
Fire and Rescue Annex

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The duties of the Fire Districts have evolved to include much more than just putting out fires. Fire personnel are now responsible for such actions as fire suppression, rescue operations, first responder medical care, and hazardous materials response.

Since rescue may include evacuation, debris tunneling, shoring, and stabilization of structures, a variety of other workers such as police officers and engineers may be involved. Therefore, this annex describes the fire and rescue and functions, not just the tasks of the fire district personnel.

The Fire and Rescue Branch Director position is incorporated into the position of Fire and Rescue Coordinator for SVFR.

I. OBJECTIVES

- A. Extinguish and prevent fires.
- B. Protect the public from hazardous materials incidents.
- C. Rescue endangered, trapped, disabled, or isolated persons.
- D. Coordinate with other response functions and agencies regarding medical response, evacuation, public information, law enforcement, heavy rescue, and coroner.
- E. Alerting, and updating if changes occur, emergency response functions to potential dangers of fire, hazardous materials and radiological products during their operations.

II. PHASES OF THE EMERGENCY

A. Before

During this phase, prepare plans, procedures, and checklists that will guide fire and rescue resources in an

emergency. Plans and procedures should provide for coordination and communication with other agencies and individuals that normally operate independently.

Provide a system for monitoring, reporting, processing and analyzing hazardous materials (including radiological) data. Provide a system for gathering and communicating information that will aid hazardous materials response and recovery efforts.

Prepare and maintain resource and alert lists.

B. During the emergency

1. Warning phase

This phase could begin with a warning, such as the forecast of a flood, fire, winds or tsunami.

During the warning phase, assist law enforcement personnel with alerting, notification and evacuation operations, and help them, as needed, to control access for vacated or threatened areas. Prepare to conduct rescue operations in areas that may be affected.

2. Impact Phase

Extinguish fires, rescue people, contain or clean up hazardous materials, and help with traffic or access control operations.

As the emergency continues, provide fire support to shelters and help with detailed damage assessment activities. Make sure all searched areas have been definitely cleared and that all persons are safe and accounted for.

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Use the Fire and Rescue checklists as action guides.

C. After (Recovery)

Continue to provide essential fire and rescue services, and help with recovery operations.

When an area has been contaminated by a hazardous material, measure the degree of contamination and determine when (or if) the area will be safe to reoccupy. Work with Public Health as appropriate.

Later, when time allows, review your actions and update this Emergency Plan as needed.

III. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Fire District

The Fire Chief or designee will do:

1. Planning:

- a. Prepare a deployment plan for local resources.
- b. Identify hazards and plan mitigation measures.
- c. Maintain current alert lists with names, telephone numbers, addresses, etc.
- d. Maintain inventories of fire and rescue resources within the jurisdiction.
- e. Organize groups and teams of personnel, as appropriate, for response activities; develop procedures for using spontaneous volunteers.
- f. Coordinate response planning with emergency medical and

coroner response plans.

- g. Establish policies for recalling off-duty personnel.
- h. Establish pre-event agreements with non-public safety specialty rescue teams within the area.
- i. Maintain a cooperative understanding with the local law enforcement chief for obtaining rescue resources through the law enforcement/fire mutual aid system.

2. Training:

- a. Provide refresher training for district personnel.
- b. Training and use of non-public safety personnel for administrative staffing.(CERT)
- c. Help large private organizations to organize and train employee rescue teams and to develop building evacuation and search plans.
- d. Conduct inter-agency and interdisciplinary training exercises involving local mutual aid, volunteer, industrial, institutional and, if available, search teams.

3. Responding:

- a. Coordinate fire and rescue operations.
- b. Designate and operate staffing areas.
- c. Maintain communications with field commands, including any established Incident Command System organizations.

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- d. Evaluate status reports and determine priorities for fire and rescue response.
- e. Deploy available resources.
- f. Decide whether or not the district needs mutual aid and submit requests to the Operational Area Coordinator.
- g. Integrate mutual aid and non-fire service resources.
- h. Coordinate support for field and staging area operations.
- i. Schedule additional rescue forces to relieve initial crews after the first 24-hour period

B. When the City or District requests mutual aid, the Operational area Fire Coordinator mobilizes fire resources and then notifies the fire operations chief of the resources committed.

The Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator will do:

- 1. Planning:
 - a. Inventory rescue resources within the area including private sector resources.
 - b. Develop fire and rescue resource allocation criteria, with input from fire chiefs of affected areas.
 - c. Locate and list sites suitable for the Mutual Aid Mobilization Center, and developing and executing use of agreements if needed.
 - d. Plan support operations for the Mutual Aid Mobilization Center.

- 2. Response
 - a. Mobilize mutual aid resources within the area.
 - b. Staff the Fire and Rescue function at the Emergency Operations Center.
 - c. Activate the County fire and rescue mutual aid plan.

In hazardous materials incidents, the Fire Coordinator receives support from the Hazardous Materials Sections of the Office of Emergency Services and Environmental Health.

C. The Mutual Aid Region Fire and Rescue Coordinator will:

- 1. Develop region wide Fire and Rescue and Search and Rescue Mutual Aid Plans.
- 2. Develop a Staffing Plan for a Regional Multi-Agency Coordination Center.
- 3. Keep a regional inventory of public and private rescue resources.
- 4. Locate and list sites suitable for Mutual Aid Mobilization Center operations.
- 5. Organize and dispatch mutual aid resources.

D. State

- 1. State Office of Emergency Services

The State Office of Emergency Services coordinates state resources during an emergency. The State Fire and Rescue Coordinator is the Chief of the Fire and Rescue Division of the State Office of Emergency Services and

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is a staff member of the Director of the State Office of Emergency Services.

2. Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Helps with personnel and equipment, including conservation camp crews in fire suppression, rescue and cleanup, communications, radiological monitoring, and personnel care.

3. State Fire Marshal

Helps coordinate mutual aid fire and rescue operations.

F. Supporting Organizations

1. Associated General Contractors

Share private heavy rescue equipment, as outlined in "Plan Bulldozer".

2. Civil Air Patrol

Help with aerial searches.

3. Amateur (Ham) Radio Operators (ACS/RACES)

Provide backup communications.

4. Other fire districts and volunteer departments

Provide equipment and personnel for fire fighting.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Mutual Aid

Requests for resources during emergencies ascend as follows:

- City or unincorporated County area
- Operational Area
- Mutual Aid Region
- State

When requesting resources, include:

- Why the resources are needed.
- What number and type of resources needed.
- When needed.
- Where the resources are to be dispatched.
- Who the resources should report to and on which communications system.

Use established channels to get and coordinate mutual aid resources.

When a mutual aid resource is no longer needed, return it to the Operational Area or Regional Mobilization Center.

- B. Fire departments should ask law enforcement agencies to help them with rescues outside normal fire service light duty rescues.
- C. Fire and rescue personnel will help with evacuations and warnings as needed.
- D. Organize a fire watch for shelters. Conduct fire inspections and training at shelters as needed.
- E. Due to different radio frequencies, give incoming mutual aid forces portable radios that use local frequencies, if they don't already have local capability.

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- F. Honor mutual aid agreements whenever possible.
- G. The official responsible for search and rescue operations within each jurisdiction will determine the boundaries of each separate incident, i.e., building, complex, block, neighborhood, or community as a whole.
- H. Appoint liaison officers for each discipline supplying resources to a different discipline.
- I. Direct supervision of rescue team members will be the responsibility of the team leader designated by the providing organization. Coordination with coroner and emergency medical operations will be required at each level of operation, direction, and control.