


# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

**FCGO: 20-02**

**April 10, 2020**

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**TO:** MCFRS Personnel

**FROM:** Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein 

**SUBJECT:** Utilization Plan for Volunteers During COVID 19 EMS Surge

## **Background**

During the COVID19 crisis period, the State of Maryland has allowed personnel with expired EMT cards to return on a provisional basis. This alone is not a path for re-entry into MCFRS for former LFRD/MCFRS members. Re-entry process into the system is a separate matter as detailed below. This FCGO also provides guidance for volunteers in the process for obtaining A2 status and are being delayed due to COVID related training suspensions at the PSTA.

## **Paths**

This process is outside of Policy 06-07, *Return to IECS From Extended Absence* which is hereby rescinded during the remainder of the Maryland State of Emergency.

1. If a LFRD member seeks to return and has a current FROMS physical – he/she can re-enter MCFRS in a full IECS capacity in accordance with Policy 36-08, *Certification Standards for Training, Experience, and Credentialing Requirements*.
2. If a LFRD member does not have a current FROMS physical – he/she can return to MCFRS, as outlined below under FROMS.
3. If a LFRD member's advancement on the IECS is being delayed due to suspended training courses resulting from the COVID crisis, he/she can be promoted on the IECS, on an interim basis, as provided below under Policy 36-08 waivers.

## **Onboarding**

**TRAINING:** Effective immediately, this process is in effect during the term of the MD State of Emergency, plus 30 days. After that effective date, all MCFRS policies return to normal policy regulation.

1. Members requiring an EMT card may apply through MIEMSS for provisional status, as described on the attached MIEMSS document.
  - a. MCFRS Affiliation is also required for provisional MIEMSS status.

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- b. Members with National Registry who need Maryland EMT should apply for reciprocity through MIEMSS.
2. The requirements of PEA and Hazmat Operations are suspended from Policy 36-08, during this event.
3. The MFRI EVOC course (or equivalent) is accepted provided a course certificate is presented to the Division of Volunteer Services. (no letters from departments/organizations);
4. The attached requirements must be completed and confirmed by the LFRD Fire Chief or designee.

**FROMS/physicals**

1. If a volunteer member had a Fit-for-Duty (FFD) FROMS physical rating within the last 36 months, the member can return to an IECS position, as normal;
2. If a member's last FROMS physical rating was in excess of 36 months, the member can return to an **INTERIM** IECS position – limited to Policy 36-08 Appendix A-2 -EMS Provider rating.

**Background checks**

1. The fingerprint process is currently suspended; returning members will complete a background packet for review by IAD.
2. The member can receive **INTERIM** rating BEFORE the background is completed. IAD will be providing the packet for distribution.

**Tech Training**

1. MDC and FireApp training are available on-line and must be completed.
2. Elite: a Teams-based, hands-on Elite course has been developed for any/all people with who are EMTs and didn't get the Elite training held in the tech training lab (offered as part of the EMT semester at the PSTA). Likewise, this applies to anyone who took EMT in another jurisdiction. (Note anyone who is/was an active EMT for another jurisdiction in Maryland and has Elite training from MIEMSS is eligible for Elite equivalency credit with an e-mail from his/her training coordinator, stating this.)
3. 800 MHz Radio: There are two groups addressed both below:
  - a. Refresher training for former MCFRS personnel who already have credit for 800 MHz Intro and are returning during the pandemic period may serve.

Personnel who already have credit for 800 MHz radio do not need to sit through another four-hour class, but rather review certain key elements of

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the portable radio. These members should take the online radio annual refresher, meet with their LFRD training coordinator and go over specifics from a topic sheet that tech training will provide (e.g., EB procedure, hospital TG vs EMRC, etc.).

- b. Volunteers who are already in the system to advance to A2 status but happen just to need 800 (and/or Elite) to be qualified to ride A2:

(Two components available on or about April 15.)

i. Intro training: On-Line component: Individuals will have to do it individually and complete an individual check-off at the end of the course; and

ii. In-Station component: The student will need meet with the Chief or Training Coordinator and perform several key requirements and individual tasks (e.g., EB, hospital notification, etc.). Once completed, the LFRD must send notification of hands-on completion to Jeff Feiertag for course documentation.

**Uniforms**

Returning members requiring uniforms will be issued 2 pairs of uniform pants; 2 uniform shirts; and 2 sweatshirts. This process will be coordinated with Logistics.

**Request/IECS Changes**

LFRD's that are requesting reinstatement of a former volunteer or requesting a PEAFF or Hazmat Operations class waiver must send an email to Ruthie Wills stating what training courses are being requested. Ms. Wills will then make a notation in PIMS documenting the changes.

Contact D/C Michael Kelley with any questions.

ATTACHMENT: Form – Required for Returning Volunteers  
MIEMSS Change of Licensing and Certification