

Operating Guidelines

Section: Fireground Procedures

Subject: Emergency Evacuation (Fire Department Members)

Number: 901

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Purpose

In an effort to protect personnel who may suffer the adverse effects of hazards such as structural collapse, explosion, back draft, etc., a structured method of area evacuation must be utilized. This method shall provide for the rapid, effective notification of these personnel involved and shall be able to accurately account for those personnel.

Scope

This guideline covers total evacuation (**air horn or siren signal**) or partial evacuation (**radio or voice communication**) and shall be followed by all members of the department.

Guidelines

901.1

The signal shall consist of three distinct activations of air horn (preferred), or, three distinct activations of the siren for approximately three seconds duration, with a five second interval between activation's.

901.2

Upon receipt of either of the emergency evacuation signals officers shall assemble their members and promptly exit to a safe location, where the sector officer shall again account for all fire members.

901.3

When all affected crews and crewmembers are accounted for, the evacuation process is complete.

901.4

The command officer shall be kept informed during the evacuation and informed when it is completed.

901.5

The emergency evacuation signal shall be initiated by any member of the Fire Department, if not practical to communicate through command.

Note: Backup lines should be deployed to protect Firefighters retreating from interior operations.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all fire department personnel to know the emergency evacuation signals and what to do upon hearing these signals.