Santa Barbara City Fire Department

Bulletin No. 17-06

Date: January 31, 2017

To: All Department Members

Subject: FireHouse Code Change

Firehouse Users,

   In 2011 a response code of 6111 was added to the Firehouse NFIRS ***Incident Type*** pick list. This 6111 code allowed for the option to record *cancelled on scene* in addition to the existing 611 option of *cancelled en route*. Recent conversations with representatives from other fire agencies has revealed a flaw in this approach to gathering data. By allowing more calls to fall into the "cancelled" category, we aren't accurately capturing our response to calls. The intent of the ***Incident Type*** code in Firehouse is to capture the type of call we found upon arrival on scene. CAD doesn't auto-populate this box because many times what you find on arrival is different from your original dispatch. As of February 7th @ 0800 hours, the 6111 code option will be removed to better align with industry standards.

Incident Type & Actions Taken

   The 3am structure fire at the Santa Barbara Roasting Co. that turns out to be a 651 *smoke scare/odor of smoke* is a good example of a change to your **Incident Type**. If the code was entered as 111 *building fire* our stats would reflect a higher number of building fire responses than is accurate. The same holds true for our cancelled data. What incident type did you find upon arrival? If you were dispatched to a medical call and you were cancelled by AMR prior to making patient contact, according to industry standards, this incident type should be recorded as a 311 *medical assist, assist EMS crew.* Under **Actions Taken**, your Firehouse report for this incident could indicate 932 for *cancelled prior to patient contact* or 86 for *investigate* if you spoke with the medics to establish whether your assistance was needed. There are a number of appropriate code options available to you. To illustrate another example, if you respond to assist PD and upon arrival you are cancelled by PD, the ***Incident Type*** should remain 551, *assist police or other agency*. Your **Actions Taken** should be 86 for *investigate* or if you referred the call to another agency like Public Works or Edison, you would use 82 for *notify other agencies.*

Consistent Data Collection

   Please record all future medical calls in Firehouse using the event found upon arrival, and by choosing *investigate* or other appropriate code for **Actions Taken**. We will continue to explore the option of using ImageTrend for all our NFIRS and ePCR reporting, but for now, we need accurate data in Firehouse to generate accurate response reports.

Thanks for your help!

Patrick J. McElroy, Fire Chief
By
Lee Waldron, Operations Division Chief