

SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	ARTICLE: II	SOP: 2400
	SECTION: 2400	RESPONSE PROCEDURES
	SUBJECT: STRIKE TEAM RESPONSES	

Purpose: To provide a uniform Mutual Aid plan for the most effective mobilization and utilization of firefighting resources within and outside Santa Cruz County.

Scope: The use of Scotts Valley Fire Protection District (SVFPD) resources for mutual aid strike team activation will be governed as outlined in this document and follow those guidelines established in the *Santa Cruz County Fire Services Mutual Aid Plan*.

Procedure:

Fire agencies within Santa Cruz County will be subject to providing mutual aid in the form of strike teams in two formats:

1. Zone Based Strike Team
2. Exit Point Based Strike Team

Zone Based Strike Team

A strike team of this type is designed to pull resources from a certain geographic area. The zone based strike team is made up of one resource from each agency to reduce the impact to any one agency. This configuration is primarily used for Type I Engines since they are the most abundant engine type.

Zone Configurations

Santa Cruz County has been divided into two zones for purposes of mutual aid, the north zone and the south zone.

North Zone

Boulder Creek
Ben Lomond
Felton
Zayante
Scotts Valley

South Zone

Branciforte
Santa Cruz
Central
Aptos/LaSelva
Watsonville
Santa Cruz County Fire
UCSC FD

DATE:: 7/11/2006	APPROVED: 	PAGE 1 OF 5
----------------------------	--	--------------------

SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	ARTICLE: II	SOP: 2400
	SECTION: 2400	RESPONSE PROCEDURES
	SUBJECT: STRIKE TEAM RESPONSES	

Zone Based Strike Team Leader

The strike team leader for a zone strike team will be chosen by a rotational monthly schedule by department. Each agency will be scheduled to provide the strike team leader on a monthly basis. The duty chief of the day will automatically assume the role of strike team leader for in-county and adjoining county strike teams when Scotts Valley has the responsibility to provide the strike team leader. The duty chief must secure district coverage prior to responding to the assignment of strike team leader.

Chief Officers shall be designated as strike team leaders for out-of-county strike team assignments, such assignments shall be on an in-house rotation basis. All strike team leaders shall meet the California incident command certification system requirements.

Exit Point Based Strike Team

This type of configuration is the closest resources by "agency" that are available for initial attack and immediate need scenarios that are out of Net Com's initial dispatch area. Exit point refers to the area where a strike team will be leaving Santa Cruz County and entering into another county. Typically a strike team configuration will be chosen by selecting those agencies closest to the exit point. Long term assignments will continue to be rotated between the zone based strike teams.

Strike Team Conditions, Controls, and Activations

- Engines chosen by CAD for zone based strike teams will be sorted by Incident Command System (ICS) kind and type: Type I, Type II, Type III, Type IV and related availability.
- Scotts Valley will provide resources when available for Type I, Type II or Type III engine requests and other special mutual aid needs when applicable to available resources.
- A single resource and command officer may be committed to mutual aid. Any additional resource requests shall be authorized by the duty chief.
- The fire chief shall be notified of any out-of-county response or response of more than a single mutual aid resource.

DATE:: 7/11/2006	APPROVED: 	PAGE 2 OF 5
----------------------------	--	--------------------

SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	ARTICLE: II	SOP: 2400
	SECTION: 2400	RESPONSE PROCEDURES
	SUBJECT: STRIKE TEAM RESPONSES	

In-County *Zone Strike Team* - Designated Engine Response

- ⇒ Engine 2513 Type I: *North and East of Glenwood Fire Station*
- ⇒ Engine 2511 Type I: *South of Erba Fire Station, including SLV Area*
- ⇒ Engine 2530 Type II: *All County Response*
- ⇒ Engine 2530 Type III: *All County Response*

Out-of-County - *Exit Point Based & Zone Based Strike Teams* - (Initial attack, Immediate Need, Planned Need)

- ⇒ Engine 2513 Type I: *First Out* - North State
- ⇒ Engine 2511 Type I: *First out* - South State
- ⇒ Engine 2530 Type II: *First out* - State wide
- Type III: *First out* - State wide
- ⇒ Engine 2510 Type I: *Second out* - State wide

Water Tender Task Force

A Water Tender Task Force consists of:

- 1 Task force leader
- 3 Type 1 water tenders

Water tender task forces are configured by zone and are subject to in-county and out-of-county requests. Scotts Valley FPD is primarily a north zone resource and can serve as an alternate for south zone requests.

