

**Purpose**

This policy outlines the usage of the Emergency Channel on the 800 Mhz fleet maps.

**Policy**

The communications sub-committee of the Operations work group for San Diego County developed this policy to clarify the usage of the Emergency Channel. This policy is intended to give the end users, the firefighters in operations, a simple and reliable method to implement emergency traffic as defined in the county's communications traffic mode policy.

**Procedure**

The Emergency channel found in each radio zone on the 800 Mhz fleetmaps shall be used for emergencies, only if other methods to communicate an emergency via the incident assigned channels have failed or the operator is unable to access those channels. When possible, the following methods shall be used by personnel to report an emergency.

- 1) On the assigned incident operational channels while assigned to an incident.
- 2) On the department or agencies hailing channel if not assigned to an incident.
- 3) On the assigned radio zone emergency channel

This policy should in no way discourage the use of the emergency channel when warranted by incident and non-incident personnel.

Dispatch centers will monitor the emergency channels at all times, regardless of an active incident. This provides the highest level of safety and accountability for field personnel.

As defined in the county's Communications Traffic Modes policy, personnel with an emergency that initiate emergency traffic shall not be required to move their traffic to another channel and every effort shall be made to handle the emergency on the calling channel.

## Emergency Channel usage

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### **Operational Approach**

The emergency channel is found in the last channel of most groups and can be accessed manually or by pressing the emergency button on the radios. All personnel on an incident should have this channel in their scan list at all times.

Whenever the dispatch center handling an incident receives an emergency activation with no alias and cannot otherwise identify the source, that dispatch center shall immediately:

- Notify the incident commander.
- Notify all dispatch centers that have sent resources to the incident and request assistance with the identification of the source of the activation.

**Purpose**

This policy determines the types of Communications "Traffic" Modes defined for use within the San Diego County operational area.

**Policy**

This policy is intended to provide a common approach to how personnel use terminology related to communication traffic.

**Procedure**

The following communications traffic modes will be used in the San Diego County operational area:

Administrative traffic  
Incident traffic  
Priority traffic  
Emergency traffic

**Administrative traffic (mode)**

Administrative Traffic is defined as radio traffic used to manage fire department/agency resources outside of active incidents, to include but not limited to move ups, out of service requests, etc. This traffic typically occurs on the department/agencies administrative, call or dispatch channel.

**Incident traffic (mode)**

Incident Traffic is defined as radio traffic that routinely occurs while managing, responding and operating during an incident. This typically occurs on the command and/or tactical channels, regardless of their assigned usage.

**Priority traffic (mode)**

Priority Traffic is defined as radio traffic that is of an urgent but non-emergency nature, such as but not limited to: initial report of an incident or fire incident not previously reported, or report of an injury/non-injury traffic accident involving a fire agency apparatus. Priority traffic occurring on the department/agencies administrative, call or dispatch channel takes precedence over administrative traffic. Priority traffic may also be used while on an incident to convey an important message that must take priority over other incident traffic, but is not yet

## **Communication Traffic Modes**

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of an emergency nature, such as reporting imminent collapse or changing modes from offensive to defensive.

### Emergency traffic (mode)

Emergency Traffic is traffic that occurs when a firefighter(s) is in immediate peril of injury, is injured, lost and/or unaccounted, entrapped, or any other situation that could result in the loss or serious injury of a firefighter. Emergency traffic can be initiated by any personnel on or off the incident ground using terms such as “mayday,” “firefighter down,” “help,” etc. The use or activation of an emergency button shall also initiate this mode. Emergency traffic should first be initiated on the tactical or command channels, but can also occur on the department’s emergency channel and/or administrative channels. Regardless of where the initiation occurs Emergency traffic will take precedence over all other traffic and the channel emergency traffic is initiated on shall be cleared for the handling of this traffic.

### Operational Approach

All personnel should practice and implement the modes as defined above. Communications dispatch centers should be trained on the management of all communication traffic modes and have internal policies and documents updated to match these policies.

### References

None found

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear description of responsibilities of an Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC) and Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC), provide guidelines for IRIC and RIC duties, communications, pre-deployment and deployment requirements. This policy will define the response tasks and organization of the Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC) and Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC).

### **Policy**

The policy shall apply during all incidents in which personnel may reasonably be expected to operate in an immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) atmosphere or situations where an equipment failure or sudden change in conditions may trap or injure personnel, or any incident that poses significant risk to firefighter safety.

It shall remain the responsibility of the Incident Commander (IC) to ensure that the intent of this policy is met throughout the incidents duration or until such a time that it is determined that personnel exposure to an IDLH atmosphere or other hazards no longer exists.

### **Procedure**

#### **TWO-IN/TWO-OUT (IRIC/RIC) RESCUE EXCEPTION**

Initial attack operations shall be organized to ensure that, if upon arrival at the emergency scene, initial attack personnel find an imminent life-threatening situation which immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted with less than four personnel or without IRIC /RIC implementation, when conducted in accordance with NFPA 1500. No exception shall be permitted when there is no possibility to save lives. Any such actions taken in accordance with this section shall be thoroughly investigated by the fire department with a written report submitted to the Fire Chief (NFPA 1500, Fire Scope ICS 910)

#### **INITIAL RAPIDINTERVENTION CREW (IRIC)**

In accordance to NFPA 1500, entry into the hazard area will require at least four (4) personnel on the scene to accomplish the recognized Two-In/Two-Out requirement. For initial attack purposes, a minimum of two personnel shall be

## **Rapid Intervention Crew Procedures**

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assigned to an entry crew, and a minimum of two personnel to the standby position. This standby position will be recognized as Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC). IRIC personnel shall be responsible to maintain a constant awareness of the number, identity, location and function of those operating in the hazardous area.

IRIC personnel shall remain in a constant state of readiness in the event of IRIC activation for rescue. Full personal protective equipment, inclusive of SCBA, shall be donned or readied for immediate deployment.

