

CAL FIRE Butte Unit
Policies and Procedures



Approved By: 

Darren Read, Unit Chief

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Subject: **7000 Operations**
Specific Subject: **7000.007 High-Rise/Mid-Rise/Wide-Rise**

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POLICY:

Standard Operating Guidelines for emergency incident operations in High-Rise, Mid-Rise or Wide-Rise buildings. This document is intended to establish basic guidelines and procedures, and may be modified to fit the incident.

PROCEDURE:

Command and control coupled with aggressive fire attack is imperative for successfully mitigating a high-rise / wide-rise emergency.

DEFINITIONS:

1. Any building 7 stories or taller is a high-rise.
2. Any building between 4 and 6 stories is a mid-rise.
3. Any building with a footprint larger than 100,000 Sq. Ft, standpipes, or fire protection systems may be considered a wide-rise. Examples – commercial box stores, large warehouses, or malls.
4. High Rise Bag – 1 ½” nozzle (capable of flowing a minimum of 50 PSI) with shutoff bale, 2 ½” to 2 ½” to 2 ½” Gated Wye or 2 ½” to 1 ½” to 1 ½” Gate Wye, Two 2 ½” – 1 ½” Reducers, Inline pressure gauge, door chocks, grease pencil, spanners, and plumbers wrench.
5. High Rise Bundle –100’ of 1 ¾” Hose.
6. Evacuation Stairwell – Stairwell designated for evacuating residents. No fire control procedures should occur in this stairwell.
7. Fire Attack Stairwell – Stairwell designated for fire attack.
8. Rapid Ascent Team (RAT) – Rapidly ascends to fire area to clear civilians or shelter in place, and ensures the fire attack stairwell is clear of civilians. Will form Rescue Group in more complex incidents.
9. Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta sides of the structure will be standard. Identify the Alpha Side.
10. Above grade levels Divisions (Floor Number) 1,2,3 etc. Including the fire floor.
11. Below grade levels Divisions “Subfloor 1,2,3 etc.”
12. Staging will be established two floors below the Fire Floor.
13. Base is established 200’ from the incident and serves as the reporting location for all greater alarm resources.

Below are the first and second alarms that are preloaded in CAD in the Emergency Command Center. All other resource needs will be ordered individually through the Incident Commander, and consider ordering additional tactical frequencies early.

First Alarm Resources

1 Division Chief
1 Battalion Chief
1 Safety Officer
5 Engines (Closest)
1 Truck
2 Water Tenders
2 Volunteer Companies

Second Alarm Resources

1 Battalion Chief
5 Engines (Closest)
1 Truck
1 Squad or Rescue
2 Water Tenders
2 Volunteer Companies
1 EMS Supervisor

Other Resource Considerations:

1. Medic Units (utilize CALCORD for tac net)
2. Law Enforcement (Evacuations and Triage)
3. Mass Transit Busses
4. American Red Cross
5. Multiple Tactical Frequencies

Tasks to be performed:

- Investigation
- Fire Attack
- Lobby Group
- Fire Attack staging (2 Floors below fire floor)
- Rescue Group
- Rapid Ascent Team (RAT)
- Water Group
- Systems Group
- Ventilation Group
- Rapid Intervention Team (RIC)
- Establish Incident Base

Investigation: Rapid response into the structure. Identify the location and severity of the fire. Mitigate if possible or start evacuations. (Fire Floor First)

Fire Attack: Will be established on the fire floor (Division Floor #). The fire floor division is responsible for search and extinguishment on the fire floor. Fire Attack should consist of at least two engine companies to maintain 2 in 2 out. The company officer in charge will assume division (floor #) and must maintain communications with Water Group, Lobby Group, and the IC. The fire floor division should have obtained Keys, stair phones, and floor schematics.

Lobby Group: Is not required to set up in the lobby, but the lobby is generally the most appropriate location.

