Disclaimer: All Best Practices are provided as a guide for departments by the Pennington Co. Fire Service Board. These are for general guidance and should be modified by each department based on their own individual rules or standard operating guidelines/policies. Each department within Pennington Co. is ultimately liable for its own operations and practices.

PREMISE: Medical emergencies not involving multiple casualties, fire extraction or other extenuating circumstances can generally be stabilized by a single crew of EMT 1st responders additional non-transport crews may generally not be required.

The Incident Command System should be used at all emergency types to help assure proper response, control, and incident outcome.

PURPOSE: It is the purpose of this practice to describe, in general, guidelines for response to, and control of, medical emergencies involving fire department 1st responders.

A standard method of responding to medical emergencies is important to ensure a consistent level of care to all persons requesting assistance in the Pennington County and surrounding areas.

SCOPE: This practice should apply to all Pennington County 1st responder fire units.

HISTORY: Original Release August 1, 1992
Revised June 12, 2013

OPERATING PRACTICE:

1. Response to Medical Emergencies
   A. When 1st responders are dispatched to a medical emergency that does not involve multiple casualties, fire, or other extenuating conditions, then the closest unit responding should respond HOT (with lights & siren) and the succeeding units should respond COLD (without lights & siren).
   B. Any “stage in the area” alarms will be a “COLD” response until the dispatcher informs medical units that they can “go in”. At that point if a “HOT” response is warranted, responding units may upgrade to “HOT”.
   C. The first fire/medical unit on the scene should implement the Incident Command System for control of fire and 1st responder resources.

2. Cancellation or Downgrading Response of 1st Responders
   A. Only the Incident Commander may cancel or downgrade responding units.
   B. Responding units must honor the Incident Commander’s order to cancel or downgrade response.