

VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

POLICY NUMBER: 740

SPECIAL RESPONSE PROCEDURES

1.0 PURPOSE/REFERENCES:

To provide a uniform method of dispatching special responses for the fire department.

2.0 POLICY:

It shall be the policy of Valley Communications Center to adhere to the following guidelines when dispatching or requesting a special response.

3.0 PROCEDURE:

3.1 South Puget Sound Regional Hand Team:

The South Puget Sound Regional Hand Team is a wild land firefighting group organized to provide additional support to local jurisdictions in the form of technical advice, apparatus and staffing. The agency that participates in this team is King County Fire District 44.

3.1.1 The team may be requested by a Valley Com agency, an outside agency fire department requesting mutual aid, a state or federal governmental agency or from private contractors.

3.1.2 If the team is requested from a Valley Com agency, there is no need to create a separate CAD incident. If the team is requested from a fire department not dispatched by Valley Com, a CAD incident will be created using the typecode MUTUAL and the incident location shall be over-ridden using the agency code VF and dispatch group V9, the control group for District 44.

3.1.3 If the team is requested from a state or federal governmental agency such as Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), National Fire Service (NFS) or a private contractor, the fire dispatcher should contact District 44 Chief 93 (CH93) prior to dispatching. If CH93 is unavailable, contact CH92 or CH91.

3.1.4 Since some participants have voice pagers and some have alphanumeric

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paggers, both methods shall be used to alert the team.

3.1.4.1 The team shall be dispatched to the incident using unit “VFOP”. Additionally, the dispatcher will send a page to unit “VFOP” using the PG command. The message entered with the PG command shall be:

South Puget Regional Hand Team has been requested, respond on (response talkgroup).

3.1.5 The team members will assemble at their respective stations and a meeting point will be coordinated by the team leader or crew boss. The crew boss may provide an ETA to the dispatcher for relay to the requesting agency.

3.2 Zone 3 HazMat Team

A Zone 3 HazMat Team response will be initiated from the field once the commander of an incident determines upon arrival that a full-scale hazardous materials response is required. The Team may also be requested by other zones.

3.2.1 Once the field commander requests a Zone 3 HazMat Team the fire dispatcher will balance the incident to **HZLEAK**. CAD will recommend the appropriate units automatically. If CAD is down, refer to the Fire Info Book for specific units to dispatch.

3.2.2 The dispatcher will verbally dispatch the Zone 3 HazMat Team, followed by a page to the units dispatched stating that this is a Zone 3 HazMat Team request.

3.2.3 If a second alarm is requested, the dispatcher shall use the command to upgrade the incident, which will recommend the appropriate units. If CAD is down, refer to the Fire Info Book.

3.2.4 These are standard responses, however the commander may adjust or add to the response.

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3.2.5 When another Zone calls to request a Zone 3 HazMat Strike Team Response, the request will be processed as any other strike team request, including a Strike Team Leader. The unit type for the HazMat Leader is HL. Specific information is available in the Fire Info book along with other strike team information.

3.3 Zone 3 DECON Team

A Zone 3 DECON Team response will be initiated from the field once the commander of an incident determines that a full-scale hazardous materials response is not required but decontamination efforts are necessary. The Team may also be requested by other zones.

3.3.1. Once the field commander requests a Zone 3 DECON Team the fire dispatcher will add the unit Z3DCON to the incident.

3.3.2 The dispatcher will verbally dispatch the Zone 3 DECON Team, followed by a page to the unit (Z3DCON) dispatched stating that this is a Zone 3 DECON Team request.

3.3.3. These are standard responses, however the commander may adjust or add to the response.

3.3.4 When another Zone calls to request a Zone 3 DECON Strike Team Response, the request will be processed as any other strike team request. The Strike Team Leader will be identified by the team based on the individuals that respond. Specific information is available in the Fire Info book along with other strike team information.

3.4 Zone 3 Rescue Team

A Zone 3 Rescue Team response will be initiated from the field once the commander of an incident determines upon arrival that a rescue team response is required. The incident commander (IC) will specify which discipline is needed or give a brief description of the rescue situation (trench collapse; confined space; high/low angle rope; structural collapse; water).

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- 3.4.1** In this zone response concept, the dispatcher is not authorized to make the decision to upgrade, but shall continue with a standard response until advised by the IC. The IC must use the term “Zone 3 Rescue Team Response” to be clear that they are requesting the zone response and not just a rescue unit. When the team is requested by the IC, the fire dispatcher will balance the incident to **RESCUE**. CAD will recommend the appropriate units automatically. If CAD is down, refer to the Fire Info Book for specific units to dispatch.
- 3.4.2** The dispatcher must verbalize in the initial broadcast what type of rescue situation the IC described, such as trench collapse; confined space; high/low angle rope; structural collapse; or water.
- 3.4.3** The dispatcher must send a follow up page to unit Z3RESC indicating this is a Zone 3 Rescue Team Response, and identify the type of rescue.
- 3.4.4** The dispatcher will advise the IC of any information the responding unit provides (for example: R33 responding with two technicians). The dispatcher will also advise the IC if a unit airs they are unable to respond. This information is critical to the planning efforts taking place at the scene.
- 3.4.5** When the response is complete, all units shall be placed back in quarters in service to ensure they are available for the next zone response.