

## INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

**TOPIC:** STRUCTURE FIRE INCIDENT

**PURPOSE:** To exercise the Strike Team concept in a Structure Fire Incident situation and to improve the multi-agency (fire agencies, SCEMS and 'County Ambulance') Mutual Aid effectiveness.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**  
Santa Clara County Local Fire Service and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan, Appendices 1, 11, 13 & 14

**TIME:** One hour

### **DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

- Personnel will describe the key components of the Santa Clara County Local Fire Service and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan (Basic Plan, Appendix 11).
- Personnel will identify the applicable communications channels for mutual aid response.
- Personnel will identify the tasks associated with geographic and functional assignments at a large-scale fire incident where a structure or structures are threatened by fire.
- Personnel will describe the use of T-cards and present correctly completed T-cards.
- Personnel will describe and discuss factors that affect personnel accountability on the fire ground and the adverse affects of freelancing.
- Personnel will describe the major functions of ICS and how they relate to the fire ground operations.
- Personnel will thoroughly understand all policies within Appendix 14.
- Personnel will thoroughly understand the role of the on-scene Safety Officer.
- Personnel will develop an awareness of the Overhead Support Team and the positions they may staff during an incident.
- Personnel will know the difference between Division vs. Group assignments.
- Conduct a portable and mobile radio communications exercise.

### **KEY COMPONENTS:**

- Establish common roles, terminology and communications.
- Assure that minimum ICS functions are carried out.
- Review common terminology: *"Mayday, Emergency Traffic, Firefighter Down, Firefighter Trapped and Firefighter Missing"* (FOG-chapter 21).
- Geographic designations of buildings (Side A, B, C & D) (refer to Appendix 11).
- Communications designations.
- Requesting resources within Santa Clara County, *INITIAL ATTACK, IMMEDIATE and PLANNED* need.
- Resource configuration in Santa Clara County - Strike Teams, Task Force, Single Resource.
- Resource staging
- Firefighter Life Hazard and Identification of Life Hazard Control Zones Policy.
- Rapid Intervention Crew Operations.
- Large Area Search.
- Medical Group vs. Medical Unit
- REHAB functions and organization
- Use of Ambulance Task Force 1
- Mutual Aid request procedures.

### **TACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS:**

#### 1. Review Appendix 1, Radio Communications Plan

*Question: Do the company officers understand what frequency restrictions are in effect during large multi agency incidents and the difference between travel, command & tactical frequencies?*

***Questions:***

*Are the company officers advised of the incident strategy (Operational Goals)?*

*Are the company officers advised of the incident objectives (Incident Action Plan)?*

*Are the company officers briefed on the available resources available to obtain the goal?*

*Are the company officers briefed on who they will be reporting to and communicating with (Chain-of-Command)?*

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Have the company officers been given a pre-incident briefing and assignment?
2. Travel channel (dispatch channel of incident owner or White 1).
3. Tactical channel (tactical channel of incident owner or primary channel of incident owner).
4. Air operations channel (primary channel of incident owner, or CALCORD channel).

### **ACCOUNTABILITY:**

1. T-cards from each engine company are given to the Strike Team Leader and they shall be checked for accuracy.

### **EQUIPMENT KNOWLEDGE AND READINESS:**

- All responding personnel have complete set of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and associated safety equipment
- Did all participants have the necessary equipment to safely respond to and operate at the incident? (turnouts in good repair, engine properly equipped with tools, equipment and hose, etc.)
- Knowledge of the Santa Clara County Mutual Aid Plan
- Did the company officers understand the basics of the Mutual Aid Plan and basic ICS plan and terminology (IC, Safety Officer, Operations Chief, Staging Area Manager, Logistics Chief, Rehab Unit, Planning Chief) and check-in locations?
- T-Card use
- Are the T-cards completed and correct? Is the information consistent with the information provided in the Santa Clara County Mutual Aid Plan? Do all vehicles have T-card holders on the inside Captains door area and being used to hold the completed T-cards?

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- Building Type & Construction
  - Have the company officers been briefed on the type of structure or structures and building construction type involved in the incident? An example would be if the construction is lightweight with truss roofs, mason, brick, 100% sprinkled, partial or not at all, surrounding exposures and types, etc.
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Are there hazardous materials involved in the incident or with in a close proximity and if so, what are the hazards?

**COMMENTS:**

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