

# MUTUAL THREAT ZONE TRAINING



## LEADERS' INTENT

- Provide an aggressive, well coordinated attack to all vegetation fires occurring in the Mutual Threat Zone (MTZ)
- Ensure all participating agencies are working from the same communications plan per the SOP
- Ensure resource orders, evacuations, and FMAGs are placed per the SOP
- Ensure the unified command and unified resource ordering process is well understood and practiced

# OBJECTIVES

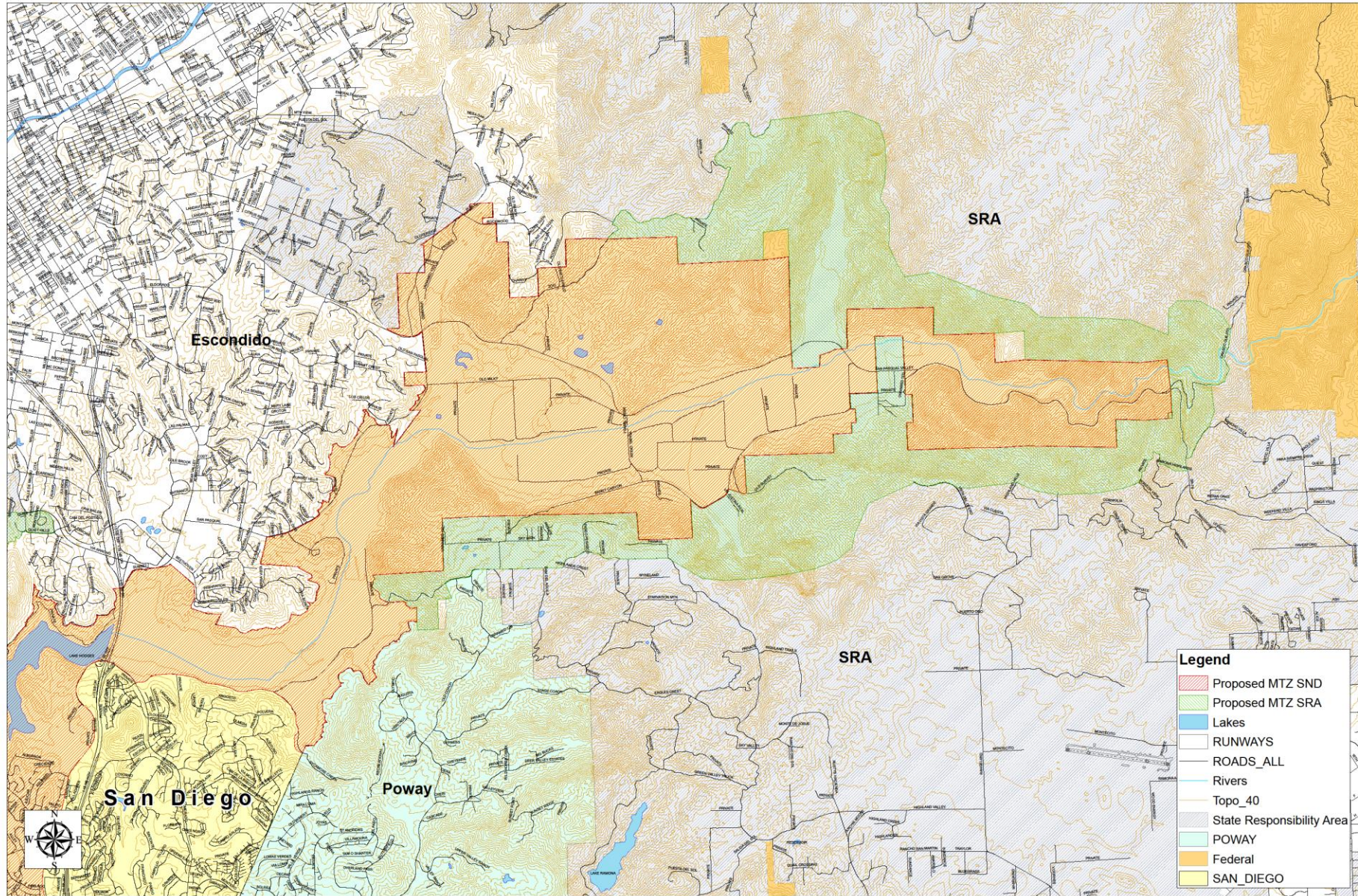
## REVIEW

- History of MTZ
- MTZ SOP
- MTZ Communications Plan



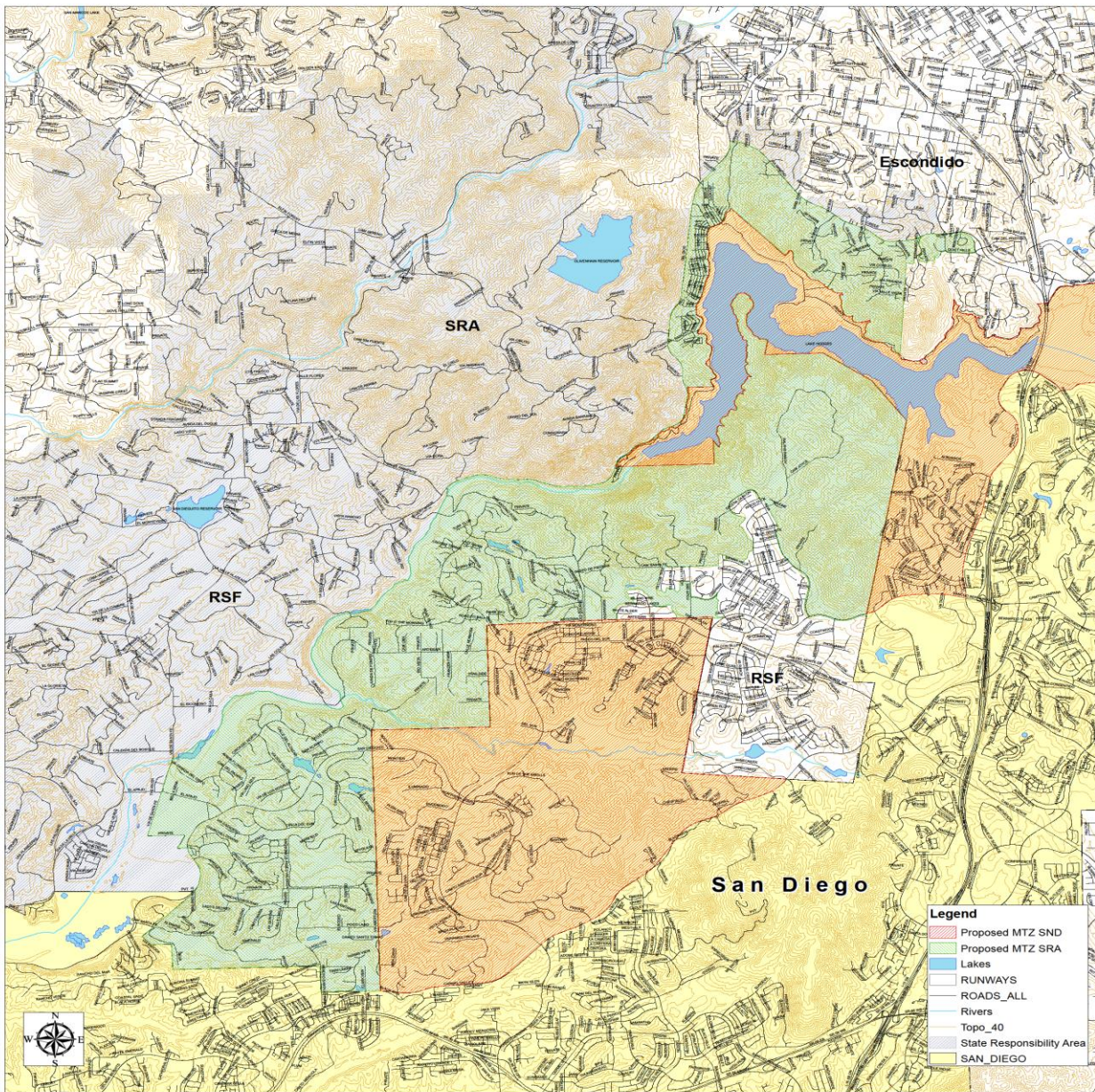


# Proposed Mutual Threat Zones North East October 9, 2018





# Proposed Mutual Threat Zones North West October 9, 2018



John Fisher  
San Diego Fire-Rescue



1:18,000

# MTZ STANDARD OPERATIONAL POLICY

A Mutual Threat Zone agreement has been established between San Diego Fire-Rescue and CAL FIRE.

CAL FIRE has identical agreements with Escondido, Rancho Santa Fe, and Poway.

The pre-designation of MTZ allows all agencies and their communications centers to operate from a Standard Operational Plan.

The MTZ agreement and process provides:

- Prompt notification of incidents that are within or are threat to any jurisdictional or functional responsibilities
- Strong coordination of initial response through preestablished communications procedures
- A unified command and unified resource ordering process

