

Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline

Long Island EMS Transports

Objective:

To provide guidelines for accepting Long Island Fire Department patients at town Landing and providing Paramedic Intercepts to Long Island.

General Information:

During the Spring, Summer, and Fall, Falmouth Fire-EMS works with Long Island Fire Department to help transport patients from their island to the hospital in Portland. Most patients are received at Town Landing but sometimes a crew from Falmouth Fire-EMS meets the Long Island crew on their island, another island, or in transit on the ocean.

Guidelines:

Falmouth Fire-EMS will respond to requests for Long Island transfers with Ambulance 2 and Engine 1 and a chief/duty officer. Since sometimes we get the call when they are already underway, we do respond to the landing code 3 (lights and siren). Note: if A2 is busy, A3, A1 or a mutual aid ambulance will be called. If E1 is busy E2, E4, T4 will be called. The harbor master will also be notified.

A. Role of Engine 1

- a. Engine 1's role is to open the Knox Box on the town landing building and get the life jackets/personal flotation devices (PFD) out.
 - i. Each crew member on the dock/floats must wear a PFD.
 - ii. PFD's are also located on Engine 1.
- b. The crew of E1's role is to assist the Long Island crew transfer the Long Island stretcher from their boat to the float.
- c. E1's crew will then bring the patient up to the parking lot where they will assist the transfer of the patient to the Falmouth stretcher. Note the transfer is not done on the float. We do not bring our stretcher down the float. It stays in the parking lot. Our stretcher is a power stretcher and is much heavier to maneuver than theirs, we do not feel it is safe to transfer the patient on the narrow float, we do not want to risk our stretcher going overboard, and after we transfer the patient in the parking lot we can replace the linens on the Long Island stretcher for them. In some cases, we may bring a stair chair down the float, but our stretcher should not be brought down.

- B. Role of Ambulance 2 (or Ambulance 3 or Ambulance 1)
- a. The role of the A2 crew is to don PFD's and when the Long Island Boat reaches the float the crew chief and maybe one other EMS provider will enter the boat and get a patient update from Long Island EMS.
 - b. The rest of the A2 crew will work to help get the patient transferred over to us along with the E1 crew. The Long Island crew will normally do the work on the boat to hand us the patient. Meaning, our crews will receive the patient on the float. Let them hand the patient and stretcher over to you (unless they need a hand). They normally have a decent sized crew to do this.
 - c. Once the patient is in our ambulance please double check that Long Island EMS does not need any supplies (NRB, sheet, blanket, etc.) and then we will make our transport.
 - d. In some cases, there may be 1 or 2 family members along with the patient. If we cannot fit them in the ambulance, we may need to provide a ride for them to the hospital or to get their car which may be parked in downtown Portland. We have agreed to do this. Please see if you can get one of our staff vehicles (U1, U2, U3, U4 or U6) down to the landing to make this happen.

Communications

- A. Long island has our primary channel in their boat (Long Island Engine 3), and we have asked that they call us on our primary channel to let us know when they leave the island. Their transport time is around 10 -12 minutes.

Paramedic Intercepts

- A. If we get called to do a paramedic intercept to Long Island the same crews will be dispatched. The paramedic on A2 plus an officer if available (EMS provider if possible – usually the officer of E1 or a duty/chief officer) will respond on the police boat to the Island. We leave the rest of the A2 crew at the Town Landing so that they can get any needed equipment ready for the transport. Remaining E1 crew will stay at the landing as well to prepare to receive the patient. The paramedic should bring the heart monitor, ALS bag, drug box, and narcotics on the boat with them. If we head over to do the intercept, please have everyone switch over to our primary channel (including the boat). We can get over to Long Island in 6-7 minutes on the police boat.
- B. It is our preference that paramedic intercepts are done on Long Island and not in transit. If they have to be done in transit, please be sure the two boats are tied together and also determine if the situation is safe for an over-the-water transfer of personnel and equipment before doing so.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.