

### **Purpose**

To provide the background and introduce the Metro Zone strike team/task force request system.

### **Policy**

Staffing levels and availability of reserve apparatus may affect all Metro Zone agencies' ability to provide resources for deployments outside of the Metro Zone. Therefore, the Metro Zone coordinator, the on-duty deputy chief of operations, or assistant chief of emergency operations must authorize the dispatching of any immediate need or planned need strike teams outside of the Metro Zone. When necessary, the Metro Zone operations chiefs shall initiate a conference call including all zone agencies and the Metro Zone coordinator, to review zone capabilities and the use of additional resources. Each participating agency maintains the ability to revise their level of participation and resource selection based on operational needs at the time of request.

Requests for a strike team/task force shall include:

- Resource Type
- Location of Incident
- Reporting Time

### **Procedure**

#### **A. Calendar Requirements**

Daily, by 0800 hours, each agency within the Metro Zone will post their available resources to the San Diego Metro Zone website calendar at [sandiegometrozone.com](http://sandiegometrozone.com). The information posted will identify the available strike team engine(s) by type, available strike team leader (STEN)/task force leader (TFLD) and/or strike team leader-trainee (STEN-T). If an agency is unable to provide resources for assignments, this should be noted as well. Agencies who have not updated their resource availability by 0800 may not be assigned in the event of a deployment.

#### **B. Agency Resource Availability**

Chula Vista will commit two type 1 engines, if there are at least two ready reserve apparatus available, one type 1 Cal OES, and one type 3 engine for immediate need or planned need strike team assignments. The Chula Vista operations chief shall be notified to authorize additional resource requests for strike team or single unit assignments exceeding the above Chula Vista engine commitment for immediate and planned need use. The automatic draw down of the Chula Vista type 3 and Cal OES type 1 engine is not affected by the number of Chula Vista ready reserves.

Two Poway Fire apparatus (Cal OES or agency) can be automatically assigned to an immediate need or planned need strike team. The Poway Fire duty chief shall be notified prior to and must authorize the use of additional Poway resources being considered for strike team assignments.

Coronado, Imperial Beach and National City will commit one type 1 engine each for immediate need or planned need strike team assignments. The respective duty chief for Coronado and/or National City shall be notified and must authorize the use of additional resources being considered for strike team assignments.

Miramar Fire will commit one type 1 or one type 3 engine for an immediate need or planned need strike team and may commit a second engine (type 1 or type 3) for fires within the City of San Diego.

Federal Fire will commit two engines, either one type 1 and one type 3, or two type 3s for immediate need or planned need strike team assignments.

Miramar Fire and Federal Fire will consider committing a third engine for local responses.

The Metro Zone will maintain a list of resources to be considered for deployment when assembled into strike teams. Requests for task forces will be assembled based on the specific information received and approved by the Metro Zone coordinator.

The Metro Zone Strike Team Deployment Rotation Matrix has been developed by the Metro Zone operations chiefs and approved by the Metro Zone chiefs, to distribute response opportunities among agencies while ensuring a safe, expedient arrival at the incident of the requesting agency, and balance the response coverage of the Metro Zone until backfill and/or move-ups are accomplished.

As a “standing” action item, any strike team deployments will be reviewed during the monthly Metro Zone Operations Chiefs meeting. Areas of concentration include response, operational, personnel and equipment issues.

#### C. Resource Type

The Strike Team Deployment Rotation lists type 1 and type 3 apparatus resources. Requests for other resource types will be evaluated by the Metro Zone Coordinator.

#### D. Location of Incident

All requests for strike teams or task forces will be categorized based on the geographic location of the incident. They are:

- a. *In zone*: within the jurisdiction of a Metro Zone agency
- b. *In county or operational area*: out of the Metro Zone but in San Diego County
- c. *Out of county*: out of San Diego County but in the state

The Strike Team Deployment Rotation Matrix (located on the Metro Zone website) shall be used for all in county and out of county deployments. In zone deployments will be determined by CAD.

Deployment of all mutual aid resources, including strike teams/tasks forces shall be categorized based upon requested arrival time and work objective.

- a. Initial attack
- b. Immediate need
- c. Planned need

#### E. Initial Attack (Closest units)

Generally, responses within the Metro Zone to PROTECT LIFE OR PROPERTY imminently threatened by an event. The closest available resources should be selected and respond to the incident as quickly as possible. Personnel can expect to be assigned and begin tactical operations upon arrival at the incident. To meet the above objectives, incident command and tactical radio channels must be assigned to any

Metro Zone Strike Team/Task Force requested for initial attack responses.

F. Immediate Need (MZ Strike Team Deployment Matrix used)

Generally requested for responses within the Operational Area, and adjacent or other Operational Area. Resources should respond to the incident as quickly as possible and may or may not respond code 3. Metro Zone assigned resources will respond within five minutes of dispatch. Personnel can expect to be assigned and begin tactical operations upon arrival at the incident or within the current operational period. Incident command and tactical radio channels along with a travel channel, must be assigned to any Metro Zone strike team/task force. The need to form up all units at a rendezvous location is at the discretion of the Metro Zone coordinator and/or STEN/TFLD. Greater travel distances increase the need for forming up resources together for safe travel and response coordination. All out of county responses require resources to form up and respond together.

