

San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: Hazard Flagging Tape & Notifications

Policy No. 2005-01

Adopted 08/08/05

Revised 09/27/06

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide a standard procedure for flagging, identification and notification of hazards at incident scenes in San Mateo County.

Policy: It shall be the policy of San Mateo County Fire Agencies to follow these guidelines for hazard flagging, identification and notification at incidents.

Background: Emergency incident sites contain numerous health and life hazards for citizens as well as for emergency responders. Use of hazard flagging at an incident protects citizens from harm as well as protecting emergency responders from hazardous conditions and life threatening situations.

The standard tape shall be 3" wide plastic tape. One inch tape may be used on Wildland incidents for marking hazards.

Notification to resources responding and or at scene of an incident will ensure that all personnel are aware of these hazards.

References: CDF Policy 4306.5, PROCEDURE NO. 002: Life/Safety Alert (8100), NWCG Fireline Handbook.

Procedure:

1. YELLOW FIRE LINE TAPE:

Yellow with black lettering: This tape is to be used to barricade areas around an incident to keep the public away from an incident, an incident command post, or a hazardous situation that is not life threatening. A hazard that may be life threatening to the public should be flagged with *fire line caution tape* and have an emergency responder from fire, law enforcement, or public works assigned to monitor the area and prevent people from entering. This tape is also used to secure the area between the Hot Zone and the Cold Zone at Haz Mat Responses.

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2. RED FIRE LINE / HAZ MAT TAPE:

Red with black lettering: This tape is to be used at incidents to secure areas and prevent emergency personnel from entering unless instructed to do so by the Incident Commander or his/her designee, i.e.: Operations Chief, RIC Supervisor, Haz Mat Team Leader, etc.

These areas will require the proper level of PPE (Level A, B, or C) which is being utilized at the incident. No one shall enter these areas without proper PPE, level to be determined by Incident Command. All crews entering these areas shall be accounted for through the Incident Command System.

3. LIFE HAZARD TAPE:

Yellow with black stripes, no lettering: This tape is to be used at incidents to identify areas and/or objects that are an immediate life threat or injury danger to emergency responders. Examples are electrical wires and hazards, potential collapse zones, structural hazards, or any identified hazard that has the potential to injure or kill an emergency worker or civilian operating at the scene.

Engines & trucks shall carry a minimum of two rolls of 1" hazard tape and one roll of the 3" tape. BC and other vehicles shall carry a minimum of two rolls of 1" tape.

4. **Under no circumstances will any fire personnel cross the line identified by the Life Hazard Tape.**

If the hazard is eliminated, such as PG&E securing an electrical hazard, then the Life Hazard Tape may be removed.

Any time the Life Hazard Tape is used it must be immediately reported to the Incident Commander and Incident Safety Officer who may then advise personnel operating at the incident, such as a radio announcement identifying the hazard and it's location on the incident ground.

Upon receiving this information, the Incident Command Team may determine that a safety officer should be assigned to the hazard or hazard areas to ensure all personnel are kept away from the hazard.

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All life hazards shall be flagged a minimum of 25' radius from the hazard.

LIFE HAZARD TAPE SHALL ONLY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE AND MAY NOT BE SUBSTITUTED BY ANY OTHER TAPE. THIS TAPE SHALL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

5. NOTIFICATION OF LIFE HAZARDS:

All resources assigned to an incident shall be notified of any life Hazard.

Any life safety hazard known to Public Safety Communications (PSC) prior to dispatch shall be included in the initial broadcast (dispatch) and all subsequent alarm level broadcasts. See 1998-02 for Dispatch Delivery.

The Dispatcher shall immediately inform the IC of any life safety hazard PSC becomes aware of after the initial dispatch.

It shall be the responsibility of the responding BC to gain the acknowledgment of all responding resources via a roll call. Responding resources will confirm on the tactical frequency that they copied the life hazard information provided upon dispatch. If on greater alarms, a resource doesn't acknowledge the hazard, the BC shall notify the IC so that they can gain acknowledgment prior to giving an assignment to that resource.

All resources shall acknowledge by re-stating the hazard.

e.g. *"Engine 34 copies, powerlines down"*

Once all resources have acknowledged the hazard, the BC shall advise PSC on the command frequency that all resources have acknowledged the hazard. The Dispatcher shall document the information provided by the BC in CAD.

If a hazard appears on the incident after the initial dispatch, the IC shall be responsible for advising and gaining acknowledgement of all resources assigned to the incident. The IC shall advise PSC of the hazard so that the hazard information will be included on subsequent broadcasts.