DATE:: 7/11/2006	APPROVED: 	PAGE 3 OF 5
----------------------------	--	--------------------

SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	ARTICLE: II	SOP: 2400
	SECTION: 2400	RESPONSE PROCEDURES
	SUBJECT: STRIKE TEAM RESPONSES	

Note: WT-2550 will take part in water tender task forces and structure protection task forces. WT-2550 will not normally respond out-of-county unless authorized by the duty chief.

Phantom Engine Identifiers

Phantom ID numbers are used for the identification and dispatch of engines for Type I, Type II, and Type III zone based strike teams. The dispatch of:

- **Engine 2519** will signify a Type I engine request.
- **Engine 2529** will signify a Type II engine request.
- **Engine 2539** will signify a Type III engine request.

These requests will be filled using the aforementioned matrix found in this document, based on availability.

Appropriate radio protocol to use when a phantom ID is used for dispatch purposes is for the responding unit to identify itself to NetCom using their normal identifier and state to NetCom that this unit is responding in place of the phantom number dispatched.

Example: "NetCom - Engine 2513 responding in place of Engine 2519."

Type I - Strike Team Activation

NetCom will page a 558 administrative station page and dispatch Engine 2519 for a Type I engine strike team. This will allow the department to use either 2511, 2513, or 2510 to fill the request, dependent on the aforementioned matrix and engine availability at time of dispatch.

Type II - Strike Team Activation

NetCom will page a 558 administrative station page and dispatch Engine 2529 for all Type II engine strike team requests. E2530 will respond to all Type II requests.

TYPE III - Strike Team Activation

DATE:: 7/11/2006	APPROVED: 	PAGE 4 OF 5
----------------------------	--	--------------------

SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	ARTICLE: II	SOP: 2400
	SECTION: 2400	RESPONSE PROCEDURES
	SUBJECT: STRIKE TEAM RESPONSES	

NetCom will page a 558 administrative station page and dispatch Engine 2530 or Engine 2539, depending on dispatch jurisdiction.

Initial Attack, Immediate and Planned Need Strike Team/Task Forces

Initial Attack Responses: In -county requests are normally of this type, but it is not uncommon for this response to be requested for adjacent operational areas. Travel is normally "Code 3" and resources must **respond immediately** or as quickly as possible. Strike team /task force rendezvous will normally happen only at the incident. A unit arriving at an incident prior to the arrival the STL/TFL may receive an assignment from the incident commander and should relay this information to the STL/TFL when possible. Under no circumstances, will more than one resource respond out of district without duty chief authorization.

Immediate Need Responses: Dispatch could be within the same operational area, adjacent operational area, or other operational areas. This type of request merits a response of the requested resource **within 30 minutes** from time of dispatch. Response mode may be "Code 2" or "3", dependent on direction from STL/TFL. The ST/TF may or may not rendezvous prior to departure. Under no circumstances, will more than one resource respond out of district without duty chief authorization.

Planned Need Responses: Normally requires travel time and the assignments are of an extended duration type of incident. The area fire coordinator has traditionally been able to give responding agencies some lead time to prepare for a pending planned need dispatch. Personnel and apparatus shall be ready to **respond within 1 hour** of notification of a planned need request. Response mode will normally "not be Code 3" and a rendezvous will usually occur prior to departure. Under no circumstances, will more than one resource respond out of district without duty chief authorization.

* Operational Area is synonymous with County.

DATE:: 7/11/2006	APPROVED: 	PAGE 5 OF 5
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