## MTZ STANDARD OPERATIONAL POLICY

MTZ agreement provides efficient and cohesive initial scene actions between all responders and communication centers.

- All resources responding to vegetation fires in the MTZ will respond on and utilize the assigned VHF radio frequency for the incident and will communicate with the CAL FIRE San Diego Unit's Emergency Command Center (ECC) "Monte Vista".
- Use of other unassigned frequencies is prohibited.
- Monte Vista ECC will serve as the unified ordering point (UOP) for resource orders, evacuation, and FMAG requests.

# MTZ INITIAL RESPONSES

## DISPATCH / INITIAL RESPONSE



Metro Zone ECDC will dispatch a San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and/or Metro Zone Agency First Alarm Vegetation.

Monte Vista will concurrently assign a “full” assignment (low, medium, or high).

All resources will be assigned to VHF frequencies.



# CAL FIRE VEGETATION RESPONSES

## “LOW” RESPONSE

5 ENGINES (any type)

1 FIRE CREW

1 DOZER

1 COPTER

1 BATTALION CHIEF



# CAL FIRE VEGETATION RESPONSES

## “MEDIUM” RESPONSE

**7 ENGINES (any type)**

**2 WATER TENDERS**

**2 FIRE CREWS**

**2 DOZERS**

**2 TYPE TWO HELICOPTERS**

**1 AIR ATTACK**

**2 HELITANKERS**

**2 BATTALION CHIEFS**



# CAL FIRE VEGETATION RESPONSES

## “HIGH” RESPONSE

**10 ENGINES (any type)**

**2 WATER TENDERS**

**4 FIRE CREWS**

**2 DOZERS**

**2 TYPE 2 HELICOPTERS**

**1 TYPE 1 HELICOPTER**

**1 AIR ATTACK**

**2 HELITANKERS**

**2 BATTALION CHIEFS**

**1 DIVISION CHIEF**



# SAN DIEGO VEGETATION RESPONSE

## FIRST ALARM

4 TYPE 1 ENGINES

