



KING COUNTY FIRE MODEL PROCEDURE

Section 13 – Strike Team / Task Force

Adopted - 5/19/10

Revised – 2/22/16

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This model procedure is endorsed by the King County Fire Chiefs Association as a template for planning and training for all departments within King County.
- 1.2 The primary purpose of a Strike Team/Task Force is to provide additional pre-planned fire resources, special operations personnel, EMS personnel, and equipment to the scene of major emergencies such as, but not limited to a major fire, mass casualty incident, or structural collapse where local resources and automatic aid have been exhausted.
- 1.3 This model procedure is for “King County Only” and may or may not be similar or consistent with the “South Puget Sound Fire Defense Plan” and the “State wide Mobilization Plan”. These plans can be found on line for department reference and members should be versed in their operation and understanding. The Strike Team (ST) or Task Force (TF) deployments are normally not to exceed a 12 hour deployment or operational period. This would be evaluated on a case by case basis determined by any additional incidents in King County and Zone staffing levels.
- 1.4 Resources are deployed by forming a Strike Team (like resources) or a Task Force (dis-similar combination of units). Inherent in Strike Team (ST) and Task Force (TF) is the ability to communicate effectively amongst the resources assigned to the TF or ST, and the Task Force Leader (TFL) or Strike Team Leader (STL), and this person must be a regular battalion chief or higher ranking officer.
- 1.5 Nothing in this procedure precludes a department from requesting specialized equipment for an incident from a specific department. There are resources that are insufficient to assemble into a task force and are generally a single resource. This includes but is not limited to water rescue capable resources (boats), foam trucks, or a mobile ventilation unit.

2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1 South Puget Sound Fire Defense Plan – 2013
- 2.2 Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan – 2015

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **Hazardous Material Team:** Team capable of Level A entry; minimum six (6) technicians.
- 3.2 **MCI Vehicle:** Unit stocked and capable of treating at least 50 patients.
- 3.3 **Task Force Leader (TFL) / Strike Team Leader (STL):** A chief officer (battalion chief or higher) who is the leader of a Strike Team or Task Force and is responsible for the safety and welfare of assigned units and personnel.
- 3.4 **Deputy Task Force / Strike Team Leader:** An optional second Chief Officer (hard bar/permanent assignment) assigned to the ST or TF as a Deputy to assist the STL/TFL or split resources as needed.
- 3.5 **Task Force Leader / Strike Team Leader in Training:** An optional position that may be filled by an Acting Battalion Chief based on a department's or Zone's discretion. This individual could be the second (or 3rd if a Deputy is assigned) Strike Team / Task Force Leader also known as "**Team-Leader in Training**".
- 3.6 **Immediate Need Response:** A Strike Team or Task Force that does not assemble but responds directly to a staging or base area at the incident scene. ALS Strike Team responses will normally follow this model. Other Strike Team / Task Force responses may be dispatched as an immediate need based on the incident as determined by the IC.
- 3.7 ***Structural Firefighting:***
- 3.7.1 **Engine Strike Team:** Five (5) Engines, a Medic Unit, a STL, and may include a Deputy STL.
- 3.7.2 **Ladder Strike Team:** Three (3) Ladder trucks, a Medic Unit, a STL, and may include a Deputy STL.
- 3.7.3 **Ladder Task Force:** Three (3) Ladder trucks, Three (3) Engines, a Medic Unit, a TFL and may include a Deputy TFL.
- 3.7.4 **Tender Strike Team:** Three (3) Tenders, and a STL; may include a Deputy STL.
- 3.7.5 **Structure Task Force:** Four (4) Engines, one (1) Ladder company , one (1) Aid Unit, a Medic Unit, a TFL, and may include a Deputy TFL.
- 3.7.6 **Rural Task Force:** Four (4) Structure Engines, Two (2) Tenders, One (1) Medic unit (ALS), one (1) TFL and may include a Deputy TFL.
- 3.7.7 **Interface Task Force:** Two (2) Structure Engines, Two (2) Wildland Engines, One (1) Tender, One (1) ALS, one TFL & may include a Deputy TFL.

- 3.8 **EMS:**
- 3.8.1 **BLS Strike Team:** Five (5) BLS transport units, a STL and may include a Deputy STL.
- 3.8.2 **ALS Strike Team:** Two (2) ALS units, one (1) STL and one (1) MSO.
- 3.8.3 **EMS Task Force:** Two (2) ALS units, three (3) BLS transport units, one (1) TFL, one (1) MSO, one (1) MCI vehicle, and may include a Deputy.
- 3.9 **Specialized:**
- 3.9.1 **Decontamination Task Force:** One Decon Trailer with Two (2) TVI decontamination shelters, one (1) Engine, one (1) Aid Unit, and one TFL and may include a Deputy TFL. The Deputy TFL may also be a hazardous materials technician.
- 3.10 **Hazardous Materials Task Force:** Is defined within each Zone, but is comprised of one or two hazardous materials units with sufficient Technicians (Min-6), Overhead support & Equipment for a “stand alone” Level A entry, with one TFL and may include a Medic unit, Air/Rehab support and a Deputy TFL.
- 3.11 **Technical Rescue Task Force:** Comprised of resources pre-determined by each of the Zones capable of but not limited to responding to the following Disciplines;
- a. Trench Rescue
 - b. Confined Space
 - c. High & Low Angle
 - d. Structural Collapse
 - e. Transportation/Machinery Rescue (heavy, rail, light)
 - f. Water Rescue; Swift, Salt & Still
- 3.12 **Water Rescue Task Force:** Three (3) Boats, One (1) Engine, One (1) Aid Unit, One (1) Medic Unit, One TFL, and may include a Deputy TFL.
- 3.13 **Wildland Strike Team:** Five (5) Type 3, 4, 5 or 6 Engines, One (1) Medic Unit, One (1) STL and may include a Deputy STL. Firefighters and STL or Deputy STL should be “Red card certified” as outlined by the sending agency.
- 3.14 **Wildland Task Force:** Four (4) Type 3, 4, 5 or 6 engines, One (1) Tender, One (1) Medic Unit, One (1) TFL, and may include a Deputy TFL.

