

TITLE OPERATIONS MANUAL	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 02		DEPARTMENT FIRE-RESCUE
SUBJECT INTERNATIONAL BORDER RESPONSE	SECTION 52	PAGE 1 of 2	EFFECTIVE DATE November 7, 2024

I. PURPOSE

To provide direction to San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) personnel on incidents at the United States/Mexico International Border.

II. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all sworn SDFD personnel.

III. AUTHORITY

The Fire Chief authorizes this policy.

IV. POLICY

Supervisors shall use discretion on any calls at the United States/Mexico International Border to ensure the safety of their personnel. If questions arise at scene, personnel shall immediately contact their respective Battalion Chief (BC), Marine Safety Lieutenant, or ambulance provider supervisor in their chain-of-command for direction.

When a call is generated at the United States/Mexico International Border at a location that is not a designated port of entry, the following should occur:

- A. Personnel should attempt to have face-to-face contact with a United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agent for a report on the conditions of the incident before moving from a designated staging area. This may not always be feasible for Lifeguard vessels.
 - i. Personnel should request details of the incident and the approximate distance that the patient is located from the staging location from CBP.
 - ii. Personnel should verify that a CBP agent has contacted their dispatch center to ensure that dispatch/monitoring has not detected any violence in the area.
 - iii. Personnel should verify with CBP that border gates will remain open when responding between the border fence line. If this cannot be accomplished, personnel shall verify that a CBP agent will be placed at the nearest border gate to ensure immediate egress.
 - iv. Personnel may request that the CBP notify their counterparts in Mexico of the emergency call and request police presence on the corresponding side of the border fence.
- B. After a report on conditions, personnel should request a CBP agent escort them to the victim. In the event of a water-related emergency, personnel should request that a CBP agent direct resources to the scene of the incident and remain in the immediate area if not already at scene.
- C. An additional CBP agent should be requested if an arriving unit is later than the previous unit's arrival to escort the unit to on-scene personnel.

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- i. If this is not an option, personnel may wait until all assigned units have been assembled.
- D. Personnel should request a CBP agent remain at scene with SDFD and ambulance provider personnel to provide for scene security at all times.
- E. CBP agents will have the ability to monitor VFire22(VHF) on all calls for direct contact with SDFD units responding to the call.
 - i. VFire22 will only be utilized to talk directly with CBP based on their line of site.
 - ii. Ambulance personnel cannot access VFire22 on their radios and should route any communications through SDFD personnel.
- F. Personnel will continue to run all calls on the designated command/tac channels.