G. Planned Need (MZ Strike Team Deployment Matrix used)

Resources should form up at a rendezvous location and travel together to the incident reporting location by the requested time. Metro Zone has agreed that assigned resources will meet at the designated rendezvous location within 60 minutes of dispatch. Personnel can expect to be assigned to the incident and begin tactical operations at a future operational period than when the request was received.

The Metro Zone Strike Team Deployment Rotation Matrix shall be used for both immediate need and planned need responses.

For immediate need responses, SND will send their closest resources selected by CAD.

For planned need responses, the Metro Zone Emergency Command and Data Center (ECDC) will fill the strike team/task force by the agencies on the rotation based on the requested time and date of arrival on the incident.

The Mutual Aid Response Information Sheet <sup>3</sup> documents incident response information for resource deployments. It is a form used by the Metro Zone Emergency Command and Data Center (ECDC) to collect and communicate valuable information received from the requesting agency for the STEN/TFLD. Some of the information includes, but is not limited to:

- Strike team/task force number
- Request number
- Units within strike team/task force
- Strike team/task force leader and trainee
- Travel radio frequency
- Rendezvous location with map page
- Incident name and reporting location with map page
- Incident command and tactical radio frequencies

H. Driving Guidelines (Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations)

1. To manage fatigue, every effort should be made to avoid off unit (excluding initial attack response) mobilization and demobilization travel between 2200 hours and 0500 hours.
2. For additional information regarding driving guidelines see *Interagency*

*Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.*

I. Recommended Rendezvous Locations

The following locations are recommended as rendezvous sites for use by the Metro

Zone for its strike teams. Rendezvous locations for other strike teams, i.e., Cal OES, Op Area may be different.

- Teams responding north on Interstate 5: Border Check Point, Interstate 5
- Teams responding north on Interstate 15: Westfield North County Mall, 272 Westfield Way, TB 1150, B3
- Teams responding east on Interstate 8: Shopping lot parking at southwest Los Coches and Camino Canada, TB 1232, E7
- Teams responding east on State Route 94: Rancho San Diego Towne Center, 2892 Jamacha Rd, TB 1271, J6

Unless a rendezvous location has been identified in the order request, the STEN/TFLD shall work through ECDC to identify a suitable site. If an alternate site is selected, consideration shall be given to a location that 1) is easily accessible, 2) has adequate room for staging apparatus, and 3) will not impact business.

J. Recommended Travel Channels

- In county responses: 11A
  - o Units are reminded that while enroute to use only the travel channel and stay off the command and tactical channels
- Out of county responses: VHF CESRS

K. Crew Replacement Procedures

Crew swaps on mixed strike teams shall be coordinated through the Metro Zone. See Metro Zone Policy #10 Reimbursement for Personnel Rotation for procedures, including documentation to ensure reimbursement.

1. Crews are to be replaced with crews from the same agency.
2. STEN/TFLD are to be replaced by the agency on the rotation based on the requested time and date of arrival on the incident.

METRO ZONE STEN/TFLD ROTATION SCHEDULE

DAY	WEEKDAY	TYPE 1 AGENCY	TYPE 2 AGENCY
DAY 1	SUN/B1	SND	
DAY 2	MON/B2	CRD	MSM
DAY 3	TUES/B3	SND	
DAY 4	WED/B4	CHV	
DAY 5	THURS/B5	SND	
DAY 6	FRI/B6	MSM	
DAY 7	SAT/B7	SND	
DAY 8	SUN/B1	NAT	POW
DAY 9	MON/B2	SND	
DAY 10	TUE/B3	CHV	
DAY 11	WED/B4	SND	

DAY 12	THUR/B5	POW	
DAY 13	FRI/B6	SND	
DAY 14	SAT/B7	ROTATION*	CHV

\*ROTATION: CHV, CRD, MSM, NAT, POW

See Metro Zone Strike Team Task Force Leader and Trainee Policy for more detailed instructions on the rotation schedule.

L. Reimbursement – Mobilization and Demobilization

All metro zone agencies are responsible for their own food and fuel, to and from the incident.

From San Diego Operational Area Policies:

11A- Strike Team/Task Force Terminology and Operational Area Response

Agencies shall assume operational costs, including necessary motor fuels and lubricants used in its emergency apparatus while responding to and returning from the State of California or Federal Fire Agency Incidents. It shall be the responsibility of the responding jurisdiction to provide the necessary means of payment for such costs.

At no time will the agencies be eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses such as fuel, food and lodging while responding unless approved in writing at the incident. If in transit to or from an incident and the STEN/TFLD determines that the safety and welfare of the strike team members requires the strike team leader to secure lodging, a call will be made in advance to the 24-hour OES Warning Center for Cal OES approval (916-845-8911). If approval is not given, the cost of the lodging will be borne by each individual agency that has personnel assigned to the strike team.