- Maintain accountability and a central entry point.
- Utilize building Staff or Engineer:
 - Locate the Fire Alarm Control Panel.
 - Identify the location of the alarms activated.
 - Designate Fire Attack and Evacuation Stairwells
 - Start Evacuations (Closest to the Fire Floor first).
 - Designate a safe location outside the building for ambulatory evacuees.
 - Recall Elevators to ground floor.
 - Locate and distribute Stair phones (If applicable)
 - Contact building engineer. Ensure fire suppression systems have activated.
 - Obtain building keys and floor plan.
 - Direct building occupants (Start Triage Process)
 - Post signs for Check-in, Attack Stairwell, Evacuation Stairwell, Air Cylinders Full/ Empty, Equipment Pool Area, and Rehab Area.

Fire Attack Staging: Set up Staging TWO floors below the fire floor or shared with Lobby if fire is on the 1st- 3rd floor of the structure in a Non-IDLH atmosphere.

- Accountability and Assignment will be kept by the Fire Attack Staging Manager.
- All Engine Companies reporting to Fire Attack Staging will report with:
 - High Rise Bag – 1 ½" Nozzle (capable of flowing a minimum of 50 PSI) with shutoff bale, 2 ½" to 2 ½" to 2 ½" Gated Wye or 2 ½" to 1 ½" to 1 ½" Gate Wye, Two 2 ½" – 1 ½" Reducers, Inline pressure gauge (if possible), door chocks, grease pencil, spanners, and plumbers wrench.
 - 100' Section of 1 ¾" structure hose (Each Person)
 - 1 extra - SCBA Cylinder per person
 - Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)
 - Search/Forcible Entry tools (Halgan, Flathead Axe, and Rotary Saw etc.)
- Coordinate with Ventilation Group to maintain a Non-IDLH Atmosphere.
- Coordinate with RIC Supervisor to designate an area for RIC within the staging area.

Rescue Group: Evacuation, search and rescue.

-Rapid Ascent Team (RAT): Ensures the Fire Attack Stairwell is cleared of all civilians, search the floors above the fire, open stairwell doors and hatches to assist with vertical ventilation.

Water Group:

- (TYPE 1 or 2 engine preferred for rated pump) Responsible for Operating water pressure and flow to the fire floor. Utilize hydrant systems, water tenders, Fire Department Connections (FDC's), standpipe systems, sprinkler systems etc. to maintain effective water flow for fire attack.

Systems Group:

- Contact the Building Engineer, ensure all systems are functioning properly:
- Fire Control Panel/Room
 - Ventilation: HVAC, Pressurize stairwells, smoke removal/ ventilation.
 - Water systems: Fire pump is on and working. Assess the need to boost fire pump.
 - Electrical System: Emergency power, Security systems, Fire Alarm systems.
 - Communication: Coordinate the evacuation message. Distribute stair phones.
- Elevators use must be approved by the Incident Commander.

Ventilation Group:

- Determine ventilation need: Horizontal vs. Vertical (utilize the floor above)
- Consider if the building systems are adequate for smoke removal, or if there is a need for additional ventilation.
- Work in conjunction with Fire Attack Crews.

Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC):