2 TYPE 3 ENGINES

4 BATTALION CHIEFS

2 TYPE 2 HELICOPTERS

HELITANKER 729

SHIFT COMMANDER 1

WATER TENDER NOTIFICATION



# MTZ DISPATCH PROCEDURE

## DISPATCH PROCEDURE

1. CAD mapping is used to determine if incident in MTZ
2. Upon confirmation of MTZ vegetation fire:
  - Announce to Monte Vista the incident location
    - Request VHF command, tac, and air/ground frequencies
  - Dispatch the incident with VHF channels provided by Monte Vista
  - Announce incident on Fire CC (radio talk-group monitored by all communication centers) for Op Area situational awareness

Announcement example:

“Monte Vista, Metro Fire, this is a notification of a reported vegetation fire in the Mutual Threat Zone. We are responding to a vegetation fire at XXX San Pasqual Rd. We are requesting a command frequency, tactical frequency and air/ground frequency”

# MTZ OPERATIONAL RESPONSES

## FIELD UNIT PROCEDURE

### 1. Incident dispatched

Command, tactical, air-ground VHF channels

Utilize 10-K if unable to access command frequency

### 2. Ensure unit status shows as *“Responding”* on MDC

### 3. Verbally announce *“Responding”* with Monte Vista on the assigned command channel (or on 10-K if necessary)

### 4. All VHF voice communications will be directed to Monte Vista or the first arrived incident commander

# MTZ OPERATIONAL RESPONSES

## INCIDENT NAME ASSIGNMENT

Monte Vista ECC may assign an incident name prior to the arrival of the first in unit.

