

BULLETIN

NO.: 24-097
DATE: June 14, 2024
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Dan Eddy, Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Commander, A Division
Robert Allen, Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Commander, B Division
Brian Raines, Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Commander, C Division
SUBJECT: Fire Season Updates 2024

The information contained within this bulletin is provided as a reminder to all personnel that the 2024 fire season is nearly upon us. Several important updates are being shared with the intent of timely deployment, effective communications, and incident safety.

Strike Teams

The type 1 and type 3 strike team rotations can be located on the Outlook schedule “SDFD Strike Team Rotation.” Each unit on the rotation is assigned a two-week period as first up for deployment. It is imperative that all personnel assigned to these units are aware and prepared for deployment.

Example rotation calendar:

	1/01 to 01/14	01/15 to 01/28	01/29 to 02/11	02/12 to 02/25	02/26 to 03/11
TYPE 1	T-1 GRP 1: E6, E9, E23, E7, E51	T-1 GRP 2: E46, E27, E32 E17, E13, E36	T-1 GRP 3: E11, E8, E21 E16, E30	T-1 GRP 4: E28, E1, E31, E47, E22	T-1 GRP 5: E42, E39, E38 E20, E19, E50
	T-3 GRP 1: BR12, BR24, BR44, BR34, BR43	T-3 GRP 2: BR10, BR29, BR37, BR40, BR14, BR35	T-3 GRP 1: BR44, BR34, BR43, BR12, BR24	T-3 GRP 2: BR37, BR40, BR14, BR35, BR10, BR29	T-3 GRP 1: BR43, BR12, BR24, BR44, BR34

Personnel should be prepared for a 14-day deployment (not including travel). If unavailable for deployment, personnel shall notify their immediate supervisor and arrange to switch station assignments with another employee willing to assume deployment duties. The following process should be completed prior to 0900 hours, with the intent of timely deployments. Last minute personnel switches following strike team dispatch will not be permitted. It is not prudent to deploy on a strike team if you have a scheduled vacation, promotional exam, etc. Personnel replacement during a strike team deployment is a very complicated process and should not be requested unless absolutely unavoidable.

1. The respective battalion chief will be notified via the chain of command regarding the conflict. Notification should occur as soon as the conflict is identified. Notification prior to the work shift is helpful.
2. The employee will switch station assignments and strike team duty with an on-duty employee of equal rank.
3. The two employees will physically exchange/switch work assignment locations (fire stations) for the entire shift. This should be done by 0900 hours.

4. Personnel staffing strike team units (OES, SDFD type 1 and SDFD type 3) identified on the rotation shall complete the rosters located on the S-Drive at **S:\!!!!Strike Team Rosters** by 0900 hours.
5. Off-duty personnel will not be used to relieve employees being deployed on a strike team. Exchange of work assignments is allowed with on-duty personnel of equal rank and qualifications.
6. The supervising battalion chief shall ensure that all components of this process are followed and that staffing, strike team roster updates, and STEN notifications are completed.

Use of Command Channel

On all vegetation fires, divisions and groups should communicate with IC or Operations on the command frequency. This allows use of a repeated channel (CMD) when divisions may not have line-of-sight communications with IC or Operations. Tactical channels are for communication between divisions and assigned units.

Travel Channels

- 800 Mhz
 - In County responses: 12A TRVL
 - Statewide and outside of CA: 12C FIRE TRVL
- VHF
 - VHF CESRS D (Group 19)
 - CESRS is not authorized for use out of state.
- Other frequencies shall not be used for travel as they may interfere with other agencies and can result in fines.

Use of P-Cards

Following the distribution of procurement cards to all captains, it is no longer necessary to retrieve a cash bag from ECDC upon deployment. ECDC will no longer reserve cash for the purpose of strike teams. Deployed units should proceed directly to the incident or identified rendezvous location in a timely manner.

STEN Vehicles

Strike Team Leaders and trainees shall deploy in the front-line BC vehicle and retain the unit ID (B7, etc.). SND trainees deploying with another agency STEN are authorized to deploy in the front-line BC vehicle if a separate trainee vehicle is requested. Use of the front-line BC vehicle will reduce delays, ensure consistent unit numbering for backfill units, allow for backfill station alerting to be pre-determined, and allow utility apparatus to remain available in the City for emergency responses.

Unit/STEN Selection

If an engine or battalion chief is committed to an incident or otherwise delayed, the Command BC and/or Shift Commander may substitute an available unit to ensure timely deployment.

Aircraft Ordering

Aircraft should be ordered using the following packages:

“Standard Fixed Wing”

- 1 Air Attack
- 2 Air Tankers

“Standard Rotor Wing”

- 2 Copters

“CALFIRE Aircraft Response”

- 1 Air Attack
- 2 Air Tankers
- 2 Copters

Type and kind requests should only be used when the requested resource is one that is not part of a standard package, i.e. Helitanker, etc. Consultation with an aircraft already on scene is helpful for determining appropriate additional air resources.

OES Mutual Aid Reimbursement System (MARS)

Moving forward, submission of F-42 forms and other reimbursement related documents will be submitted using MARS. Battalion Chiefs Robles (A), Rodriguez (B), and Liversedge (C) will provide on duty MARS training for all BCs within the next month.

Seasonal Outlook

Up to date seasonal outlooks, significant fire potential outlooks, and other useful weather products can be located at the following site:

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictive/weather/index.htm>

Strike Team Etiquette

All PPE shall be brought on strike team deployments, regardless of type 1 or 3. When on rotation or during weather events, crews should carry strike team bags on the apparatus in anticipation of immediate deployment. All personnel shall bring proper uniforms including a Class B Uniform. All personnel shall adhere to the Metro Zone Strike Team Code of Conduct.

METRO ZONE STRIKE TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I will treat all firefighters, officers, and the public with respect.
2. I will at all times conduct myself in a professional manner.
3. I will maintain a state of readiness when assigned, available and unassigned.
4. I will keep my supervisor informed of any issues that may impact my operational readiness or my ability to perform duties as assigned.
5. I will carry out orders as directed.
6. I am empowered to halt any unsafe or hazardous acts in which the risks outweigh the benefits.

7. I will respect the property of the residents I am protecting.
8. I understand that my actions are a reflection of the Metro Zone and my organization.
9. I will know which agency I am working for or providing support to.
10. I will communicate concerns, operational or otherwise, through my chain of command.
11. I will not transport or consume alcohol or illegal drugs.
12. I will not enter any residence without the owner's permission except to search or defend the structure or seek refuge when necessary. Unit leaders will leave a note at the residence detailing their actions and communicate their unit's activity through their chain of command.
13. I will maintain and wear all safety clothing as appropriate.
14. I will wear clothing that reflects my agency or as determined by the incident.
15. I will use normal radio procedures and keep radio traffic to a minimum.
16. I will know and comply with proper procedures and policies when assigned to commercial lodging for off shift rest.
17. I will be prepared to function unsupported for at least 24 hours.
18. I will have full turnouts for structure fires.
19. I will have all required wildland personal protective equipment.
20. I will limit the procurement of equipment to what is needed.
21. I will return all equipment issued at the incident before I am demobilized.
22. Violation of these rules may be grounds for dismissal from the ST/TF assignment.