

BULLETIN

NO.: 16-099
 DATE: May 16, 2016
 TO: All Personnel
 FROM: Colin Stowell, Assistant Fire Chief, Emergency Operations
 SUBJECT: Boundary Drop Responses – Important Information

On September 1, 2010, San Diego Fire-Rescue (SDFD) implemented CAD-to-CAD links with Heartland Communications, North County Dispatch JPA, and Monte Vista (CAL FIRE/MVU) communications centers. This significant operational change translated into what is now referred to as the “boundary drops”. The CAD-to-CAD link affects most San Diego County fire agencies where the closest available unit is sent to the reported emergency.

After more than five years and many “boundary drop” responses, numerous lessons have been learned and it is important that this information and the corresponding SDFD direction be shared with all personnel. The below table has been created to assist in the dissemination of this critical information and provide direction moving forward. As a reminder, the County Operations Policies can be found on the “M” (manuals) drive. The below information reflects some of the key county operations policies.

Item	Direction	Comments
<p>SDFD unit receives response outside of City of San Diego and is dispatched by a communications center other than ECDC (North Comm, Heartland and MVU)</p> <p>Announce “San Diego” along with their unit designation</p>	<p>It is critical that SDFD units verbally/voice all status changes as well as track MDC status; responding, at scene, available, etc.</p> <p>Example: “Heartland San Diego Engine 10 responding”.</p>	<p>This will help track resources when CAD-to-CAD data is inaccurate or unavailable.</p> <p>It is important to add “San Diego” to the unit as many agencies have the same unit number.</p>
<p>Outside agency company or chief officer arrives first at scene.</p>	<p>The first arriving company or chief officer shall assume the role and responsibilities of IC at any working emergency incident. That chief officer shall maintain IC until relieved by an officer from the agency having jurisdiction (AHJ).</p>	
<p>Outside agency chief officer arrives second in or later.</p>	<p>Report to the ICP in full PPE unless otherwise directed.</p>	

<p>Arrival of first AHJ chief officer.</p>	<p>The first arriving AHJ chief officer will assist the IC with any immediate operational or command tasks that need to be performed. When appropriate, incident command should formally be transferred to the AHJ chief officer after that chief officer has completed a thorough assessment of the scene and the command structure.</p>	<p>It is critical that an AHJ chief officer assumes (incident command) responsibility of the incident due to liability, resource, and supply ordering issues.</p>
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This direction will be incorporated into the operations manual. Questions regarding these lessons learned or direction should be routed through your chain of command.