

**Municipality of Anchorage
Anchorage Fire Department
Memorandum**

DATE: August 21, 2007

OPS 07-36

TO: All Operations Personnel

FROM: Erich Scheunemann, Assistant Chief

THROUGH: Doug Schrage, Deputy Chief
Dr. Michael Levy, Medical Director

SUBJECT: Response Level Changes to Unknown Problems

Effective immediately EMS dispatches for the largest category of Unknown Problem (“Man Down”) responses, determinant 32 Delta 1 *Life Status Questionable*, will be changed to reflect a single unit response using the closest resource. Additional resources may be requested at any time by the dispatcher or responders based on updated information or after arriving on location and assessing a patient requiring medical attention and transport.

This change will reduce the allocation of additional unnecessary resources and reflects analysis of system data. For example, in the first six months of 2007, Unknown Problem is ranked as the #3 type of call dispatched, behind Fire Alarms and Breathing Problems (excluding patient transports and duplicate calls). Furthermore, when patient outcomes were reviewed, in over 90% of cases either no patient is found or the patient is taken by APD or CSP.

The technical details of Medical Priority Dispatch System Card 32 – Unknown Problem (“Man Down”) will read as following for EMS Response Levels:

- 32D1 – Life status questionable – Level 6 (closest resource Code Red)
- 32B1 – Patient is standing, sitting, moving, or talking – Level 7 (closest resource Code Yellow)
- 32B2 – Medical Alert notifications – Level 6 (closest resource Code Red)
- 32B3 – Unknown status (3rd Party Caller) – Level 6 (closest resource Code Red)