



Solano County Fire Chiefs Association GUIDELINES

Guideline Name:	Tactical Retreat / Evacuation
Number:	14
Revision / Reviewed Date:	March 24, 2020

I. PURPOSE

It is essential for all firefighters working within Solano County to recognize when they are to evacuate an emergency scene or work area. Automatic and mutual aid agreements in place result in firefighters working with different fire agencies. This SOG provides a county-wide procedure for an immediate, orderly tactical retreat or evacuation of an emergency scene work area.

II. POLICY

This procedure shall be used whenever emergency personnel are in imminent danger of injury because of, but not limited to, structure collapse, potential explosion, extremely hazardous atmosphere, backdraft or flashover condition or immediate change of tactical conditions.

III. TACTICAL RETREAT

This will be used anytime there is a change in strategy or a need to remove everyone from the building in a non-emergent situation.

A. Procedure

1. Incident Commander announces over channel being used on the incident
 - a. Proceeds to broadcast critical scene information in “Clear Text” to personnel operating in area requiring evacuation
 - a. (Example---I need all companies to leave the building we are transitioning to a defensive fire)
 - b. IC shall perform a PAR to determine full fireground compliance to orders given

IV. EVACUATION

This will be used anytime a situation occurs during an incident that requires the immediate evacuation of personnel from a building. On occasion, the incident commander may need to evacuate the building due to safety concerns.

A. Procedure

1. Incident Commander or Dispatch Center announces over radio channel being used on the incident:
 - a. “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC”
 - b. Proceeds to broadcast critical scene information in “Clear Text” to personnel operating in area requiring evacuation
(Example---An immediate evacuation is necessary—All companies



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evacuate the building)

- c. IC shall designate apparatus to sound evacuation signal
 - d. IC shall direct dispatch to communicate evacuation signal
 - i. The emergency broadcast from dispatch will be performed on the primary dispatch channel. Units on certain tactical frequencies will not receive the emergency evacuation signal.
 - e. IC shall perform a PAR to determine full fireground compliance to evacuation signal
2. Apparatus Operators Sound Air Horn
- a. Signal to consist of repeated short air horn blasts for 10 seconds
 - b. Followed by a 10-second period of silence
 - c. To be executed 3 times
 - d. Total air horn evacuation signal including periods of silence that will last 50 seconds
 - e. To be done after "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" broadcast
3. Fire Personnel Upon Hearing Radio Communication and/or Evacuation Signal:
- a. Immediately exit the emergency/work area
 - b. Reporting back to their supervisor or other predesignated location
4. Company Officer Reports to Fireground Supervisor
- a. When subordinate crew personnel are accounted for in a safe location
 - i. Report status of company personnel via a PAR when done by IC.
- B. For 800 Mhz Communications Centers capable of monitoring TAC channels
1. Alerts All Scene Units on radio channel being used on the incident
 - a. Proceed safety alert by 3 alert beeps
 - b. Transmits safety announcements
 - c. Use scene IC identifier

C. Notes:

All radio communications should be limited to reporting your personnel are out. An exception would be if there were problems getting personnel out or if there were any serious injuries.

Apparatus used to conduct the "evacuation signal" should not be in close proximity to the Command Post, if possible, thus reducing the chance of missing any radio messages.

Immediate exit means just that---leave the area immediately. Leave hoselines and heavy tools and escape. Delay may result in injuries or "entrapment". Exception is when the hoseline or equipment will definitely assist you with immediate exit (escape).