One IRIC member shall remain positioned at or as close to the point of entry of the crew entering the IDLH atmosphere as functionally possible. This member shall be dedicated to remain in constant radio, visual, voice or signal line communication with the entry crew without performing any other duties that will disrupt this responsibility and/or positioning.

One IRIC member shall be permitted to perform other duties outside of the hazardous area. Provided that the abandoning of these other duties does not jeopardize the safety of personnel on the incident and constant communication is maintained between the IRIC members and members of the crew in the IDLH. At no time shall a member of IRIC participate in firefighting activities unless it is necessitated by a rescue.

Once established, IRIC shall be maintained, staffed and functional until relieved by a full RIC or disbanded by the Incident Commander.

### **RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC)**

It shall remain the intent of all Incident Commanders to ensure a fully staffed RIC be positioned to replace an IRIC as soon as reasonably possible. A RIC shall consist of a minimum of three (3) personnel led by a Company Officer. The RIC shall remain positioned outside the IDLH or Hazard area and shall remain in a constant state of readiness and available for rescue of fire personnel.

RIC personnel shall remain in a constant state of readiness in the event of RIC activation for rescue. Full personal protective equipment, inclusive of SCBA shall be donned or readied for immediate deployment.

RIC shall remain positioned at or as close to the point of entry of the crew entering the IDLH atmosphere as functionally possible.

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A minimum of one RIC member shall be dedicated to remain in constant radio, visual, voice or signal line communication with the entry crew without performing any other duties that will disrupt this responsibility and/or positioning.

Members of the RIC shall be permitted to perform other duties outside of the hazardous area, provided that the abandoning of these other duties does not jeopardize the safety of personnel on the incident and constant communication is maintained between the RIC members and members of the crew in the IDLH. At no time shall a member of RIC participate in firefighting activities unless it is necessitated by a rescue.

Once established, RIC shall be maintained, staffed and functional until disbanded by the Incident Commander.

The composition and structure of RIC shall be permitted to be flexible based on the type of incident and size and complexity of operations.

### **IRIC/RIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Even though some of the 800 Mhz radio zones label specific talk groups as RIC channels, IRIC and RIC communications should be treated as any other tactical, division or group assignment. During IRIC assignments, the IRIC shall remain on the initial assigned operation channel(s) with very few exceptions. As the incident progresses or grows, the Incident Commander may assign one unit as RIC or multiple units to a RIC group as discussed elsewhere in this policy.

The Incident Commander may assign a separate tactical channel to the RIC or RIC group supervisor for coordination of their resources. If this tactical channel is assigned, it should be assigned exclusively to the RIC or RIC group supervisor. When this happens, RIC shall continue to monitor the assigned channels where crews are working in an IDLH to maintain situational awareness at all times.

### **EXPANSION OF IRIC/RIC**

In some instances, such as crews entering a structure via multiple and/or remote entrance points, the placement of multiple RIC elements should be considered. When this occurs, the expansion of supervision through the assigning of a RIC Group Supervisor may be appropriate to supervise positioning, deployment, communications with IC, and the accountability of these RIC's.

Upon the expansion of the RIC responsibilities and the implementation of a RIC Group Supervisor (RIC GRP SUP), the RIC GRP SUP shall obtain a briefing

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from the IC, Operations, and/or Resource Unit on the status, communications plan, and location of all assigned companies prior assuming the supervisor's role.

### **NAMING OF MULTIPLE IRIC/RIC**

If more than one RIC is required to safely support operations, they will be named based upon geographical positioning. For example, in a large single-level warehouse incident where multiple RIC's may be required to effectively meet the intent of this policy, RIC's are to be assigned as RIC Alpha, RIC Bravo, RIC Charlie, or RIC Delta. In a high rise incident with multiple levels of operations, the naming of the multiple RIC's would be assigned by a numeric identifier to identify the floor they are responsible for. For example, RIC 1, RIC 2, RIC 3 or Division 1 RIC, Division 2 RIC, Division 3 RIC. In a highrise structure with multiple stairwells in use, it is conceivable to use both the numeric and alpha designators. With more than one RIC in place, the RIC on the third floor in the Bravo side stairwell would be known as RIC 3 Bravo or Division 3 RIC Bravo.

### **STAGING OF RIC**

RIC(s) shall be located at a safe position, outside the IDLH/hazard area and still be able to monitor conditions by visual observation, communicate with assigned personnel and monitor radio traffic or assignment of assigned personnel.

Considerations of a staging location(s) for IRIC/RIC shall include:

- Initial entry point(s) of interior crew(s)
- Secondary egress points
- Hazards
- Building construction
- Size and Layout of the building or Hazard area
- Number of personnel working in the hazard area(s)

The RIC needs for an incident must be reassessed with the incident progression. The number of entry crew(s), geographical size of area(s) and number of entry points must constantly be monitored to ensure sufficient personnel are readily available to assist Fire personnel working in the IDLH or hazard area.

RIC shall be staged at a position as close to the point(s) of entry of the crew(s) entering the IDLH atmosphere as functionally possible to ensure rapid deployment when needed.

In high-rise fire incidents, the RIC should typically be located one floor below the fire-floor or point of entry for crews working in the IDLH or hazard areas. Another

## **Rapid Intervention Crew Procedures**

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consideration for positioning RIC in a high-rise could be at Staging. Either of these locations would allow for RIC's to be deployed in a timely manner without staging the RIC in an IDLH environment.

Once a staging location for IRIC/RIC has been identified:

IC, Operations, and/or the RIC GRP SUP shall be notified of its location. Staging location(s) of IRIC/RIC shall be transmitted on the incident's common operating channel.

Air monitoring in the RIC Staging area shall be accomplished if crews are staged inside a building or in an area that has the potential of having an IDLH atmosphere.

Staging of RIC shall be accomplished with consideration of suppression personnel traffic.

