

## BULLETIN

NO.: 25-157  
DATE: September 15, 2025  
TO: All Personnel  
FROM: Ted Moran, Deputy Fire Chief, Logistics Division  
SUBJECT: Changes to Reserve Engine Deployment

To streamline efficiency and improve equipment accountability, Logistics has identified the need to change the way the reserve engine fleet is currently deployed.

The department currently operates a total of 32 reserve engines, categorized as follows:

- 5 Stripped Reserve Engines housed at the Training Facility (NTC) for academy use.
- 27 Ready Reserve Engines subdivided into:
  - 22 housed at Kearny Mesa Repair Facility (KMRF)
  - 5 housed at Logistics for surge/backfill readiness. (Surge engines)

Maintaining a sufficient number of available reserve engines has become increasingly difficult due to deferred maintenance and low staffing numbers at KMRF. This has led to frequent reliance on our surge engines to maintain emergency service levels, which can impact our ability to backfill stations if Type I strike teams are deployed. When the surge engines are utilized, they are often returned to KMRF requiring Logistics to track down equipment needed for replacement surge engines. Additionally, keeping surge engines road ready is challenging due to mechanical issues from prolonged inactivity.

Logistics has also noted a lack of equipment accountability on our current Ready Reserve Engines. Complaints have been received from crews about the lack of equipment on these apparatus when changing out. Maintaining the ready reserve engines at KMRF, limits oversight of the equipment, which could be reason for the depleted inventory in some cases.

Effective October 1, 2025, the following changes will be made to our reserve engine deployment.

## **1. Terminology**

- “Stripped Reserve Engine” will now be “Training Reserve Engine.”
- “Ready Reserve Engine” will now be “Reserve Engine.”
- The term “Surge Engine” will be discontinued.

## **2. Training Reserve Engines**

- Will remain at NTC with no change to their use or maintenance.
- Apparatus identifiers will remain numbered 801-805.
- May be utilized if all Reserve Engines are exhausted or during increased staffing events.

## **3. Reserve Engines**

- Will continue to be housed at KMRF.
- Apparatus identifiers will remain 901-927.
- All compartmentalized equipment will be removed (hose & ladders will remain on apparatus).
- Engine companies will be required to transfer all frontline equipment when changing out to a reserve engine.
  - This eliminates mixing frontline and reserve equipment, improving accountability.

## **4. Surge Engines**

- The current practice of maintaining 5 surge engines at Logistics will be discontinued.
- The engines will be relocated to KMRF and included for use in the daily reserve pool.
- Logistics will maintain 5 Ropak containers with a complement of engine company equipment sufficient for effective firefighting.
  - Ropaks will be numbered, inventoried, locked, and ready for deployment. The Ropaks are located in the southern bay of the main Logistics building.
  - EMS equipment will be stored at Logistics, including controlled medications in mounted electronic narcotic boxes.
  - Radios, cell phones, and iPads will continue to be issued by the ECDC Command Battalion Chief.

## **Backfill Deployment Procedures**

To place a Reserve Engine in service for surge/backfill needs, assigned personnel will work with Fleet Operations to identify an available Reserve Engine at KMRF. Personnel will then:

1. Conduct a pre-trip inspection.
2. Drive the engine to Logistics.
3. Outfit the apparatus with equipment from a Ropak designated by the Logistics BC or designee.
4. Stock with EMS gear and narcotics.
5. Retrieve radios, phones, and iPad from ECDC.

6. Once outfitted and sufficiently staffed, place the engine in service and proceed to the assigned district/station.

**After-Hours Backfill:**

- The on-duty Shift Commander will determine the need to backfill for after-hours strike team deployments.
- Logistics notification will be required. Logistics staff will determine the need for callback personnel to report into Logistics.
- Fleet Duty Mechanic notification will be required to assist with apparatus selection at KMRF.
- DMS notification will be required.

**Returning Reserve Engine following surge/backfill use:**

1. Drive the engine to Logistics.
2. If during business hours (0600–1600): Logistics staff will assist with inventory and return of equipment to Ropak.
  - If after hours: inventory, return, and lock equipment in its original container.
3. Return EMS equipment and controlled medications.
4. Return electronics (radios, phones, iPad) to ECDC.
5. Return engine to KMRF.
  - The apparatus can remain at Logistics if an afterhours or weekend return.
6. Submit a completed FDM-20 to Battalion 36 via email within 24 hours of return.

Please route questions through your chain of command to Battalion Chief Charpentier.