

	TRAVIS COUNTY ESD #5 MANCHACA FIRE RESCUE Department Policy / Best Practices	B202
	Authorized by:  Fire Chief Chris Barron	Effective: 9/1/2020 Rescinds: Reference: Application: Operations Personnel
On Duty Availability		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the need for on duty crews to remain available for response within their response area as much as possible. Furthermore, this policy provides guidance on boundaries of travel for on duty crews and apparatus.

II. Policy/Best Practices

- A. **Availability for response.** On-duty crews should strive to be available for response within its assigned territory as much as possible. It is understood that business needs of the organization may include out of service times for mechanical issues, training events, or similar issues. Even when out of service, the on duty crew should monitor the radio and Active 911 to determine if they should expedite a return to service.
- B. **Delays.** If possible, the on duty crew should consider the use of a delay of 1, 2 or 3 minutes instead of placing the unit out of service. If an activity would result in a delay of more than 3 minutes to initiate a response, the apparatus should be placed out of service. When at the station, consideration should be given to transferring to the reserve apparatus if the front line engine will be out of service for mechanical issues for more than one hour.
- C. **Travel when available.** When available for calls, the on duty crew should remain in close proximity to the district. In general, the on duty crew may travel anywhere within the district and through adjacent jurisdictions when it is necessary to do so to travel from one portion of the district to another. Additionally, crews may travel to destinations just outside the district for trips such as obtaining materials for repairs, projects, or obtaining food for on duty meals.
 - 1. **Travel boundaries.** When available for calls, the on duty crew should not travel into Hays County or further north than locations immediately adjacent to Slaughter Lane (HEB Slaughter, HEB Congress, O Riley Auto Parts, Fire Station 36, etc.), or further west than Toll 45 SW, Shady Hollow, or the Slaughter/Manchaca area. Nor should an available crew travel to areas east of the I35 northbound frontage.
- D. **Other travel.** Travel while available for calls outside of the boundaries listed above must be approved by a Chief Officer.

1. **Move ups.** An exception would be if a MFR unit were assigned to another area by dispatch to assist with response coverage. Typically, this is in the form of a move up assignment to another fire station.
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- E. **Travel when assigned.** When dispatched to an incident or given an assignment by a Chief Officer, the on duty crew may travel as needed to accomplish the assignment. When an assignment is completed, the on duty crew shall return to their home response area as soon as practical by the most direct and practical route.