall be approved by the County Fire Chief or his/her designee.



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2. Volunteer-owned

- a) Color shall be a base majority color of either red or white as the standard color.
- b) A permanently affixed, recognized volunteer corporate seal (minimum 12" in height) on each front door. Ghost seals are not permitted.
- c) Recognized corporate name conspicuously located, and permanently affixed. Ghost lettering is not permitted.
- 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 left front corner of the cab.
- 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 the initial review of specifications and "Introduction into Fleet Application." Any changes of graphics after the initial review shall be approved by the Apparatus Maintenance Division Manager and the Fire Chief.

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. Apparatus base colors are to be red or white, and to be approved by the Fire Chief or his/her designee. 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.



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- 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 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. Apparatus base colors are to be red or white, and to be approved by the Fire Chief or his/her designee. 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 agreement, 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. Any 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 numbers in the "862" series, with size depending on area size. "Reserve" shall be under the number.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A