



## NEWPORT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 1768, 100 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92658-8915

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**JEFF BOYLES**  
Fire Chief

March 18, 2024

VIA EMAIL: [Cschultz@ochca.com](mailto:Cschultz@ochca.com)

Carl Schultz, MD  
Health Disaster Management/  
Emergency Medical Services  
Orange County Health Care Agency  
405 W. Fifth Street, Suite 301A  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

### **SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ADDITIONAL PAU**

Dear Dr. Schultz:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that effective April 12, 2024, the Newport Beach Fire Department (Nbfd), will be permanently staffing a paramedic on Nbfd fire truck 63 (NT63) housed at Station 3 located at 868 Santa Barbara Drive, Newport Beach. This will upgrade the 911 response capability from a BLS unit to a 911 Paramedic Assessment Unit ("PAU").

### **THE OBJECTIVE**

This upgrade in service is part of a larger plan to improve access to Advance Life Support (ALS) resources within the City of Newport Beach (City).

The Nbfd has eight fire stations located throughout our community. These stations house eight fire engines, two fire trucks and three ALS ambulances. Current staffing has two ALS resources (Paramedics) on each of the three ALS ambulances and one paramedic and two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) on each of the eight engine company PAUs. The current trucks (NT62 and NT63) are staffed with firefighter EMT's. NT63 will now be staffed with three firefighter EMT's and one OCEMS accredited, state licensed paramedic, on February 5, 2024.

The additional PAU will expand the ALS coverage within the city to include 12 response units: three ALS ambulances and eight engine company PAUs and now one PAU truck.

## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### Timeline

NT63 was temporarily transitioned to a PAU on February 5, 2024 at 0730, awaiting EMCC approval in April.

### Response Matrix

The PAU will be identified as Newport Truck 63 (NT63). NT63 will be dispatched in the same manner as all fire and EMS apparatus currently operating from the City.

Please review the following criteria for activation and upgrades of NT63 per OCEMS Policy #705.00:

- A. Justification for an additional PAU or ALS unit.
  - a. Increased access to ALS level care. Newport Truck 63 responds to an average of 1,000 calls for service, with approximately 75% of those calls requiring the provision of medical services. NT63 is frequently the first unit to arrive on scene, and with the upgrade to PAU, will now be able to provide ALS services if needed, prior to arrival of the ALS unit.
- B. Description of the geographical location and boundaries for the proposed service.
  - a. NT63: suburban and wildland areas, see attached map (Attachment A)
- C. Justification for variances (if any) from the applicant's plan for adhering to the Board of Supervisors Resolution 79-240: One unit for every 64,000 population; or one unit per 16 square miles; or an average of five minutes or less response time; or adjacent units are at or above 300 total responses/month (Policy 700.00).
  - a. No variances from Board of Supervisors Resolution 79-240.
  - b. NBFDD meets and exceeds those standards for number of units in service within the community.
- D. A workload analysis of the impact on contiguous PAU or ALS units.
  - a. NT63 has seen a 36% increase in call volume since 2017. The upgrade of NT63 to a PAU unit will add ALS capability to calls for service.
- E. Proposed time frame for implementation.
  - a. NT63 upgrade to PAU February 5th, 2024
- F. Commitment to utilize and maintain telecommunications as specified by the OCEMS.

- a. NBFD commits to utilize and maintain telecommunications as specified by OCEMS.
- G. Commitment to maintain a drug and solution inventory and basic and ALS medical equipment and supplies as specified by the OCEMS and NBFD standards.
  - a. NBFA commits to maintain a drug and solution inventory and basic and ALS medical equipment and supplies as specified by the OCEMS policy.
- H. Training needs for meeting OCEMS staffing requirements of one paramedic for a PAU.
  - a. All NBFD units will continue to meet all training and staffing requirements as outlined by OCEMS and NBFD standards.
  - b. To achieve the change in staffing, existing OC accredited paramedics within the NBFD will be moved onto the PAU truck.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact me at 949-644-3385 or email [kthompson@nbfd.net](mailto:kthompson@nbfd.net).

Sincerely,



Kristin Thompson  
EMS Division Chief

KT:da

Attachment A

