



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

01-07AMII

**Policy and Procedure**

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**Standardized Identification and Safety Graphics for  
County-Owned or County-Supported Apparatus**

8/01/16

Issued by: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein

Policy Number: 01-07AMII

Authority: Montgomery County Code Section 21-3 (b)

Supersedes: FRC Policy 01-07AM, *STANDARDIZED APPARATUS IDENTIFICATION AND SAFETY GRAPHICS SCHEME FOR COUNTY-OWNED FIRE AND RESCUE APPARATUS*, dated 12/1/2006

Effective Date: August 1, 2016

**SECTION 1. Purpose:**

- a. To establish standards for identification and safety graphics for apparatus owned by the County or owned by an LFRD but supported by County funds.
- b. To ensure the highest level of safety by adoption of industry standards and best practices.
- c. To ease recognition of apparatus by public safety partners.
- d. To promote recognition of apparatus by the community.

**SECTION 2. Applicability:**

This policy applies to all apparatus owned by the County or owned by an LFRD but supported by County funds. Non-emergency vehicles are exempt from this policy. If an existing non-emergency vehicle is outfitted for emergency response, it must be retrofitted with graphics that comply with this policy prior to use as an emergency vehicle.

**SECTION 3. Background:**

Policy 01-07AM did not encompass apparatus owned by LFRDs and did not address NFPA standards.

**SECTION 4. Definitions:**

- a. **Apparatus:** Vehicles that provide or support fire suppression, rescue, and/or emergency medical services (EMS), including passenger cars, SUVs, light duty trucks, and trailers. Non-emergency vehicles without audible or visual warning devices are excluded from this definition.
- b. **Community Name:** The name identifying the primary area or region served by a fire station. Community Names are listed in Appendix A.
- c. **Council of Governments Unit Designation (Unit Designation):** A three-digit number that identifies the station and jurisdiction of the unit. Example: "723" is the Unit Designation of all



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heavy apparatus from FS23. EMS transport units include an “A” or “M” prefix. When a station has multiple units of the same type, an alphabetical suffix is added to the second and subsequent units. Example: Ambulance 708 (A708) is the first ambulance from FS8. Ambulance 708 Bravo (A708B) is the second ambulance from FS8.

- d. **County Supported:** Any apparatus that is funded with County taxes, fees, or revenue for insurance, maintenance/repair, staffing, or fuel.
- e. **Emblem:** The official words, script, or image of an LFRD or MCFRS.
- f. **Fleet Chief:** A Chief appointed by the Fire Chief to manage the design, acquisition, inspection, maintenance, and repair of MCFRS apparatus.
- g. **Local Fire and Rescue Department (LFRD):** An individual fire or rescue squad corporation authorized under Section 21-5 of the County Code to provide fire suppression, rescue, and/or emergency medical services.
- h. **Reflective (Letters, Material, or Striping):** A decal, tape, sheeting, or electronically cuttable film which meets NFPA standards at the time of installation.
- i. **Reserve Unit Designation:** An alpha-numeric identifier used to identify apparatus in the reserve fleet.
- j. **Stock Number:** A 7-digit identifier: the first digit indicates the vehicle type; the next two digits indicate the year of the vehicle; and the last four digits of the vehicle identification number (VIN). Example: 1-06-1234 would be the Stock Number of a 2006 engine which has a VIN ending in “1234”. Some County Owned light duty vehicle Stock Numbers are determined by County Fleet and do not follow this numbering system.

**SECTION. 5. Policy:**

The Fire Chief embraces the legislative intent of Chapter 21. To implement these values, apparatus owned by the County or owned by an LFRD but supported by County funds must conform to the identification and safety graphics scheme described in this policy. Certain apparatus and vehicles may be exempt from this Policy with approval of the Fire Chief, including those of the Internal Affairs Section, Fire and Explosives Investigations Section, County-wide resources, and others. The Fire Chief requires that graphics reflect the community that the apparatus serves as indicated in *Appendix A* of this Policy. An LFRD Chief/President may request the Fire Chief to consider an alternative Community Name on the apparatus in their station.

The graphics on apparatus (including trailers) used to respond to fire, rescue, EMS, and hazardous incidents must be compliant with, or equivalent to, NFPA 1901 except for ambulances, light duty vehicles, or vehicles specifically exempted by the Fire Chief.

The graphics on all ambulances must be compliant with NFPA 1917.



