


Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Safety Operations		Code: S-VII-3
Overhead/Single Resource Safety		
Chpt: VII Wildland Fire Safety	Revised: 2/1/12	Pages: 4

I. PURPOSE

Following the tragic death of a city firefighter who was serving as a single resource at a wildland fire, the Santa Barbara City Fire Department wants to re-emphasize various safety related procedures that the department will follow.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. Annual wildland safety training, providing up to date information and reference materials, prior to wildland fire season.
- B. A pre-response check list to be used by overhead personnel, to better insure that every department member is in possession of all department issued safety equipment and is clear on their dispatch instructions, prior to leaving the city.
- C. Specific protocols to follow on arrival/checking-in at an incident outside the city. (See [E-IV-6](#) Overhead assignments)
- D. Require post-incident debriefing in a written narrative format from personnel returning from a wildland fire assignment and publish this debriefing document for review/training/critique purposes.
- E. Fireline EMT (FEMT)  See the Fire Service Field Operations Guide ICS 420-1 Chapter 8 pg. 8-5 through 8-9, Logistics, The ICS Position Description for the Fireline EMT (FEMT) (ICS 223-10). In addition to this the Santa Barbara City Fire Department has developed a position checklist for internal use. This checklist requires four training sections:
 1. Introduction to ICS (I-100).
 2. Firefighter I certification
 3. Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (S-190).
 4. Fireline EMT Course
- F. The checklist has two sections related to experience:
 1. Current certification as an Emergency Medical Technician
 2. Two years experience with SBFD.

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III. ANNUAL WILDLAND SAFETY TRAINING

- A. The annual pre-season wildland fire safety training will provide reminders of existing fire safety issues and update information with the most current safety trends from the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This class will emphasize SBFD policies that meet or exceed similar policies from neighboring agencies.
- B. This annual training will include, but not be limited to the following information:
- C. Introduction
 - 1. Discuss the upcoming fire season and fire projections offered by the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
 - 2. Discuss department policies and our adoption of national standards by *Firescope* and the *National Wildfire Coordinating Group* (NWCG).
 - 3. L.C.E.S. – “Lookouts”, “Communications”, “Escape Routes”, “Safety Zones”. (See [S-VII-2](#) Wildland fire safety, general)
 - 4. Review the ICS organization and the chain of command for all overhead positions.
 - 5. Describe position requirements, duties, and responsibilities.
 - 6. Describe a standard “Incident Action Plan” (IAP), which would include:
 - a) Communications Plan
 - b) Medical Plan (treatment, transportation – ground & air)
 - c) Medical treatment of inmates - permission
 - d) Incident organization
 - e) Map/s
 - f) Division Assignment List
 - g) Safety Message
- D. Position Description
 - 1. Describe the requirements listed in the position task book
 - 2. Documentation – OES Form #42, ICS Form #214, Unit Log

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E. Equipment

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
2. Personal Gear
3. Medical Equipment Inventory
4. Obtaining supplies on site

F. Heat Stress & Hydration

1. Heat stress and related disorders
2. Proper hydration (See [S-VII-2](#) Wildland fire safety, general)

IV. PHYSICAL FITNESS

- A. In an effort to better insure SBFDF personnel have met all of the internal requirements to serve as a Line EMT or other overhead position, the department has adopted the NWCG *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualifications System Guide* (PMS 310-1). One of the two qualifications criteria required by the NWCG is the employee's possession of a *red card* for their specific wildland assignment. *Red cards* have been discussed previously. The second NWCG criteria is intended to insure the employee is physically fit to meet the rigors of the wildland assignment.
- B. Serving in any operational line position can be physically arduous. In an effort to insure that SBFDF personnel can meet this physical challenge, they must pass the physical endurance standard as required by the *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualifications Systems Guide* (PMS 310-1) ([S-I-4](#) pack test). This endurance test requires personnel to walk a measured distance within specific time parameters, while carrying a weighted backpack. This nationally accepted physical standard must be met annually, before SBFDF personnel can be sent to wildland fire incidents to fill single resource / overhead positions.

V. PRE-RESPONSE CHECKLIST

- A. Having completed the SBFDF internal qualifications for single resources, including the Fireline EMT assignment, which are listed above, prior to leaving the city, the responding personnel and their supervisor shall review the pre-response checklist for personal protective equipment and personal items. (See [E-IV-6](#) Overhead assignments)
- B. Having completed the pre-response checklist, there are additional things the responding personnel should consider. These include:
 1. Has the responder eaten in the past 4 to 5 hours? If not, the responder/s should obtain something to eat enroute to the incident.

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2. Most department vehicles and apparatus are equipped with air conditioning.
 3. It would be a fair assumption that the wildfire work environment is going to be very warm. To help in the acclimation process, responder/s should consider not using the vehicle's air conditioning units.
 4. The department shall pre-approve the carrying of non-department issued packs or equipment while on the fire line.
- C. If the shift battalion chief has not met personally with the responding personnel prior to their departure, he shall make contact with them via radio or cell phone and confirm that they have reviewed the pre-response checklist and are in possession of all inventoried materials. If for some reason the responder/s do not have all of their required supplies, they will secure these missing items from the incident's supply officer prior to being sent out on line assignment.

VI. POST-INCIDENT DEBRIEFING

- A. Coming off the fireline, you should attempt to brief your replacement regarding the assignment's current status. You should also de-brief your supervisor, keeping that person informed of current situations on the line.
- B. It is a common belief that there is something new to learn from each firefighting assignment/experience. In support of this philosophy, personnel returning from out-of-town wildland fires, either as Fireline EMTs or other assignment, shall document their experiences. The department will take these written comments, duplicate them and distribute these after action critiques throughout the department to be used as training tools.