

BULLETIN

NO.: 25-161

DATE: September 18, 2025

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Brent Brainard, Deputy Fire Chief, A Division Shift Commander
Robert Allen, Deputy Fire Chief, B Division Shift Commander
Brian Raines, Deputy Fire Chief, C Division Shift Commander

SUBJECT: Planned Need Strike Team Deployments – Best Practices

On previous planned need strike team deployments, it has been common for assigned units to remain in service overnight and then travel long distances the following morning with limited rest. While this practice ensured operational availability, it also introduced safety concerns given the extended hours and high demands of strike team assignments.

To better support the health and safety of SDFD personnel, the following recommendations will be followed whenever possible:

When a planned need order is received the day prior to deployment, considerations will be made to place the assigned unit(s) out of service at 2200 hours. This will allow crews to obtain adequate rest before mobilizing the next morning. This also aligns with the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, which advise against non-initial attack travel between 2200 and 0500 hours.

The on-duty Shift Commander will evaluate staffing adjustments, potential backfill, available beds, and the potential movement of assigned units to facilitate sleeping arrangements as necessary. The movement of personnel or apparatus may be necessary to maintain appropriate area coverage and ensure continuity of operations.

Time entered on OES reimbursement forms should reflect actual deployment time. Questions regarding time documentation should be directed to the assigned Strike Team Leader.

While this is not a formal policy change, it is a recommended best practice, and every effort should be made to allow adequate rest prior to deployment.