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All light duty vehicles (under 14,000lbs GVWR) must have chevrons on the rear of the vehicle, equivalent to NFPA 1917.

If apparatus doesn't fit into a defined category, it must follow standards for the category that it is most similar to.

The examples in Appendixes B – E are intended to provide visual demonstrations of applicable graphics; they are not regulatory requirements. The wording in the policy supersedes the designs shown in the examples.

The Fire Chief may authorize minor changes to the approved standards established in this policy as required by apparatus size and configuration. For LFRD purchased vehicles, this will be in consultation with the LFRD Chief/President.

**SECTION. 6. Responsibility:**

An LFRD Chief/President or MCFRS Section Chief must obtain the Fire Chief's written approval of proposed graphics prior to ordering or contracting the graphics on new apparatus or changing graphics on existing apparatus. No graphics may be applied to apparatus without written approval of the Fire Chief.

The Fire Chief is the implementation and enforcement authority for all policies and regulations of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service.

**SECTION. 7. Procedure:**

**a. COUNTY-OWNED FIRE AND RESCUE APPARATUS**

**1. All County-Owned Fire and Rescue Apparatus Except EMS Transport Units and Light Duty Vehicles**

A. Apparatus of this type must:

- i. Be painted solid red, Sikkens #FLNA 30253 or equivalent.
- ii. Display NFPA 1901 compliant reflective striping on both sides of the vehicle.
- iii. Display the respective LFRD's emblems on the left and right rear cab doors using reflective decals no larger than 16" in height.
- iv. Display MCFRS emblems on the front cab doors.
- v. Display the Unit Designation (including the suffix) on five sides of the vehicle using reflective lettering. Subject to the limitations of the vehicle design and configuration, the preferred locations are:
  - cab roof;
  - front bumper, front cab corners or front bumper corners;



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- left and right sides of the vehicle; and
  - the rear of the vehicle
  - vi. Display NFPA 1901 compliant red/yellow or red/yellow-green chevrons on at least 50% of the vertical surfaces on the rear of the vehicle.
  - vii. Display NFPA 1901 compliant red/yellow or red/yellow-green chevrons on the flat surfaces of the front bumper.
  - viii. Display a two-inch reflective conspicuity band on the “rub rail” or at the lowest point of the body on both sides of the vehicle.
  - ix. Display the Community Name using reflective lettering on the left and right sides, front, and rear of the vehicle
  - x. Display “Montgomery County” or “Montgomery County Fire and Rescue” using reflective letters on the left and right sides and rear of the apparatus.
  - xi. Display 96 square inches of reflective material on the inside of all crew doors and 60 square inches of reflective material on the inside of all vertically hinged compartment doors.
    - a) The reflective material must be solid or alternating pattern; material with text such as “STOP” is not permitted.
  - xii. Display the vehicle’s Stock Number in minimum two-inch lettering on the bottom front of the driver’s and officer’s cab doors and on the left rear of the vehicle.
  - B. Apparatus of this type may display a current public education message, safety message, or slogan approved by the Fire Chief on both sides of the vehicle.
  - C. Reserve Apparatus will display the Reserve Unit Designation on at least the left and right sides of the vehicle. The Unit Designation will be defined by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief may authorize a standard system for marking reserve apparatus with temporary Unit Designations when assigned as in-service units.
  - D. Aerial apparatus will display proportional signboards (or standard OEM size) on both sides of the ladder. The signboards will display “Montgomery County” or “Montgomery County Fire and Rescue” and the Unit Designation. The Unit Designation will be displayed on three sides of aerial platforms.
- 2. County-Owned EMS Transport Units**
- A. Apparatus of this type must:
    - i. Be painted solid red, Sikkens #FLNA 30253 or equivalent.
    - ii. Display NFPA 1917 compliant reflective striping on both sides of the vehicle.
    - iii. Display the respective LFRD’s emblems on the left and right sides of the patient care compartment, no larger than 16” in height.



