

San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: Emergency Evacuation

Policy No. 2000-09

Adopted 10/03/00

Revised xx/xx/xx

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish a standard procedure for the immediate and rapid evacuation of personnel from a building or other hazardous environment in the event of imminent danger.

Policy: It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that all fire companies involved in joint operations follow the procedures for emergency evacuation outlined in this policy.

Background: Fire ground conditions and other emergency situations can degenerate rapidly and present an imminent danger to our personnel. This procedure is established to give a common "all call" for retreat from a building or other hazardous environment in the event of such a life threatening condition.

Procedures:

Upon determining that an imminent hazard exists in a building or other operational environment, the Incident Commander, or a designated Safety Officer will institute an immediate recall of all personnel to a safe location outside and beyond any potential collapse zone. The evacuation will be done as follows:

1. Three blasts on an apparatus air horn will be sounded, followed by a pause, then three more short blasts, followed by a pause. This cycle will be repeated five times.
2. Simultaneously an emergency broadcast will go out on all working radio frequencies "Emergency Traffic. All personnel evacuate, evacuate, evacuate."
3. Personnel will report to their supervisor outside. All supervisors will report personnel status to the Incident Commander or Operations Section Chief (if assigned).
4. Air horn blasts and "Emergency Traffic" messages will be repeated as needed until all personnel are accounted for.