RIC equipment cache shall be placed with consideration of suppression personnel traffic.

### **DEPLOYMENT OF IRIC/RIC**

In the event the IRIC/RIC is deployed for Firefighter rescue, they will continue to be called by their original incident assigned designator.

Upon receipt of a Firefighter in distress call or confirmed lack of accountability of personnel and once the IRIC/RIC is deployed, the IC will make a general announcement to incident personnel of an IRIC/RIC deployment. IC will announce "Emergency Traffic" and clear radio traffic on the channel designated for the rescue effort. In this announcement, the IC and the RIC GRP SUP (if established) will acknowledge the channel to communicate with the IRIC/RIC and where entry into the structure is made. IC/RIC GRP SUP will confirm communications with that RIC/IRIC and IC will notify Dispatch of the deployment.

Members working in the immediate area shall be notified by the Incident Commander or Operations to assist in the rescue effort if at all possible without jeopardizing incident stabilization efforts. Sufficient resources must remain focused on stabilization efforts of the incident and stay engaged in controlling or keeping at bay the spread of the fire and/or maintain hazard mitigation efforts.

In the event of a RIC activation or the assigning of multiple RIC's to an incident, it is highly recommended that if a RIC GRP SUP position is established, a Chief Officer be assigned to that position to directly oversee RIC operations. The RIC Group Supervisor will report directly to the IC or Operations Section Chief.

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Upon deployment of an IRIC/RIC, an additional priority for the IC will be to re-staff the depleted or deployed IRIC/RIC position(s). This re-staffed RIC will be known as "Back-Up RIC" including any geographic identifier assigned to the deployed IRIC/RIC (i.e. Back-Up RIC or Back-Up RIC Bravo etc.) This Back-up team shall be equipped and positioned to assist with Firefighter rescue/retrieval efforts as determined necessary by the Supervising entity. This Back-up team can be positioned to potentially augment the current Firefighter rescue effort if needed or stage for an additional deployment if necessary.

### **INCIDENT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The IC shall continually reevaluate the incident situation and risks associated to the operating crews to determine the effectiveness of tactics and that the safety of personnel is maintained throughout the entire incident..

The IC will ensure that the number of RIC's is commensurate with the complexity of the incident.

The IC shall advise dispatch of a RIC deployment and ensure that Dispatch responds an additional alarm to the incident if warranted.

When multiple RIC's are assigned to an incident, or upon an IRIC/RIC activation, span of control may dictate that a RIC Group Supervisor be established.

Once RIC is deployed for a firefighter rescue, a new Back-up RIC will be established to replace the deployed RIC as soon as practical. This Back-up RIC Crew can be readied to utilize and assist/augment the Firefighter rescue effort or be maintained in the stand-by capacity.

Because of the 2-In/2-Out IRIC/RIC Exception, if the need for civilian rescue surfaces after a crew has been tasked with IRIC/RIC responsibilities, the IC may choose to utilize the IRIC/RIC to perform a Rescue Group function to aid in victim rescue. If this option is enacted, the IC shall designate a new IRIC/RIC as soon as possible. For the sake of Firefighter safety, the rescue of civilians will not eliminate the responsibility for the IC to maintain immediate Firefighter rescue capabilities in the event of Firefighter distress. The IC shall order additional resources as needed to maintain or establish IRIC/RIC functions.

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### DISBANDING OF IRIC/RIC

The disbanding of an IRIC/RIC component is critical information to disseminate to all personnel remaining at scene. When considering the disbanding of the IRIC/RIC, the IC shall ensure the following points are considered:

IRIC/RIC shall not be disbanded until all hazards have been mitigated or all crews are no longer working in a hazardous environment.

Communicate the disbanding of the RIC/IRIC to all incident personnel on the common operating channel.

Completing a final PAR to account for all incident personnel prior to disbanding the IRIC/RIC..

Continually monitor the scene for a change of events or conditions that may necessitate the reassigning of an IRIC/RIC.

### MINIMUM RIC/IRIC EQUIPMENT CACHE

Upon staffing of the RIC/IRIC position, an equipment cache must be positioned and accessible in the event of a RIC/IRIC deployment. Though a minimum equipment cache is identified, additional equipment may be added to the cache as necessary to augment rescue capabilities.

The minimum RIC/IRIC equipment cache is identified as follows:

#### MINIMUM CACHE

Full PPE with SCBA  
Portable radios  
RIC bag with minimum 30 minute bottle  
Pressure regulator  
Universal Air Connection (UAC) hose  
Consider adding a SCBA mask and Mask Mounted Regulator  
Wire cutter  
Small forcible entry tool  
Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)  
Minimum 150' search/tag line  
Portable lighting  
Irons or forcible entry tools

### **References**

The goal of IRIC is to comply with Cal OSHA Title 8, sec.5144, NFPA 1500 and FIRESCOPE recommendations and guidelines. North, Central, East and Metro Zones Policies and Procedures were all referenced in the development of this document.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent and effective Fireground Accountability System for **all** fire agencies within San Diego County. With increased automatic aid and boundary drops throughout San Diego County it is critical that all fire agencies work toward consistent operations.

**Policy:**

All fire agencies within San Diego County shall adhere to this policy:

- **Section I – Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health Accountability**
- **Section II – Incident Resources & Personnel Management**
- **Section III – Equipment Requirements**
- **Section IV – Radio Alias Names (800 Mhz)**
- **Appendix #1 – Terms & Definitions**
- **Appendix #2 – Standard Tag Samples & Designators**

The focus and intent of this policy is to give on-scene fire companies and the Incident Commander (IC) a practical and effective tool to track the locations, activities and status of all incident resources and personnel. The over-riding goal of this policy is to help provide for well organized, timely and effective rescue operations of a downed firefighter(s).

In order to accomplish the above goal and meet federal laws, this policy encompasses two distinctly different but collaborative functional needs related to the tracking of resources and personnel at an incident. The first functional tracking need and highest priority is Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) Accountability. Incident Resource and Personnel Management is the other functional tracking need, but secondary in importance.

