



COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS
FIRE SERVICE POLICY

Policy No. 5540 Date Issued: June 1, 1996
Section: 5500 - Mutual Aid Date Reviewed: May 13, 2019
Accreditation Standards: None
SUBJECT: STRIKE TEAMS/TASK FORCES
APPROVED: [Signature]
Chairperson, Fire Service Users Subcommittee
APPROVED: [Signature]
Dennis Kidd, General Manager

Fire resources can be ordered in prearranged groups of varying numbers, kinds and types. These are referred to as Strike Teams or Task Forces, depending upon their composition.

A Strike Team is defined as a predesignated combination (within span of control limits) of resources that are of the same ICS Type (i.e. Type I, II, III etc.) and Kind (i.e. Engine) with common communications. A Strike Team must have a Leader with separate transportation and communications with the resources assigned.

A Task Force is defined as any combination and number of single resources (within span of control limits) assembled for a particular tactical need.

Strike Team/Task Force Identification

Strike Teams and Task Forces are identified by specific identification (ID) numbers. The ID numbers are designated by the state Office of Emergency Services (OES). Santa Cruz County mixed agency Strike Teams and Task Forces are identified by numbers in the range of XCZ-2325 through XCZ-2349. The Area Fire Coordinator (CAL FIRE) will assign the appropriate ID number. These ID numbers are important not only for identifying these resources but are also needed for agencies to receive reimbursement.

Broadcast Procedure

Strike Team/Task Force resources will be dispatched as per Procedure 5540.80.

As dispatched units respond they will advise NetCom and then switch to the appropriate Command Net.

In the event that there are fewer units than dispatched responding, advise the Area Fire Coordinator (CAL FIRE) for alternate resources.

In the event that there are more than the dispatched units responding, advise the Strike Team or Task Force Leader. Cancel additional engines only at the Strike Team or Task Force Leader's request.

All requests for resources will be ordered by the IC through the dispatch center identified as the single ordering point, which may be NetCom. All requests shall go to the Area Fire Coordinator (CAL FIRE) to be processed in coordination with NetCom.

Strike Team and Task Force Leaders

The Area Fire Coordinator (CAL FIRE) will make Strike Team and Task Force Leader assignments.

When a Strike Team or Task Force is activated, the assigned Strike Team or Task Force Leader will identify him/herself when responding to the initial dispatch. The Leader will then assume the Strike Team (or Task Force) Leader role on the radio by utilizing the term "Strike Team (or Task Force) Leader (Strike Team identifier), responding".