4.0 PROCEDURE

- 4.1 Resources available in each Zone have been pre-determined and should be entered into the respective CAD's in each of the Communications Center computer aided dispatch (CAD) system (see Appendix C).

- 4.2 A Strike Team or Task Force may be requested by two different methods:
 - 4.2.1 Specific request by the Incident Commander in the affected fire zone via the dispatch center.
 - 4.2.2 As part of a pre-determined fire response via the affected dispatch center.
 - 4.2.3 In either case, the Incident Commander should indicate to their Communications Center the Zone from which the ST/TF is being requested (Host) and the appropriate Interop talk group (e.g. KC CALL, KC IO 09, KC IO 12, KC IO 15 etc.) or Travel/Tactical channel the incoming ST/TF should be utilizing with the hosting agency.
- 4.3 The dispatcher will contact the other dispatch center(s) to request the designated pre-planned resources as identified and as requested or directed by the Incident Commander.
 - 4.3.1 Zone 1: NORCOM
 - 4.3.2 Zone 3: Valley Comm, Port of Seattle, Enumclaw & Boeing
 - 4.3.3 Zone 5: Seattle Fire Dispatch
- 4.4 Strike Teams and Task Forces may assemble at the pre-determined rendezvous points for each of the respective Zones. The Dispatch Center will provide the requisite assembly point information at the time of dispatch (except ALS Strike Team or Immediate Need) and appropriate Travel or Tactical channel along with any specific routing.
- 4.5 Leaders will quickly inventory their assigned units, collect passports, and verify assigned talk group, Interop talk group (KC CALL, KC IO 09, KC IO 12, KC IO 15), change placards, and travel to the assigned location or base.
- 4.6 The TFL/STL will be identified numerically by their assigned Zones as Team Leaders, such as Batt 30-74 & Batt-30-12 for Zone-3. Zone 1 would be 10-01 and Zone-5, 50-____. The ST/TF would be identified as their specific function and Zone. Such as; “Zone-3 Structure Task Force” or “Zone-5 Ladder Strike Team”.
- 4.7 The Zone sending a Strike Team/Task Force may elect to add a Deputy STL/TFL. This individual shall be a regular battalion chief. If an acting battalion chief is sent they would be considered “In Training” and will function as an assistant to the primary TFL/STL. The TFL/STL shall be a regular battalion chief or higher ranking chief officer.
- 4.8 Strike Teams and Task Forces should be requested to the incident scene and should not be used to “fill-in” at fire stations, separating the resources and reducing the intended capability.
- 4.9 STL/TFL’s will obtain briefing once assigned and advocate on behalf of the Strike Team/Task Force to maintain accountability and resource management. The SF/TF may be utilized as individual resources at the scene of the incident based on the STL/TFL’s discretion.

4.10 If some of the assigned ST/TF units have already been assigned prior to the leader's arrival (Immediate Need) unit accountability and current assignments need to be obtained from the hosting IC as soon as possible.

4.10.1 Prior to going operational, Team leaders should inventory SCBA makes and models and assign in appropriate teams where interoperability exists.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITY

5.1 The team leaders have supervisory and managerial responsibility for the assigned resources. The company officers are responsible for the firefighting personnel & equipment assigned to their respective companies and shall follow the directions of the assigned STL/TFL.

5.2 Team leaders should keep their home agencies and Dispatch centers informed of status and estimated return or request for additional resources or crew exchanges. Normally this response should not exceed a 12 hour operational period.

5.3 There are no "guaranteed" responses to fill a ST/TF based on any County wide incidents that may be affecting the entire County/Zones.

5.4 Strike teams/TF should normally return to their original assigned assembly point when released from an incident to complete a "Demobe process" which should include a team evaluation and apparatus and personnel release documents. Records of the ST/TF should be maintained and then sent to the sending Zone coordinators for filing.

(Reference Assembly & Demobe check lists – next page)

PRE-DETERMINED ASSEMBLY POINTS FOR “INSIDE” KING COUNTY:

Zone 1: I-90 @ Exit 13: to East King County
8800 block of westbound Points Drive to Zone 5: Seattle

- TF / ST re-enter WB 520 @ 84th Ave on-ramp

Exit 9 & I-405 to Zone 3: South King County

Zone 3: Renton Station # 14 to Zone 1: Eastside
Tukwila Station # 51 to Zone 5: Seattle
VRFA St-31 for Zone-6 PC
SKF&R St-64 for Tacoma / Pierce County

Zone 5: None. This is determined by Seattle Fire Alarm Center at time of request.

PRE-DETERMINED ASSEMBLY POINTS FOR DESTINATIONS “OUTSIDE” KING COUNTY:

Zone 1: Bothell Station #45 to Zone 9 or Zone 10 in Snohomish County.

Zone 3: VRFA Station 31: for responses to Zone 6, Pierce County
SKFR Station 64 for responses to any other Pierce County Zones
Maple Valley Station 81 for responses to Eastern Washington or Zone 1

Zone 5: None. This is determined by Seattle Fire Alarm Center at time of request.