Incident name should be one word that describes the incident location (street name or geographic location).

# MTZ COMMUNICATIONS

## INCIDENT RADIO CHANNELS

### **MVU 1**

- Primary dispatch and operations frequency for the San Diego Unit.
- Initial attack dispatching is done on this channel.
- May serve as an initial command channel if command frequencies are not available.

### **MVU 2**

- Secondary dispatch and operations frequency for the San Diego Unit.
- Initial command channel if command frequencies are not available, or if tone on command channel is not reachable.

### **10 Kilo**

- Assigned as supplemental frequency in support of VHF frequency assignment.
- Used if resources cannot reach the assigned VHF.
- Functions as a default frequency if units cannot reach the assigned VHF Repeater.
- Units are to monitor and switch to the correct VHF channel when “in the area.”



# MTZ COMMUNICATIONS

## INCIDENT RADIO CHANNELS

### Command Frequencies

MVU2, XSD CMD1, CDF CMD1, CDF CMD2, CDF CMD3, etc.

Command frequencies are used for communications between ECCs, incident commanders, command staff, and responding aircraft.

Initial communications with air attack will be on the command frequency so all responding can hear the incident size up, priorities, etc.



# MTZ COMMUNICATIONS

## INCIDENT RADIO CHANNELS

### Tactical Frequencies

VFIRE22, VFIRE23, XSD TAC 5, XSD TAC 8, etc.

Tactical frequencies are assigned to specific units for incident on-scene radio communications.

Tactical frequencies are used for at-scene communications between the assigned resources and their supervisor.

These are direct frequencies, no repeaters.



# MTZ AIR TO GROUND COMMUNICATIONS

## AIR-GROUND FREQUENCIES

### **CDF AIR-GROUND 2 / XSD AIR-GROUND (A/G)**

- VHF Air-to-Ground (A/G) required for use with aerial firefighting resources
- If A/G communications not established, air resources will disengage
- IC/Operations and Helitack crews communicate on A/G
- Tactical resources needing air support should coordinate requests through the division supervisor on ground tactical frequency
- Exception: Emergencies or urgent situations
- XSD A/G is the designated local government A/G
  - Other VHF tactical may be assigned as A/G if XSD A/G is already busy
- Air Guard
  - Reserved for emergencies involving aircraft or initial contact (only if unable to reach on A/G)
  - Not to be used for report on conditions, tactical info, ordering, or routine use

# COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE AVAILABILITY WORKSHEET

Frequency Band

VHF

Description

MTZ Metro (North) Zone

Channel Configuration	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talkgroup	Eligible Users	RX Freq NorW	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq NorW	Tx Tone/NAC	Mode A, D or M	Remarks
COMMAND	MVU 2		151.3325	131.8	159.2775	OST	A	TONE 9, 3, 4
COMMAND	XSD CMD 1		154.1750	103.5	158.8650	103.5	A	Only top of San Pasqual and Sycamore
COMMAND	10K							Temp. until VHF is identified only
TACTICAL	VFIRE 22		154.2650	156.7	154.2650	156.7	A	
TACTICAL	VFIRE 23		154.2590	156.7	154.2590	156.7	A	
TACTICAL	XSD A/G		156.1650	107.2	156.1650	107.2	A	
COMMAND	CDF CMD 1		151.3550	103.5	159.3000	OST	A	Tone 13 or 11
COMMAND	CDF CMD 2		151.2650	103.5	159.3300	OST	A	Sycamore Canyon only T-13/14
COMMAND	CDF CMD3		151.3400	103.5	159.3450	OST	A	Sycamore Canyon only T-13/14
TACTICAL	CDF TAC 5		151.2500	192.8	151.2500	192.8	A	
TACTICAL	CDF TAC 8		151.3700	192.8	151.3700	192.8	A	
TACTICAL	CDF A/G 2		159.2625	192.8	159.2625	192.8	A	
								(ATTACHMENT B)
								9/21/18 ALB

