



COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS
FIRE SERVICE POLICY

Policy No. 5540.80 Date Issued: November 8, 1999
Section: Date Revised: May 13, 2019
Accreditation Standards:
SUBJECT: STRIKE TEAM/TASK FORCES – DISPATCH PROCEDURES
APPROVED: [Signature]
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1.0 Purpose

To outline the dispatch procedures of any Strike Team activation.

2.0 Procedure

All Strike Teams/Task Forces are created by the Area Fire Coordinator (CAL FIRE). They are responsible for assigning units to each strike team as outlined in Policy 5540 – Strike Team/Task Force. NetCom’s responsibility is to accurately broadcast the form and track the resources.

When dispatching a Strike team, units will be dispatched as requested by the Area Fire Coordinator (CAL FIRE) which may include pseudo units (ex. E3119, E2519). Dispatch of pseudo units will activate an all page for the agency who will then determine the actual engine from their agency that will respond. Once enroute, the unit will advise NetCom and the dispatcher shall perform a unit exchange on the CAD incident to show the accurate responding unit.

Standard Strike Team/Task Force Dispatch Format

1. Pre-Alert

All dispatches for Strike Teams/Task Forces will be announced with a pre-alert, as follows:

- a. Pre Alert Tone
b. “Attention all Santa Cruz County Fire Agencies, standby for activation of a (). Strike Team requested by (agency name).

2. Broadcast

The pre-alert will be followed by a dispatch, as follows:

- a. **Page all Strike Team responders in the order listed.**
- b. **“Battalion (ID), (Resource ID), (Resource ID), (Resource ID), (Resource ID), as part of Strike Team (ID number). (Initial attack, immediate or planned) need request for a/an (incident type). Strike Team is (reporting to/staging at) (location). Strike Team Leader is (agency/personnel ID). Contact is (IC ID). Tactical frequency is (channel ID).**

Example: Battalion 2403, Engine 2519, Engine 2319, Engine 2519, Engine 3119, Engine 2419 as part of Strike Team XCZ-2325Alpha. Initial attack need request Code 3 for a wildland fire. The Strike Team is to report to Graham Hill Road, Henry Cowell. The Strike Team Leader is Zayante. Contact is Graham IC. Command Frequency will be CALFIRE Local , Tactical Frequency will be White 2.

Inform the Strike Team/Task Force Leader of the Order and Request number and a summary of the resources committed to the Strike Team/Task Force after the leader has responded.

Strike Team/Task Force Leader assignments are designated by agency. The Santa Cruz County Fire Chief's Association provides the schedule for these assignments which are managed by the Area Fire Coordinator (CAL FIRE).

Dispatch Forms

The following forms are maintained at the fire dispatch positions to facilitate Strike Team/Task Force dispatching:

- Initial Attack/Immediate Need
- Planned Need
- Water Tender Task Force Dispatch Form

These forms are essential to the Strike Team dispatch process and shall be used on all activations. It is the responsibility of the Area Fire Coordinator (CAL FIRE) to complete the form and fax to NetCom for broadcast.