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- iv. Display MCFRS emblems on the front doors.
  - v. Display the Unit Designation (Including the prefix and suffix) on five sides of the vehicle using reflective lettering. Subject to the limitations of the cab design and configuration, the preferred locations are:
    - cab roof;
    - front bumper, front cab corners, or front bumper corners;
    - left and right box area, as space allows; and
    - the rear of the vehicle
  - vi. Display NFPA 1917 compliant red/yellow or red/yellow-green chevrons on at least 50% of the vertical surfaces on the rear of the vehicle.
  - vii. Display NFPA 1917 compliant red/yellow or red/yellow-green chevrons on at least 25% of the width of the front of the vehicle.
  - viii. Display a two-inch reflective conspicuity band on the "rub rail" or at the lowest point of the body on both sides of the vehicle.
  - ix. Display the Community Name using reflective lettering on the left and right sides, front, and rear of the vehicle
  - x. Display "Montgomery County" or "Montgomery County Fire and Rescue" using reflective letters on the left and right sides and rear of the vehicle.
  - xi. Display 60 square inches of reflective material on the inside of all vertically hinged doors.
    - a) The reflective material must be solid or alternating pattern; material with text such as "STOP" is not permitted.
  - xii. Display the vehicle's Stock Number in minimum two-inch lettering on the bottom front of the driver's and officer's cab doors and on the left rear of the vehicle.
- B. Apparatus of this type may display a current public education message, safety message, or slogan approved by the Fire Chief on both sides of the vehicle.
- C. Reserve apparatus will display the Reserve Unit Designation on at least the left and right sides of the vehicle. The Unit Designation will be defined by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief may authorize a standard system for marking reserve apparatus with temporary Unit Designations when assigned as in-service units.
3. **County-Owned Light-Duty Vehicles (passenger cars, SUVs, trucks and vans up to 14,000 GVWR)**
- A. Apparatus of this type must:
- i. Be painted solid red, Sikkens #FLNA 30253 or equal.



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- ii. Display a minimum of 3" wide reflective striping on the length of both sides of the vehicle. Display MCFRS emblems on the front doors.
  - iii. Display "Montgomery County" or "Montgomery County Fire and Rescue" on the rear or both sides of the vehicle.
  - iv. Display the Unit Designation for vehicles or apparatus assigned to a station or that are a unit type than can be recommended for dispatch in CAD (EMS701, B722, etc). Other command and staff vehicles may display a Unit Designation
  - v. Display NFPA 1917 equivalent red/yellow or red/yellow-green chevrons on at least 50% of the vertical surfaces of the rear of the vehicle.
  - vi. Display a reflective tape pattern or chevrons on the length of the front bumper.
  - vii. Display reflective material on the inside of all vertically hinged doors (cab or compartment).
  - viii. Display the vehicle's Stock Number in minimum two-inch lettering on the left rear of the vehicle.
- B. For types of units that can be recommended for dispatch (ie. brush trucks), display the Community Name on both sides of the vehicle.
- C. "MCFRS" may be cut into the stripe on both sides of the vehicle.
- D. If space permits, display a current public education, safety message, or slogan approved by the Fire Chief on both sides of the vehicle.
- E. The title, position, or duty of the vehicle may be displayed on both sides of the vehicle. Example: "EMS SUPERVISOR" or "BATTALION CHIEF"
- F. Any window tinting must meet applicable State and Federal laws. On front and rear-seat side windows, tinting must allow 35% light transmittance, and may not have a reflective or one-way effect.
- 4. County-Owned Apparatus Individual Fire Station Recognition Graphics**
- A. The graphics scheme must be approved by the Fire Chief.
  - B. Personnel from an individual fire station may request (via chain-of-command) that a station-specific statement or graphics design be added to its apparatus to enhance the camaraderie of its personnel.
  - C. The graphics or statement cannot reflect a message that specifically endorses only a career or volunteer perspective.
  - D. The LFRD Chief/President or Operations Chief must submit a written request and a sample of the statement/graphic to the Fire Chief, who will approve or deny the request.
  - E. If the Fire Chief approves the request, the Fleet Chief will arrange for installation.





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F. The cost of applying any statement or graphic design to apparatus shall be borne by the personnel from fire station requesting it.

G. Graphics in this section are limited to:

- the size of a single compartment door on each side; and
- text and/or small graphics on the front or rear of the vehicle

H. If the Fire Chief approves this type of request, the approved change will not displace or substitute for the original graphics package outlined in this Policy.

