


**SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES DATE APPROVED: APPROVED:	ARTICLE: II	SOP: 2118
	SECTION: Safety	
	SUBJECT: Hazard Marking	
	6/6/2008	
		

Purpose

To provide a process for notifying all personnel of an existing, suspected or potential life safety hazard (power-lines down, large holes, snags, ammunition, etc) on an incident.

Scope

This SOP shall apply to all Scotts Valley Fire District employees.

Definitions

Life Hazard: The existence of a process or condition that would likely cause serious injury or death to exposed persons.

Life Hazard Zones: A system of barriers surrounding designated areas at the incident scene that is intended to **STOP** fire personnel and other responders from entering a potentially Life Threatening, Hazardous Area.

Life Hazard Lookout: A qualified person in a location where they can safely observe a Life Hazard, monitor resources and personnel in the area, and communicate with resources keeping them a safe distance away. The lookout will also isolate and deny entry to any responders or resources until the life hazard is mitigated and the Incident Commander approves the release of the Life Hazard Zone.

Information and Guidelines

Whenever a life hazard is present, or an immediate threat to the health and safety of incident personnel is present at an incident, any person who recognized the potential life hazard shall immediately contact the Incident Commander using **EMERGENCY TRAFFIC** to advise of the situation. Included in the Emergency Traffic notification:

- Type/Nature of the hazardous condition (i.e., downed electrical wires, imminent building collapse, etc.)
- Specific location
- Resource needs
- Any Immediate exposure needs or issues

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Incident Commander shall request the appropriate resource or agency to respond to the incident to evaluate and mitigate the life hazard (i.e., Utility Company, Structural Engineer, etc.) and assign a lookout or Safety Officer until Life Hazard Zone(s) is established. The Incident Commander or Safety Officer shall assign a life hazard lookout (FF or Engineer) to prevent any incident personnel from entering the area until such time as the procedures below have been completed.

Identification of Life Hazard Zones

The Standard for identification of a **LIFE HAZARD ZONE**:

- Deploy barrier tape in the following manner to prevent entry and identify the hazard zone. The optimal tape would be red and white striped or chevron barrier tape that states “**Life Hazard – Do Not Enter,**” however, existing Fire or Police perimeter tape that includes the words “Do Not Enter” or “Do Not Cross” will meet this standard.
- The tape shall be configured in **three horizontal strands** approximately 18 to 24 inches apart and securely fixed to stationary supports to establish the LIFE HAZARD ZONE. The LIFE HAZARD ZONE barrier shall be of sufficient size to provide complete isolation, distance and protection from the hazard, and supports shall be capable of supporting the barrier tape throughout the incident.
- The use of illumination is recommended to enhance nighttime visibility to further identify the LIFE HAZARD ZONE. Examples include orange cones with flood lighting, or glow sticks securely attached to the barrier tape.

The Established Life Hazard Zone:

- **The three horizontal strand configuration of red and white striped or chevron barrier tape shall only be used for life hazard identification. When incident personnel see the three strand configuration or barrier tape, it shall be recognized at the standard for isolating a life hazard, and incident personnel shall not enter the life hazard zone.**
- Ensure the LIFE HAZARD ZONE measures provide visibility to approaching personnel to prevent entry into the area throughout the duration of the incident.
- Maintain the LIFE HAZARD ZONE for the duration of the incident or hazard. Approval from the IC is required prior to the removal of the Life Hazard Zone barriers.
- The LIFE HAZARD ZONE identification measures are intended to provide a visual cue to all incident personnel. Life Hazard Lookout(s) or Assistant Safety Officers shall be considered to ensure a physical barrier between personnel and the LIFE HAZARD ZONE through effective communications and notifications.

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- The Incident Commander shall be responsible for ensuring that all incident personnel are notified of the Life Hazard Zone. This may be accomplished through any approved method such as face-to-face, emergency traffic radio messages with acknowledgement or the Incident Action Plan.

Remote Locations: In cases where the extent of the hazard zone is so large that is not practical to completely isolate the area, such as on large incidents in remote locations, the following will be the minimum standard for these situations:

- The Incident Commander must approve the use of these minimum standards for each Life Hazard:
 - The Incident Commander shall assign a Safety Officer who assures a life hazard lookout is present at appropriate access points to prevent any incident personnel from entering the area until such time as the procedures below have been completed.
 - Three horizontal stripes of red and white Life Hazard tape or barrier tape (as described above) will be affixed to two vertical uprights at appropriate locations along the access route to the Life Hazard area. A description of the hazard, location of the hazard, and distance from the Life Hazard indicator tape to the hazard shall be attached at each location.
- All personnel working in the area or Division shall be notified of the Life Hazard immediately. Incident personnel may be notified through the routine briefings, emergency traffic radio messages, the Incident Action Plan, and the Incident Map.
- The location(s) of the Life Hazard(s) and Placard(s) shall be marked on the Incident Map using standardized symbols. The symbol to mark the Life Hazard Zone on the incident map is a red octagon (Stop Sign) with three white horizontal lines with a description of the hazard noted underneath.
 - Personnel shall not breach, alter, or remove any LIFE HAZARD ZONE identification measures until the hazard has been abated and approval granted by the Incident Commander.
 - All personnel have a personal responsibility to be aware of LIFE HAZARDS and make proper notifications when they are encountered at an incident.
 - Remember the slogan: **THREE STRIPES, YOU'RE OUT!**
- All SVFD fire personnel will carry 1 3/16" hazard flagging tape for the purpose of marking identified hazards.

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Safety Zones/Escape Routes

Safety Zones and Escape Routes shall be determined and communicated to all personnel assigned in the area. Safety Zones and Escape Routes are to be identified using pink ribbon tape that states **“ESCAPE ROUTE”**. All SVFD fire personnel will carry at least one full roll of pink ribbon tape for the purpose of marking Safety Zones and Escape Routes.

General Safety

1. DO NOT ENTER ANY AREA THAT HAS BEEN FLAGGED WITH HAZARD MARKING TAPE!
2. ASSUME ALL WIRES ARE ENERGIZED.
3. At the scene of fallen electrical lines, a danger zone shall be established and an adequate number of guard(s) posted to ensure safety of the public and firefighters.
4. In the event a power line drops onto a vehicle occupied by one or more persons, they should stay in the vehicle until the power company arrives and removes the source of danger. If the vehicle is on fire, or threatened by fire, the individuals should jump clear of the vehicle and power lines (in one leap with feet together).
5. Do not direct straight stream water into high-voltage power lines.
6. Be aware that smoke may become charged and conduct the electrical current to the ground.
7. Do not operate heavy equipment under power lines.
8. Do not drive with long antennas under power lines.
9. Do not stand near power lines during retardant or water drops.
10. Do not park under power lines during fire situations.
11. Phone and Cable TV lines may become energized if contact had been made with electrical wires.