

Purpose: The purpose of this S.O.P. is to outline the procedure to be used to provide a quick and safe emergency evacuation of emergency responders operating at emergency incidents.

Scope: This S.O.P. is intended to meet the NFPA Standards involving Risk Management.

The procedure is in conjunction with the Jefferson County Public Safety Telecommunications Fire Dispatch Standard Operating Procedures for "Emergency Alert Tone."

Definitions:

Emergency Alert Tone: A special tone Fire Dispatch broadcasts across radios when an evacuation at an emergency incident is ordered.

Emergency Evacuation Horn: A manual operated, hand held horn carried in all Cars and on designated apparatus.

Implementation:

When operating at emergency incidents, conditions may develop that would necessitate an immediate evacuation of the fire building and/or incident area. These rapidly developing conditions may pose an imminent threat to the safety of the personnel operating at the incident scene. When such is the case, and evacuation of the fire building or incident area is desired, the Incident Commander or the on-scene Safety Officer shall implement the following Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

The Incident Commander shall signal "Command to Radio," Fire Dispatch shall acknowledge with "Go Ahead Command." The Incident Commander shall then announce the emergency message. Upon receipt of the emergency message, Fire Dispatch shall then sound the EMERGENCY ALERT TONE on all operations channels regardless of what channel is being utilized at the incident. The tone shall also be sounded on all other frequencies (example EMS channel) as well as mutual aid frequencies if present at the incident. The EMERGENCY ALERT TONE shall consist of a warbling tone held for 15 to 20 seconds followed by a message. Fire Dispatch shall repeat the pulsating tone and message twice, for a total of two complete times on all operations channels.

Example:

Command: "XXXX Command to Radio, EMERGENCY MESSAGE"

Fire Dispatch: "Go Ahead XXXX Command"

Command: "Alert all companies on the incident at XXXX street to leave the building, due to the danger of collapse".

Fire Dispatch: EMERGENCY ALERT TONE. "Attention all personnel, XXXX command advises to evacuate the fire building immediately due to danger of collapse." (This process is repeated on all three operations channels).

Upon completion of the repeated announcement, the Incident Commander or Safety Officer shall see that the emergency evacuation horns are sounded. The horns shall be operated as close to the area to be evacuated as safely possible. The horns shall be sounded for a minimum of fifteen seconds for a total of two complete times. Apparatus Operators tending an apparatus shall also sound their apparatus air horn for a minimum of fifteen seconds for a total of two complete times.

Upon hearing the emergency evacuation message via the radio, or hearing the sequence of audible warning devices, all members within the fire building shall immediately exit the building by the shortest available route. All hose lines, tools and equipment that may slow the evacuation, are to be abandoned, unless they are needed to affect a safe escape.

After exiting the structure, Company Commanders shall report with their company members to their assigned Division, Group or Branch Leader for a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR). If Division, Group, or Branch Leaders have not been designated, the Company Commander shall report to the Incident Commander.

The ICS designated leaders; the Safety Officer and/or the Incident Commander shall cause *call for* a PAR of all personnel operating at the emergency scene.

The Emergency Evacuation Procedure shall be implemented only at times of imminent danger to operating personnel. This procedure should not be confused with the need to change tactical modes of operations, offensive to defensive.

This procedure may be modified by the Incident Commander and/or Safety Officer to satisfy the needs of a particular incident. For example, Haz-Mat Incidents may require evacuation from the Hot Zone to the Cold Zone. Evacuations at High-rise fire incidents may require evacuation from the fire floor and floors above to the resource or rehabilitation floor. Any specifics shall be added to the evacuation message.