

BULLETIN

NO.: 21-191  
DATE: December 13, 2021  
TO: All Personnel  
FROM: Dan Eddy, Deputy Chief, Shift Commander A-Division  
Kelly Zombro, Deputy Chief, Shift Commander B-Division  
Dave Gerboth, Deputy Chief, Shift Commander C-Division  
SUBJECT: Changes To Dispatch Protocols For Beach Fires

In conjunction with San Diego Police, San Diego Fire-Rescue will be changing its policy for responding to illegal burns on the beach. These illegal burns typically involve many bystanders and are typically a law enforcement issue. Due to the potential for scene safety issues, the following procedure will be enacted by ECDC to ensure the most appropriate response is initiated:

1. San Diego Police Department (SDPD) will initiate new call screening protocols prior to transferring to ECDC. When SDPD transfers a call or requests our assistance for an Illegal Burn on the beach, Fire Dispatchers will attempt to keep the Police Dispatcher on the line.
2. Fire Dispatchers will ask the following:
  - a. What is on fire?
  - b. Is the fire in a designated fire pit?
  - c. Are people in the immediate area or around the fire?
  - d. Is there a group, party, or other gathering around the fire?
3. Fire Dispatchers will format a call using the nature/problem "Illegal Burn" if a fire is not in a designated fire pit on the beach or if there are any questions concerning the safety of the public, such as an out of control or unattended fire.
  - a. Whenever Fire units respond to an illegal burn, Fire Dispatchers will request SDPD also respond.
4. Any fires not meeting the criteria outlined above will be referred back to SDPD; no fire response will be initiated for incidents referred back to SDPD. If an reporting party insists a unit respond for a report, they will be referred back to SDPD.

If this criteria is met and a unit is dispatched the following items shall be considered when arriving on scene.

- PD will handle enforcement of fires burning in containers that DO NOT pose a hazard
- It is acceptable to report back to ECDC that the fire is not causing a hazard and PD will need to handle
  - Reporting back to ECDC "Metro this fire is contained, please advise PD to continue for (crowd, report, etc.)"
- Crews will need to engage if the fire poses a risk to nearby structures or property
- Crews shall refrain from engaging in fire extinguishment and wait for PD arrival if firefighter safety can not be maintained based on crowd conditions

All Personnel  
October 31, 2021  
Page 2

This change only applies to Illegal Burns on the beach. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your on duty Battalion Chief.