The convention calls for frequency lists to show four digits after the decimal place, followed by either an “N” or a “W”, depending on whether the frequency is narrow or wide band. Mode refers to either “A” or “D” indicating analog or digital (e.g. Project 25) or “M” indicating mixed mode. All channels are shown as if programmed in a control station, mobile or portable radio. Repeater and base stations must be programmed with the Rx and Tx reversed.

## MTZ ARRIVAL AT SCENE

1. Ensure “On Scene” on MDC or voice “*At Scene*” with ECDC
2. First arriving unit:
  - Verbally announce “*At Scene*” with Monte Vista on the assigned command channel
  - Provide an initial report on conditions to Monte Vista ECC and establish IC
3. Use agency identifier during radio communications.
3. Notify all assigned resources when Operations is established



# MTZ REPORT ON CONDITIONS



- Current estimated fire size
- Rate of spread
  - Slow (very little spread)
  - Moderate (less than 1 MPH)
  - Dangerous (1-3 MPH)
  - Critical (over 3 MPH)
- Incident Potential
- Exposures and/or Structure Threat
- Life Hazards
- Fuel Type
- Location
- Resource situation

# MTZ ARRIVAL AT SCENE

## SUBSEQUENT ARRIVING RESOURCES

1. Verbally announce “*At Scene*” with Monte Vista on command channel
2. Contact IC or Ops for assignment
3. Switch to assigned tac channel after receiving assignment



## MTZ INCIDENT COMMAND

The first arriving SDFD or CAL FIRE company officer or chief officer will assume command.

Unified command will be established at MTZ fires.

Ensure Monte Vista is informed of IC's agency identity and each time IC status changes (single or unified).

When it is clear that the incident resides in one jurisdiction and is no longer a threat to the other, the agency having jurisdiction may assume IC, the other unified IC may move to the role of agency representative.





# MTZ INCIDENT COMMAND



## INCIDENT COMMANDER'S PROCESS

- Conduct assessment and develop incident objectives
- Identify strategies and establish priorities
- Develop tactics
- Assign resources
- Evaluate outcomes
- Document resource orders on ICS 201 or 214

# MTZ RESOURCE ORDERING

## DETERMINING AND ORDERING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Closest available resources are used for reinforcement of initial attack resources when the need is immediate and/or critical.
- CAL FIRE does not order resources by “Alarm Levels”, they order by resource kind, type, and number needed.
- Order strike teams instead of single resources to maintain span of control.
- Resource ordering examples:
  - “Request two type 3 engine strike teams and one type 1 engine strike team, initial attack”
  - “Request three type 3 engines, two type 1 engines, and one type 2 water tender”
- Establish a Staging Area Manager (STAM) as necessary.
  - IC is the STAM until it is delegated

Photo by Jeff Hall/Cal Fire



## MTZ INCIDENT STATUS

- Update Monte Vista ECC with fire's size, potential, and any issues, once every hour or when significant changes occur.
- Advise when forward rate of spread of the fire has stopped, when the fire is contained, when the fire is controlled, and with the estimated acreage involved.

# FORWARD RATE OF SPREAD CONTAINED CONTROLLED

FORWARD RATE OF SPREAD: When fire is no longer growing or consuming new fuel.

CONTAINED: A control line has been completed around the fire and any spot fires which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread.

CONTROLLED: The completed control line will hold under foreseeable conditions. The fire is out and will no longer be staffed.

## RELEASE FROM MTZ INCIDENT



### PROCEDURE

- Verbally announce “*Available*” with Monte Vista ECC on the assigned command channel
- Status “Available” on MDC
- Verbally announce “*Available Returning*” to ECDC
- Return to home station

QUESTIONS?