**b. LFRD-OWNED / COUNTY-SUPPORTED FIRE AND RESCUE APPARATUS**

**1. All LFRD-Owned / County-Supported Fire and Rescue Apparatus Except EMS Transport Units and Light Duty Vehicles**

A. The paint and graphics scheme must be approved by the Fire Chief.

B. Apparatus color is at the discretion of the LFRD.

C. Apparatus of this type must:

- Display NFPA 1901 compliant reflective striping on both sides of the vehicle.
- Display LFRD emblems on the left and right front cab doors.
- Display the Unit Designation (including the suffix) on five sides of the vehicle using reflective lettering. Subject to the limitations of the vehicle design and configuration, the preferred locations are:
  - cab roof;
  - front bumper, front cab corners or front bumper corners;
  - left and right sides of the vehicle; and
  - the rear of the vehicle
- Display NFPA 1901 compliant chevrons on at least 50% of the vertical surfaces on the rear of the vehicle. Recommended colors are red/yellow or red/yellow-green.
- Display NFPA 1901 compliant reflective striping on at least 25% of the width of the front of the vehicle. Red/yellow or red/yellow-green chevrons on the flat surfaces of the bumper are recommended.
- Display a two-inch reflective conspicuity band on the "rub rail" or at the lowest point of the body on both sides of the vehicle.
- Display the name of the LFRD in reflective letters on the left and right sides and rear of the vehicle. The LFRD name may be placed on the front of the vehicle.



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viii. Display the Community Name using reflective lettering on the left and right sides, front, and rear of the vehicle.

a) When the Community Name is the same as the LFRD surname, the Community Name may be omitted.

ix. Display "Montgomery County" on the left and right sides and rear of the apparatus using reflective letters. The font for this lettering:

a) Must be at least 70% of the size of the largest LFRD name font on the same side of the vehicle

b) Must be at least 3" in height in a conspicuous location and color scheme

c) Is not required to be larger than 4" in height, regardless of the largest LFRD name font on the same side of the vehicle.

x. Display 96 square inches of reflective material on the inside of all crew doors and 60 square inches of reflective material on the inside of all vertically hinged compartment doors.

a) The reflective material must be solid or alternating pattern; material with text such as "STOP" is not permitted.

xi. Display the vehicle's Stock Number in minimum two-inch lettering on the bottom front of the driver's and officer's cab doors and on the left rear of the vehicle.

D. Apparatus of this type may display an appropriate public education, safety message, or slogan approved by the LFRD Chief/President on both sides of the vehicle.

E. Apparatus of this type may display MCFRS emblems on the rear cab doors or body.

F. Aerial apparatus will display proportional signboards (or standard OEM size) on both sides of the ladder. The signboards will display the LFRD name and the Unit Designation. The Unit Designation will be displayed on three sides of aerial platforms.

**2. LFRD-Owned / County-Supported EMS Transport Units**

A. The paint and graphics scheme must be approved by the Fire Chief.

B. Apparatus color is at the discretion of the LFRD.

C. Apparatus of this type must:

i. Display reflective striping on the length of both sides of the vehicle.

ii. Display the respective LFRD's emblems on the left and right cab doors. Display the Unit Designation (Including the prefix and suffix) on five sides of the vehicle using reflective letters. Subject to the limitations of the cab design and configuration, the preferred locations are:





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- cab roof;
  - front bumper, front cab corners, or front bumper corners;
  - left and right box area, as space allows; and
  - the rear of the vehicle
- iii. Display NFPA 1917 compliant chevrons on at least 50% of the vertical surfaces on the rear of the vehicle. Recommended colors are red/yellow or red/yellow-green.
- iv. Display a two-inch reflective conspicuity band on the “rub rail” or at the lowest point of the body on both sides of the vehicle.
- v. Display the name of the LFRD in reflective letters on left and right sides and on the rear of the vehicle. The LFRD name may be placed on the front of the vehicle.
- vi. Display the Community Name using reflective lettering on the left and right sides, front, and rear of the vehicle.
- a) When the Community Name is the same as the LFRD surname, the Community Name may be omitted.
- vii. Display “Montgomery County” in reflective letters on the left and right sides and on the rear of the vehicle. The font for this lettering:
- a) Must be at least 70% of the size of the largest LFRD name font on the same side of the vehicle
  - b) Must be at least 3” in height in a conspicuous location and color scheme
  - c) Is not required to be larger than 4” in height, regardless of the largest LFRD name font on the same side of the vehicle.
- viii. Display 60 square inches of reflective material on the inside of all vertically hinged doors.
- a) The reflective material must be solid or alternating pattern; material with text such as “STOP” is not permitted.
- ix. Display the vehicle’s Stock Number in minimum two-inch lettering on the bottom front of the driver’s and officer’s cab doors and on the left rear of the vehicle.
- D. Apparatus of this type may display an appropriate public education, safety message, or slogan approved by the LFRD Chief on both sides of the vehicle.
- E. Apparatus of this type may display MCFRS emblems on the front of the left and right sides of the patient care compartment.