**Section I - IDLH ACCOUNTABILITY**

IDLH Accountability shall be the **highest priority** related to the tracking of resources and personnel due to its' direct impact on effective, timely and organized rescue operations of a downed firefighter(s). Implementation and management of IDLH Accountability is the overall responsibility of the IC. IDLH Accountability must be implemented at all incidents in which personnel are actively engaged in and/or operating within IDLH environments.

During the initial phases of a typical first alarm incident, the IC will be tasked with managing IDLH Accountability until delegated to other appropriate personnel. The early implementation of IDLH Accountability is critical to insuring that the IC and other incident personnel are able to quickly react and initiate rescue operations for a downed firefighter(s). On **all** greater alarm incidents, the IC will formally assign one or multiple AOs to manage IDLH Accountability.

## Fireground Accountability

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In the absence of a formal AO, the IC may task any of the following individuals for assistance with IDLH accountability. This assignment will be temporary in nature and based on their location, operational involvement and areas of incident responsibility.

- Company Officer(s)
- Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC) Leader(s)
- Division/Group Supervisor(s)
- Branch Director(s)
- Operations Section Chief (OPSC)

The management of IDLH Accountability must be handled at a location that is realistic and effective based on the dynamics of the occupancy, fire activity, health risks, number of entry points and operational activities of engaged personnel.

The individual(s) tasked with IDLH Accountability must be able to account for the following specific information for all companies assigned under their area of incident responsibility while operationally engaged in IDLH environments:

- **Resource Type**
- **Unit #**
- **# of Personnel**
- **Assignment and General Location**
  - Operational area, Group and/or Division
- **Activities**
- **Times**
- **Radio Assignment(s)**

One of the most important steps of the IDLH Accountability is to obtain the Accountability Tags from all personnel / companies entering an IDLH environment. The collection of tags should typically occur at the affected point of entry (POE) into the IDLH. All tags must be attached to the Accountability Clipboard with corresponding documentation on the Accountability Tracking Report (ATR). In the early stages of an incident and the absence of an AO, the affected Company Officer(s) must leave their grouping of tags on the landing of the given POE.

Upon entry of a team or entire company into an IDLH environment, a grouping of tags shall be attached to the Accountability Clipboard with corresponding documentation on the ATR. It is imperative that all personnel within a company, team and/or grouping of tags exit the IDLH environment together. Upon removal from the IDLH environment the tags must be returned to the exiting personnel / companies with corresponding documentation on the ATR. The only time that a single Accountability Tag should be attached to the Accountability Clipboard is for a Division/Group Supervisor or Safety Officer who may be located near the IDLH or POE.

**FIREGROUND ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKING REPORT**

ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER: \_\_\_\_\_  
ID NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION IDENTIFIER  
1 ← 4  
2 → 3

ID #	LOCATION	TIME IN
SND SMPLETY B	DIV 6	18:00

08/16/2011

**FIREGROUND ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKING REPORT**

ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMMAND NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION IDENTIFIER  
1 ← 4  
2 → 3

ID #	LOCATION	TIME IN
SND SMPLETY B	DIV 6	18:00
E-2	DIV 5	17:15

08/16/2011

The AO or other individual(s) tasked with IDLH Accountability should communicate proactively with the IRIC Leader, RIC Group Supervisor (RGS), IC and/or OPSC throughout the incident to provide updates on the status and well-being of companies. Frequent IDLH Accountability updates have a significant positive impact on the quick and effective implementation of rescue efforts for a downed firefighter(s).

Company Tags must be collected by Lobby Control at all high-rise incidents as an additional means of tracking companies and personnel within the structure itself. IDLH Accountability within a high rise incident must still occur at the given POE on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor or DIV 7 for example. Company Tags may also be used for other isolated incident types or scenarios at the discretion of the IC, OPSC or RESL.

## **Section II – INCIDENT RESOURCE & PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

Incident Resource & Personnel Management (IRPM) is secondary in importance to IDLH Accountability; however it must still be managed. Implementation of IRPM is the sole responsibility of the IC. The management of IRPM must be handled at or near the Incident Command Post (ICP) by any one of the following individuals:

- IC
- OPSC
- Planning Section Chief (PSC)
- RESL

IRPM must include a general accounting of the following information:

- Assigned resource types, unit #s and personnel names
- Assigned locations and operational activities
- Total # of incident personnel

The best and most effective tool to assist with the management of IRPM is a mobile data computer (MDC) at the ICP:

- **MDC**
  - MDC provides a detailed list of all units, unit types, unit #s and personnel names via “MDC User Request” and the “Incident Personnel” feature

This policy provides for some flexibility and several back-up options due to equipment and technology differences amongst fire agencies. As a result of these differences as well as intermittent technology / connectivity failures, the following back-up equipment options have been identified to assist with IRPM. These back-up equipment options should only be used as contingency tools at the ICP for IRPM when necessary:

- **Hard Copy(s) of Daily Staffing Rosters**
- **Passports w/ Name Tags**
  - Delivered to the ICP by companies and/or fire agencies that do not have the ability to transmit personnel information electronically via MDC
- **Company Tags**
  - Delivered to the ICP during MDC failures
- **White Boards**

### **Section III – EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

The policy provides for “mandatory” and “back-up” equipment in order to insure that the policy works for all agencies within San Diego County. The equipment listed as “**mandatory**” is required for all agencies based on resource types. The equipment listed as “back-up” is only required for some agencies and/or resource types based on agency differences and/or standard incident command responsibilities.

