

**AMITY TOWNSHIP
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 14

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF AMITY TOWNSHIP,
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING A POLICY GOVERNING
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY CALLS IN
PERSONALLY OWNED VEHICLES**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Amity Township recognizes the valuable service provided by volunteer firefighters and emergency responders serving the Township; and

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters may utilize personally owned vehicles to respond to emergency incidents or fire stations in support of emergency operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors desires to establish uniform standards and expectations governing such responses in order to promote responder safety, public safety, accountability, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that adoption of a formal policy governing responses in personally owned vehicles is in the best interests of the residents of Amity Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Amity Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF POLICY

The Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the “Policy on Volunteer Firefighters Responding to Emergency Calls in Personal Vehicles,” identified as Policy Number EM-26-004, effective July 15, 2026, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit “A.”

SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY

The policy shall apply to all volunteer firefighters, fire police personnel, and authorized emergency responders affiliated with fire companies providing emergency services to Amity Township who respond to emergency calls in personally owned vehicles.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to establish clear operational guidelines, safety requirements, and accountability measures for responders utilizing personally owned vehicles during emergency responses, while ensuring compliance with applicable Pennsylvania laws and accepted risk management practices.

SECTION 4. AUTHORIZATION AND COMPLIANCE

All personnel responding in personally owned vehicles shall comply with the requirements established in the adopted policy, including eligibility requirements, operational restrictions, safety standards, reporting requirements, and any additional requirements imposed by their respective fire companies.

SECTION 5. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS AND POLICIES

This Resolution and the adopted policy supplement, and do not replace, the requirements of:

- A. The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code (Title 75);
- B. Applicable Pennsylvania emergency management and emergency services statutes;
- C. Fire company bylaws, rules, and standard operating guidelines;
- D. Insurance carrier requirements; and
- E. Other applicable federal, state, county, or municipal laws and regulations.

SECTION 6. LIABILITY

Nothing contained in this Resolution shall be construed as creating liability on the part of Amity Township for damages, injuries, citations, or losses incurred by any individual operating a personally owned vehicle while responding to an emergency incident. Liability and insurance responsibilities shall remain as provided in the adopted policy and applicable law.

SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with the adopted policy may result in suspension or revocation of personal vehicle response privileges, disciplinary action by the applicable fire company, removal from emergency response duties, or referral to law enforcement authorities when appropriate.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Resolution is determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. REPEALER

All resolutions or portions of resolutions inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED this 15th day of July, 2026, by the Board of Supervisors of Amity Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

**AMITY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Kim McGloth
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Pamela K. Kisch
Township Secretary

Amity Township

Fire Department Policy

Policy on Volunteer Firefighters Responding to Emergency Calls in Personal Vehicles

Policy Number: EM-26-004

Effective Date: July 15, 2026

Review Date: June 18, 2026

Approved By: Board of Supervisors

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines, expectations, and safety requirements for volunteer firefighters of Amity Township who respond directly to emergency incidents using personally owned vehicles (POVs). This policy is intended to promote responder safety, public safety, and legal compliance while ensuring effective emergency response.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all volunteer firefighters, fire police, and authorized emergency responders affiliated with fire companies providing emergency services to Amity Township who respond to emergency calls in personally owned vehicles.

3. Authority

This policy is adopted by the Amity Township Board of Supervisors under its authority to regulate emergency services and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This policy supplements, and does not replace, applicable provisions of:

- Pennsylvania Vehicle Code (Title 75)
- Pennsylvania Emergency Services statutes
- Fire company bylaws and standard operating guidelines
- Insurance carrier requirements

4. General Policy Statement

Volunteer firefighters may respond to emergency incidents in personal vehicles **only when authorized by their respective fire company** and in compliance with this policy.

Responding in a POV is a privilege, not a right, and may be restricted or revoked at any time.

5. Authorization and Eligibility

To respond in a personal vehicle, a member must:

1. Be an active, authorized member in good standing with a Township-recognized fire company.
2. Be at least 18 years of age.
3. Hold a valid Pennsylvania driver's license appropriate for the vehicle operated.
4. Have completed any required emergency vehicle or responder safety training as established by the fire company.
5. Maintain automobile insurance which meets or exceeds Pennsylvania minimum requirements.
6. Receive authorization from their fire company leadership.

6. Use of Emergency Warning Equipment

- Emergency lighting and audible warning devices shall only be mounted and utilized in accordance with Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle laws.

7. Driving Conduct and Limitations

1. Responders operating personal vehicles:
 - Shall obey all traffic laws, signals, and posted speed limits.
 - Shall not exceed the speed limit under any circumstances.
 - Shall not assume the right-of-way.
 - Shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.
2. The following are strictly prohibited:
 - Reckless or aggressive driving.
 - Passing school buses with flashing lights.
 - Using mobile devices while driving, except hands-free where permitted by law.

8. Response Routing and Parking

1. Responders shall travel directly to:
 - The fire station, **or**
 - The incident scene **only if specifically authorized** by fire company policy.
2. When arriving at an incident scene:
 - Park only in approved or safe areas.
 - Do not obstruct emergency vehicles, roadways, or access points.
 - Follow instructions from incident command or fire police.

9. Liability and Insurance

1. Personal vehicles are **not covered** under Amity Township insurance policies while responding.
2. Amity Township assumes no responsibility for damage, injury, citations, or liability incurred while responding in a personal vehicle.

10. Disciplinary Action

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- Immediate suspension of POV response privileges
- Disciplinary action by the fire company
- Possible removal from emergency response duties
- Referral to law enforcement where applicable

11. Incident Reporting

Any motor vehicle accident, traffic stop, citation, or complaint occurring while responding in a personal vehicle must be reported promptly to:

- Fire company leadership
- Amity Township Public Safety officer
- Appropriate insurance carriers

12. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically by Amity Township in coordination with Township-recognized fire companies and may be amended as necessary to reflect changes in law, risk management practices, or operational needs.