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**3. LFRD-Owned / County-Supported Light-Duty Vehicles (passenger cars, SUVs, trucks and vans up to 14,000 GVWR)**

- A. The paint and graphics scheme must be approved by the Fire Chief.
- B. Apparatus color is at the discretion of the LFRD.
- C. Apparatus of this type must:
  - i. Display a minimum of 3" wide reflective striping on the length of both sides of the vehicle.
  - ii. Display LFRD emblems on the front cab doors. Display the Unit Designation for vehicles or apparatus assigned to a station or that are a unit type than can be recommended for dispatch in CAD (EMS701, B722, etc). Other command and staff vehicles may display a Unit Designation.
  - iii. Display NFPA 1917 equivalent chevrons on at least 50% of the vertical surfaces of the rear of the vehicle. Red/yellow or red/yellow-green are recommended.
  - iv. Display a reflective tape pattern on at least 25% of the width of the front bumper.
  - v. Display the vehicle's Stock Number in minimum two-inch lettering on the left rear of the vehicle.
- D. The LFRD name may be displayed on the rear or both sides of the vehicle using reflective decals at the LFRD's discretion.
- E. Apparatus may display the Community Name on both sides of the vehicle (e.g., brush trucks).
- F. For unit types that can be recommended for dispatch (ie. brush trucks), display "Montgomery County" in reflective letters on the rear or both sides of the vehicle. The font for this lettering:
  - i. Must be at least 70% of the size of the largest LFRD name font on the same side of the vehicle
  - ii. Must be at least 3" in height in a conspicuous location and color scheme
  - iii. Is not required to be larger than 4" in height, regardless of the largest LFRD name font on the same side of the vehicle.
- G. It is recommended that all vertically hinged doors (cab or compartment) have reflective material affixed to the inside of the doors.
- H. Apparatus may display an appropriate public education, safety message, or slogan approved by the LFRD Chief/President on both sides of the vehicle.
- I. Apparatus may display MCFRS emblems on each side of the vehicle.



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J. The title, position, or duty of the vehicle may be displayed on both sides of the vehicle. Example: "EMS SUPERVISOR" or "BATTALION CHIEF"

K. Any window tinting must meet applicable State and Federal laws. On front and rear-seat side windows, tinting must allow 35% light transmittance, and may not have a reflective or one-way effect.

**4. LFRD-Owned / County-Supported Apparatus Individual Fire Station Recognition Graphics**

A. The paint and graphics scheme must be approved by the Fire Chief.

B. The LFRD Chief/President may request that a station-specific statement or graphics design be added to its apparatus to enhance the camaraderie of its personnel.

C. The graphics or statement cannot reflect a message that specifically endorses only a career or volunteer perspective.

i. Apparatus that are staffed only with LFRD personnel are exempt from 7.b.4.C

ii. Any apparatus that changes from LFRD staffing only to integrated LFRD/career staffing must be updated to comply with 7.b.4.C.

D. The LFRD Chief/President must submit a written request and a sample of the statement/graphic to the Fire Chief, who will approve or deny the request.

E. The cost of applying any statement or graphic design to apparatus shall not be paid by Montgomery County or MCFRS.

F. Graphics in this section are limited to:

- the size of a single compartment door on each side; and
- text and/or small graphics on the front or rear of the vehicle

G. If the Fire Chief approves this type of request, the approved change will not displace or substitute for the original graphics package outlined in this Policy.

**SECTION 8.**

Cancellation: This policy cancels and supersedes FRC Policy 01-07AM, dated 12/1/2006



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**SECTION 9. Attachments:**

- Appendix A, Community Name Designations
- Appendix B, Graphics Example for Light Duty Vehicles
- Appendix C, Graphics Example for Fire and Rescue Apparatus
- Appendix D, Graphics Example for Aerials and Towers
- Appendix E, Graphics Example for EMS Transport Units

**Approved:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Gold".

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief

July 19, 2016

Date