#### Mandatory equipment for every Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs)

- **One “Accountability Tag”**
  - Tag affixed to left front shoulder strap of SCBA
    - Must be readily detachable
    - Must accurately match the resource type (color coded), unit # and rank / position # of assigned personnel



### Mandatory equipment for all Fire Apparatus and Battalion / Duty Chief Vehicles

- *Includes engines, trucks, rescues, battalion / duty chief vehicles, specialty rigs, ambulances or other vehicles that may be used for fire ground operations and/or for initial incident command responsibilities*
- **One “Company Tag”**
  - Attached to the SCBA (left shoulder strap) of the company leader
- **One “Accountability Clipboard”** to include
  - Accountability Tracking Reports (ATR)
  - Writing instruments
  - Timer
- **“Passports” with “Name Tags”**
  - Only required as mandatory equipment for companies and/or agencies that do not have the ability to transmit personnel electronically due to technology or CAD system limitations

### Additional mandatory equipment for all Battalion / Duty Chief Vehicles

- *Includes all battalion / duty chief vehicles as well as fire apparatus that are typically used for long-term (2<sup>nd</sup> or greater alarm) incident command purposes*
- **MDC (with “Incident Personnel” functionality)**
  - Capable of being used for electronic IRPM functionality via the “Incident Personnel” feature
    - Minimum of one MDC, must be capable of being operated at the vehicle and remotely when taken over to a separate ICP
  - *It is understood that not all agencies will be able to comply with this equipment requirement*
- **Hard Copy(s) of Daily Staffing Rosters**
  - For respective battalion and/or agency
  - *To be used as a contingency tool at the ICP to assist with IRPM*
- **White Boards**
  - *To be used as a contingency tool at the ICP to assist with IRPM*

## **Section IV – RADIO ALIAS NAMES (800 Mhz)**

In order to effectively and safely manage a downed firefighter and/or emergency activation (EMER) situation thru accurate accountability, all fire agencies shall adjust their standard “radio alias” names to the following naming conventions:

### Mobile 800 Mhz Radios

- Agency designator followed by resource type, followed by unit # only
  - **“SND Engine 30”**
  - **“SMC Truck 1471”**
  - **“ESC Chief 1”**

### Portable 800 Mhz Radios

- Agency designator followed by resource type, followed by unit #, followed by rank / position #
  - **“SND Engine 30 – 1”**
    - Captain’s portable from engine 30
  - **“SMC Truck 1471 - 4”**
    - Second Firefighter’s portable from San Marcos Truck 1471
- For staff positions and/or BC rigs use agency designator followed by resource type, followed by unit #, followed by portable #
  - **“ESC Chief 1 – 2”**
    - Escondido Fire Chief’s second portable
- Any secondary or extra radios permanently assigned to a fire apparatus will be identified by resource type, unit # and the term spare
  - **“CHV Engine 51 – Spare”**

### Radio Cache and/or Reserve Apparatus Portable 800 MHz Radios

- All radio cache and/or reserve apparatus radios will have “radio alias” names that match the radio’s 6-digit radio identification number as permanently programmed into the radio by Motorola
  - **“759284”**
    - Radio cache portable for CHV
- Once assigned to a frontline apparatus, the radio’s “alias name” will be changed to a standard naming convention
  - **“CHV Battalion 51 – 3”**
    - Chula Vista Battalion 51’s third portable

### Out of Service Radios

- Any radio taken out of service for repairs, will temporarily assume the following “radio alias” name
  - **“Radio Shop”**

Accurate “radio alias” names must be maintained at all times by every fire agency and dispatch center within the County. This information must be shared amongst and readily available to all dispatch centers and fire agencies.

**Appendix #1**  
**(TERMS & DEFINITIONS)**

Abandon

- An immediate and rapid exit of all personnel from an IDLH environment, operations and/or structure as directed by an IC, Safety Officer or other Supervisor

Accountability Clipboard

- A clipboard and metal box designed to hold accountability tags and/or company tags in an orderly fashion.
  - Must include writing instruments and several copies of the standard ATR



Accountability Officer – (AO)

- The individual(s) formally assigned by an IC or OPSC to manage IDLH Accountability
  - Complex or large incidents with multiple points of entry (POEs) into the IDLH may require the use of multiple AOs
    - Multiple AOs will be designated by geographic location or ICS assignment
      - “Div Bravo – AO”
      - “Div 10 - AO”

# Fireground Accountability

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## Accountability Tracking Report - (ATR)

- A standard County-wide document used to track the resource types, unit #s, assigned locations, times and status of all companies engaged in IDLH environments

### **San Diego County Operational Area** **Fireground Accountability Tracking Report**

Point of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
IDLH Accountability: \_\_\_\_\_  
Division / Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Captain = #1  
Engineer = #2  
1st Firefighter = #3  
2nd Firefighter = #4

IC / OPSC: \_\_\_\_\_  
RESL: \_\_\_\_\_  
Radio Channels: \_\_\_\_\_

ID #	# of Pers.	Location	Times	ID #	# of Pers.	Location	Times

### Accountability Tag(s)

- A color coded metal tag including agency designator, resource type, unit number and seat / position number (See Appendix #2)
  - Color specific based on resource type
    - **Red** – Engines (Type I or III)
    - **Black** – Trucks
    - **Blue** – Ambulances
    - **Purple** – Chief Officers and Staff
    - **Green** - Specialty Apparatus & Resources
  - Agency Designator
  - Resource Type
    - Standard **E, BR, T, M, B** or other specialty
  - Unit # followed by seat / position #
  - Standard rank / position numbers #1 thru #4
    - **Captain's is #1**
    - **Engineer is #2**
    - **First Firefighter is #3**
      - Regardless of seat position or agency staffing levels
    - **Second Firefighter is #4**
      - Regardless of seat position or agency staffing levels



### Company

- A term used to define a group of individuals that make up the standard staffing pattern for an engine, truck, specialty rig or ambulance based on each agency's respective staffing pattern(s)

### Company Tag

- A color coded (diamond or hexagon shaped) metal tag used to identify an entire company by agency designator, resource type and unit number
  - To be used at Lobby Control during high rise fires
    - Can also be used as a contingency tool at the ICP for IRPM
  - Carried by the Company Officer and/or single resource personnel only