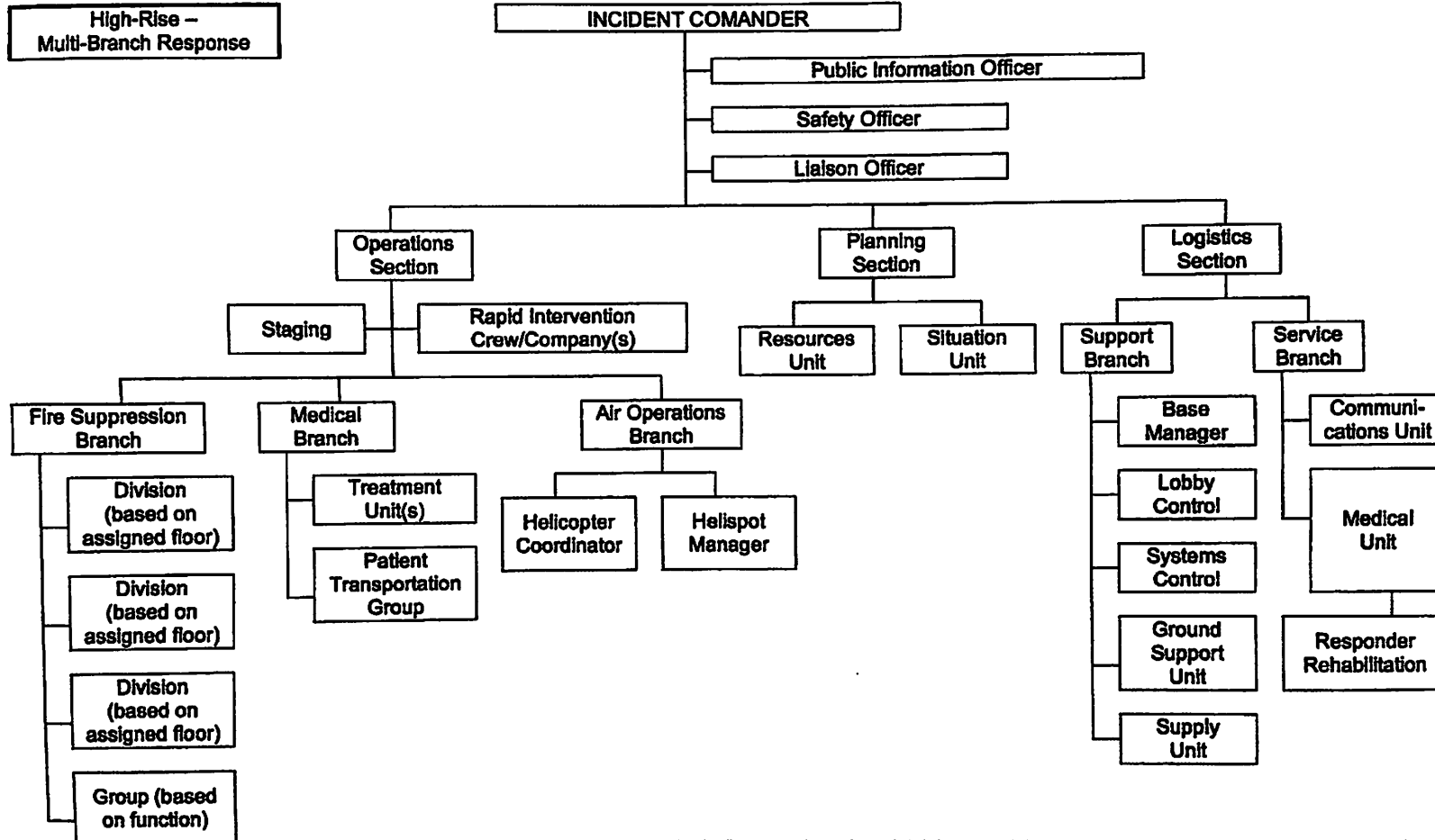
- Will assemble in Fire Attack Staging at the RIC Stand-By Area (typically 1 floor below fire).
- One RIC per Stairwell in use by Fire Personnel.
- RIC Teams will be designated in sequential order and then given an assignment location. i.e. RIC Team 1 assigned to staging on Division 5 or for a wide-rise RIC Team 1 assigned to Division Charlie.
- Monitor Command, Support and Division Tac Nets
- Determine building layout, egress, potential hazards, and access.
- Consider multiple RIC teams based on incident needs.
- Develop a RIC contingency plan.

Base / Apparatus Staging:

- Establish Base layout:
 - Apparatus Parking
 - Crew Ready Area
 - Equipment Pool Area
 - Rehab Area
 - Command Post
 - PIO Location.
- Maintain Accountability of resources in Base.
- Direct personnel and equipment to their assignments.
- Provide for apparatus movement for additional water supply if needed.

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High-Rise Multi-Branch Response (example): The fire has involved multiple floors with various Divisions and Groups assigned. This complexity has led the Operations Section to create a Fire Suppression Branch to manage these Divisions and Groups. A Medical Branch is established and the Air Operations Branch is expanded. The Planning Section has expanded to include the Resources Unit and Situation Unit. Logistics Section has activated the Support and Service Branches as well as various Units within each Branch to accommodate the extensive logistical requirements for this size incident.