### Evacuate

- The orderly evacuation of civilians from a hazardous area or structure

### Emergency Abandonment Signal

- A standard audible notification (a series of three short blast of an air horn repeated several times) used to inform all incident personnel of an order to immediately stop all operations and exit the IDLH environment until further notice
  - Typically used in combination with verbal radio traffic

### Emergency Activation - (EMER)

- The action taken by a firefighter who has activated their radio's emergency (EMER) button

### Incident Commander – (IC)

- A position within the incident command system that is responsible for the overall management of an emergency incident or other event

### Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health - (IDLH)

- An environment and/or operations that are **Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health**

## Fireground Accountability

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### Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) Accountability

- The accountability of specific crews and personnel that are actively engaged in known IDLH environments and/or operations
  - IDLH Accountability is the highest functional need related to the tracking of resources and personnel at any incident in which crews are engaged in an IDLH environment

### Incident Resource & Personnel Management - (IRPM)

- The term used to describe the overall tracking of all resources and personnel assigned to an incident regardless of their operational involvement or status
  - IRPM is important, but secondary in importance to IDLH accountability
    - Typically handled by the IC, OPSC or RESL at the ICP

### Initial Rapid Intervention Crew - (IRIC)

- The first (initially) assigned team of at least two personnel that are not actively engaged in other fire ground operations that can serve to act as a Rapid Intervention Crew in the event of a downed firefighter(s)
  - Intended for initial stages of an incident only
  - Temporary in nature until replaced and/or augmented by a RIC team(s) and a RGS

### May Day

- A Firefighter's verbal communication (typically via radio) that they are in trouble and/or in need of rescue by other firefighters

### Name Tag

- *This is a back-up piece of equipment to be used in conjunction with a passport for IRPM when necessary*
- A Velcro backed plastic tag with a minimum of an individuals' last name
  - Name tags can be all white or color coded by rank

### Operations Section Chief - (OPSC)

- A position within the incident command system that is responsible for the overall operations at an emergency incident or other event

### Passport

- *This is a back-up piece of equipment to be used for IRPM when necessary*
  - A small plastic card or Velcro backing capable of holding the name tags of all company members
    - Top of passport must have agency designator, resource type and unit number

## Fireground Accountability

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### Point of Entry - (POE)

- The term used to describe single or multiple **Points Of Entry** or **Egress** into an IDLH environment and/or structure

### Radio Alias Name

- A pre-established, commonly known name that is attached to each 800 Mhz portable or mobile radio via a 6-digit radio identification number
  - Both the “radio alias” name and the “6-digit radio ID” number will appear on a dispatcher’s radio console at each agency’s home dispatch center when a radio transmits and/or is placed in EMER mode.

### 6- Digit Radio ID Number

- A specific 6-digit identification that is permanently assigned (by Motorola) to all 800 Mhz radios
  - The “6-digit radio ID” is the only designator that will appear on the dispatcher’s radio console if the radio transmitting an EMER is not operating within its’ home dispatch center.

### Rapid Intervention Crew - (RIC)

- A team of at least three or more personnel that are assigned RIC duties for the entire period of an incident while companies and/or personnel are engaged in IDLH environments
  - Typically assigned to replace and/or augment IRIC
  - Should get a RGS and other support assigned depending on size and complexity of incident and/or when actual RIC deployment occurs

### Resource Unit Leader – (RESL)

- A position within the incident command system that is responsible for the overall tracking and status of all resources and personnel assigned to an incident
  - Assigned by an IC to formally manage IRPM
    - Typically assigned during 2<sup>nd</sup> or greater alarm incidents with more resources, personnel and complexity
    - Co-located at the ICP
    - Responsible for IRPM as well as the coordination of IDLH Accountability as directed by the IC or OPSC

### RIC Group Supervisor - (RGS)

- The supervisor assigned to lead the pre-planning, RIC deployment operations and post deployment activities of a RIC team(s)
  - Reports to the OPSC or IC

### Team

- A group of two personnel working together

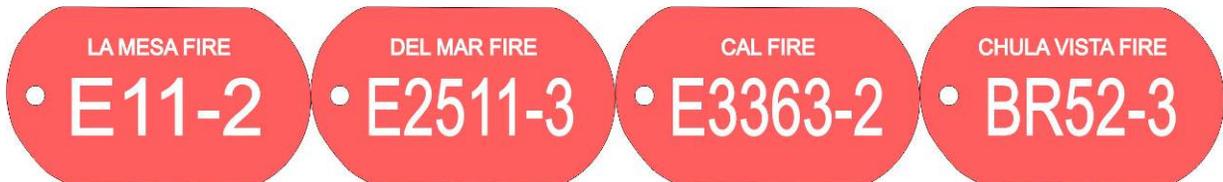
**Appendix #2**  
**(STANDARD TAG SAMPLES & UNIT DESIGNATORS)**

The following standard accountability tag and company tag samples shall be observed by all agencies. This requirement includes tag shape, size, color, font, layout and unit designators. All tags shall be engraved on both sides. Accountability tags must be 2" by 1 1/8" dog tag shape. Company tags must be 1 1/8" hexagon shaped or circular (until replaced by hexagon shape tags).

**ACCOUNTABILITY TAGS**

**Engines**

E -Type I BR- Type III



**Trucks**

T – Trucks



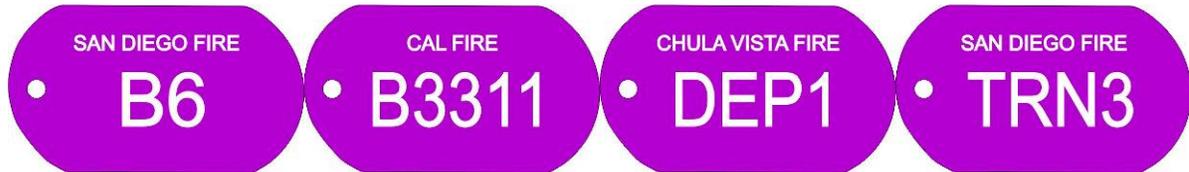
**Ambulances**

M - ALS BLS - BLS



**Chief Officers & Other Staff**

**FC** – Fire Chief      **AC** – Assistant Chief  
**DEP** – Deputy Chief      **DIV** – Division Chief      **B** – Battalion Chief  
**TRN** – Training Staff      **SFTY** – Safety Staff



**Specialty Apparatus & Resources**

**HM** – Haz Mat      **LA** – Light & Air      **R** – Rescues      **USAR** – USAR Rigs  
**CPTR** – Helicopters      **XR** – Bomb Units      **INV** – Investigators      **FPB** – Fire Prevention



**COMPANY TAGS**



**Purpose**

This guideline provides the San Diego County Operational Area procedures for fire personnel rehabilitation at the scene of a fire, other emergency operations, or training. It will ensure that personnel who might be suffering the effects of metabolic heat buildup, dehydration, physical exertion, exposure to toxins and/or extreme weather, receive evaluation and rehabilitation during strenuous activities. This guideline stresses the constant monitoring of physical and mental conditions of personnel during emergency operations and/or training.

**Policy**

It is the intent of the San Diego County Fire Chiefs that no firefighter will be permitted to continue emergency operations beyond safe levels of physical or mental endurance. The intent of this plan is to lessen the risk of injury that may result from extended field operations under adverse conditions.

**Procedure****Informal Rehabilitation:**

The Company Officer shall be responsible for the implementation of informal rehabilitation procedures (self-rehabilitation). This includes rehydration and monitoring for signs/symptoms of heat stress of their assigned personnel during the initial 30 minute SCBA bottle exchange or 20 minutes of strenuous work without an SCBA. These actions should be documented on an ICS-214 or in the department's RMS as appropriate. Should any members not appear fit, they should be referred to the formal rehabilitation area or medical personnel through the Incident Commander.

Wildfire incidents provide a major challenge in that personnel may be working extended work periods distant from any formal rehabilitation area. Company Officers must practice "self-preservation" techniques. This includes monitoring their own and their crew member's conditions, taking short breaks, and keeping hydrated. The excerpts listed under "Operational Approach" are borrowed from Cal Fire's Heat Injury Prevention Plan.

**Formal Rehabilitation:**

The Incident Commander shall be responsible for the implementation of formal personnel rehabilitation procedures. Rehabilitation shall commence when

## Rehabilitation

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fire/emergency operations and/or training pose a health and safety risk. Typical trigger points include: the use of two (2) 30 minute SCBA cylinders, the use of one (1) 45-60 minute SCBA cylinder, when chemical protective clothing is worn, or 40 minutes of strenuous work without an SCBA. Time frames may be adjusted, either up or down, depending upon work or environmental conditions.

### Operational Approach

#### Informal Rehabilitation:

**Rest Breaks:** During periods of intense work, frequent 10 to 30 minute rest breaks can significantly delay the onset of fatigue. During moderate but prolonged work, less frequent breaks of 10 minutes or more keep performance from declining. The number and length of breaks should increase after 8 hours, because fatigue builds continuously throughout a shift.

**Rest Breaks:** Employees shall be provided adequate rest during the course of work, preferably in shaded areas. During shifts when there is no burn injury risk, crews shall be encouraged to open or remove Nomex shirts and overpants, allowing ventilation and evaporation of perspiration to reduce body heat. Hoods shall be worn folded and draped back over the neck.

**Hydration:** Water replacement is essential during prolonged strenuous work in the heat. During such work, it is common to lose one to two quarts of sweat an hour. These fluids must be replaced. Drinking water before working, while working and during breaks is the best way to prevent dehydration and replenish fluids. Managers and supervisors shall be responsible for providing sufficient quantities of water prior to, during and after work in a heated environment. It is the employee's responsibility to remain hydrated. Beverages with caffeine should be avoided as these can exacerbate heat stress. It is important to note that the thirst mechanism is a delayed response. By the time the firefighter feels thirsty, they are dehydrated by approximately one liter (IAFC, 2009).

Salt tablets are not to be taken.

#### Formal Rehabilitation:

- The formal rehabilitation process shall include the following:
- Rest
- Hydration to replace lost body fluids.
- Cooling (Passive and/or active as necessary)

## Rehabilitation

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- Warming (Passive and/or active as necessary)
- Medical monitoring for signs/symptoms of stress and vitals.
- Emergency medical care
- Relief from climatic conditions (heat, cold, wind, rain)
- Calorie and electrolyte replacement for activities of 1 hour or more.
- Accountability
- Release

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

#### Incident Commander:

- Include need for rehabilitation in the initial incident evaluation.
- Establish rehabilitation to reduce adverse physical effects on firefighters while performing strenuous activities during emergency operations and/or training exercises.
- Designate and assign a supervisor to manage rehabilitation.
- Ensure sufficient resources are assigned to rehabilitation.
- Ensure EMS personnel are available for emergency medical care as required.
- Call for Incident Support Unit (ISU) for all second alarms as appropriate.
- Consider assigning an engine company in support of the ISU.

#### Rehabilitation Unit Leader:

Obtain a list of all companies at the scene and keep the Incident Commander apprised of the condition of emergency personnel. In a more complex incident, the Rehabilitation Unit Leader will report to the Medical Group Supervisor. All companies shall be processed through Rehabilitation before being released.

#### Select a location for rehabilitation which takes into consideration the following characteristics:

- Large enough to accommodate the number or personnel expected.
- Have an area for removal of personal protective clothing.
- Accessible for ambulance and EMS personnel.
- Removed from hazardous atmospheres including apparatus exhaust fumes, smoke, and other toxins.

## Rehabilitation

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- Provide shade in the heat and protection from inclement weather at other times.
- Have access to a water supply (bottled or other) to provide for hydration and active cooling.
- Be away from spectators and the media.
- Shall include a medical monitoring/treatment area.
- Ensure personnel in rehabilitation “dress down” by removing personal protective clothing to promote cooling.

### Provide the required resources for rehabilitation:

- Drinking Water for hydration
- Sports drinks and water for incidents more than one hour (Consider drinks with 4-7% carbohydrate solution).
- Active cooling when available.
- Medical monitoring equipment.
- Food when required (incidents longer than 3 hours) and a means to wash hands and face prior to eating.
- Blankets and warm dry clothing if required.
- Washroom facilities if required.
- Document members entering and leaving rehabilitation.
- Time personnel in rehabilitation to ensure that they receive 10 to 20 minutes of rest.
- Ensure personnel rehydrate themselves and are provided with a means to actively cool where required.
- Maintain accountability. Companies reporting to rehab must bring their passport boards with them.
- Request a paramedic field evaluation when it is determined that an individual’s vital signs are outside the specified guidelines. If deemed necessary, that person shall be transported to a hospital for further evaluation. No person can be released from rehab for duty if their vital signs fall outside the San Diego County established parameters without further medical evaluation.
- Shall maintain a personnel rehabilitation record for the incident.
- Upon termination of the Rehab assignment, submit the San Diego County Rehabilitation Record to the IC or their designee.

## Rehabilitation

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### EMS Personnel:

- Report to the Incident Commander or Rehab Unit Leader.
- Identify the EMS personnel requirements.
- Check initial vital signs 10 minutes after firefighters have entered Rehab, monitor for heat stress and signs of medical issues.
- If vital signs or assessment are abnormal, then firefighters will be detained for an additional 10 minutes and have treatment commenced if necessary. Also a paramedic field evaluation may be requested at this point.
- Document medical monitoring.
- Provide emergency medical care and transportation to medical facilities as required.
- Inform the Incident Commander or Rehab Unit Leader when personnel require transportation.
- Document emergency medical care provided.

### EMS personnel shall be alert to the following:

- Personnel complaining of chest pain, dizziness, shortness of breath, weakness, nausea, or headache.
- General complaints such as cramps, aches and pains.
- Symptoms of heat or cold related stress.
- Changes in gait, speech or behavior.
- Alertness and orientation to person, place and time.
- Vital signs considered abnormal as established by protocol.

Vital signs must be evaluated in context as there is no evidence or published study indicating when treatment is necessary or type or duration of rehabilitation needed. Vitals may help set parameters for further monitoring, treatment, transport, or release when considered with other factors. It should be anticipated that vitals will be high initially and recovery shall be monitored. If after 30 minutes the vital signs are above the limits, transport to the hospital may be initiated.

### **TEMPERATURE:**

Core body temperature provides the most accurate assessment of heat or cold exposure stress. Core temperature of 98.6 to 100.6 is considered normal. Core temp may continue to rise for 20 plus minutes of rehabilitation. Oral

thermometers are typically 1 degree lower and Tympanic thermometers are typically 2 degrees lower than core temperature.

### **BLOOD PRESSURE:**

Blood Pressure is one of the most frequently measured and least understood vital sign. It has significant potential for error, especially in the noisy and often tumultuous pre-hospital environment. Members of various ethnic and racial groups respond very differently to physiological stress and their B/P is also affected by a variety of stimuli both internal and external. For these reasons the San Diego County agencies chose not to measure blood pressure of members during rehab, but will continue to use as an assessment tool for any crew member that is symptomatic.

### **PULSE:**

Normal resting heart rate or pulse in an adult ranges from 60 to 100 beats per minute. With exertion, heart rates should increase and frequently exceed 100 per minute. It is extremely important to interpret heart rate in context of the individual. After resting for a period of time, heart rate should return to near normal resting rates. The most important aspect of heart rate assessment in rehab is recovery.

### **RESPIRATIONS:**

Normal adult respiratory rate ranges from 12 to 20 breaths per minute. Firefighters entering rehab will, in all likelihood, exhibit higher than normal respiratory rates as a normal response to stress and increased body temperature. Respiratory rates should fall within normal range before a firefighter is cleared to leave rehab.

### **CARBON MONOXIDE:**

- < 15 %: observe for any headache or shortness of breath.
- > 15%: Treat with high flow O<sub>2</sub> via non-rebreather Mask or CPAP (if available)
- > 20%: Commence CPAP treatment and transport.

\*\* IAFC states "any firefighter with a COHb level above 15% should be placed on high-flow oxygen and receive further evaluation".

## **Rehabilitation**

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### Company Officers:

- Responsible to assess their crew during the initial 30 minute air bottle exchange or 20 minutes of strenuous work.
- Be familiar with the signs and symptoms of heat stress and cold stress.
- Monitor their company members for signs of heat stress and cold stress.
- Notify the IC when stressed members require relief, rotation or reassignment according to conditions.
- Report immediately to rehabilitation when so directed.
- Provide access to rehab for company members as needed.
- Ensure that their company is properly checked in with the rehab unit leader and that the company remains intact.
- In the case of a wildland incident, document rehabilitation procedures on an ICS-214. In the case of a first alarm structure fire, document rehabilitation procedures in the department's RMS as appropriate.

### Crew Members:

- Be familiar with the signs and symptoms of heat stress and cold stress.
- Monitor their company members for signs and of heat stress and cold stress.
- Inform their company officers when members require rehabilitation and/or relief from assigned duties.
- Maintain unit integrity.

### References

This policy is based on NFPA 1584 (Standard on Rehabilitation of Members during Emergency Operations and Training Exercises, 2008 Edition and IAFC Rehabilitation and Medical Monitoring, A Guide for Best Practices, 2009). The standard mandates that all departments, regardless of geography or incident type, prepare a rehabilitation program that maximizes safety practices.