

**MONTERERY COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
FIRE OPERATIONS MANUAL
SECTION 3**

OUT-OF-COUNTY STRIKE TEAM RESPONSE PLAN

This plan recognizes the need for standardization and uniformity of response when Local Government Strike Team(s) respond beyond the local operational area boundaries.

1. Plan Overview

- A. This Strike Team Response Plan shall be activated by the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator whenever Local Government Strike Team resources are requested by either the Adjoining Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator, or by the OES Region II Operational Area Fire Coordinator.
- B. This Monterey County Strike Team Response Plan shall be considered part of the California Fire Mutual Aid Plan.
- C. A Strike Team shall consist of five (5) like resources with a qualified Strike Team Leader in a separate vehicle with communications.

2. General Information

- A. Minimum Staffing Level: 3 personnel (all engine types)
 - I. *Note: When reimbursement is applicable under the California Fire Assistance Agreement or California Disaster Plan, local government agencies will be reimbursed for one (1) Company Officer, one (1) Driver/Operator, and one (1) Firefighter. Local agency may, at its option, provide one additional person on any Type engine, which will be reimbursed at the Firefighter rate. Local agency MAY, at its option provide additional personnel above four-person staffing without reimbursement.*
- B. Response Criteria
 - I. **Initial Attack:** All requested resources shall acknowledge, accept or deny the dispatch page within (2) minutes. Assigned resources shall respond within (5) five minutes into an adjoining Operational Area (Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, or San Benito County). Resources shall be dispatched utilizing the attached proximity matrices (closest

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resource concept), and shall respond “code three” directly to the incident.

- II. **Immediate Need:** Assigned resources shall respond within thirty (30) minutes to a designated staging/rendezvous point for assembly and travel in strike team configuration to an incident beyond the Adjoining Operational Area.

- III. **Planned Need:** Assigned resources shall respond in sufficient time to arrive at a designated staging/rendezvous point within time frame established by the assigned Strike Team Leader. Resources shall assemble at the staging/rendezvous point and travel in strike team configuration to the incident in order to arrive at the incident, operationally ready for deployment, within the time frame specified by the Monterey County area Fire and Rescue Coordinator at time of dispatch.

3. Communications

- A. All requests for Strike Team resources shall be processed by the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Dispatch Center.

- B. Strike Teams shall utilize an assigned travel frequency to communicate while traveling to or from an incident.

- C. Strike Teams and assigned Strike Team Leaders shall be identified using the California OES Resource Designation System (e.g. S/T 2175A, S/T 2176C). The assigned Strike Team Leader or his/her designee shall answer all radio traffic directed to the Strike Team.

- D. Strike Team Leaders are expected to have a cellular telephone, and shall provide the Monterey County Area Fire and Rescue Dispatch Center with the telephone number upon dispatch.

4. Resource Availability

- A. The Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall maintain a rotational list of local government agency resources available for statewide assignment within the response time criteria established above.

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- B. The Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall assign a pre-designated Immediate Need Type-I Engine Strike Team, with a qualified Strike Team Leader, utilizing the above rotational list. The pre-designated Type I Engine Strike Team shall be available for assignment statewide throughout the year, and is expected to be able to meet the above response criteria daily. Local government agencies assigned to the pre-designated Strike Team shall immediately notify the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Dispatch Center if unable to meet the immediate need response criteria for any reason, and the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall assign and notify the next agency on the rotational list for inclusion in the pre-designated Strike Team. The pre-designated Strike Team shall be rotated to the next available agencies after each emergency incident assignment.
- C. The Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall also assign a pre-designated Immediate Need Type-III Engine Strike Team, with a qualified Strike Team Leader, utilizing the above rotational list. The pre designated Type III Engine Strike Team shall be available for assignment statewide from May 1 through November 30 of each year, or any other time designated by the Monterey County Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator. Local government agencies assigned to the pre-designated Strike Team shall immediately notify the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Dispatch Center if unable to meet the immediate need response criteria for any reason, and the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall assign and notify the next agency on the rotational list for inclusion in the pre-designated Strike Team. The pre-designated Strike Team shall be rotated to the next available agencies after each emergency incident assignment.
- D. Initial Attack resources shall be dispatched by proximity according to the attached mutual aid matrices. Agencies dispatched but failing to acknowledge or respond with the three-minute criteria shall be bypassed, and the next agency listed by proximity shall be dispatched.

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5. Staging/Rendezvous Points

<u>A. Travel Route</u>	<u>Staging/Rendezvous Point</u>
Highway 1 North:	Chevron station on west side of Highway 1 at Riverside Road, Watsonville (2000 Thos. Bros. page 1015 / E-4)
Highway 1 South:	Crossroads Shopping Center parking lot (behind Bank of America), SEC Highway 1 and Rio Road, Carmel (2000 Thos. Bros. Page 1153 / G-4).
Highway 101 North:	Truck stop on east side of Highway 101 at Monterey Road, Gilroy (2000 Thos. Bros. Page 5 / D-2).
Highway 101 South:	Truck stop on west side of Highway 101 at Wild Horse Road, King City (2000 Thos. Bros. Page 1303 / J-5).
Highway 152 East:	Casa de Fruta parking lot on south side of Highway 152 at Casa de Fruta Parkway (2000 Thos. Bros. page 6 / B-2).

B. Personnel Relief

- I. Engine Strike Team personnel should be available for a minimum assignment of 7 days.
- II. Engine personnel shall normally be targeted for relief during the fifth 24-hour period; however, operational considerations may require other criteria.
- III. The assigned Strike Team Leader shall coordinate all personnel relief.
- IV. Relief shall ONLY occur when the Strike Team is off shift, or during demobilization.

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- V. Strike Team Leaders will not normally be rotated during an assignment, and any relief of an assigned Strike Team Leader shall be coordinated through the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator utilizing the rotational list.

6. Strike Team Leader

- A. The Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall assign a Strike Team Leader utilizing a rotational list of local government personnel meeting the following minimum requirements:
 - I. Chief Officer status
 - II. Required training and experience consist with the current version of the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS)
 - III. Availability of appropriate staff/utility vehicle (4x4 for Type-III Engine Strike Team assignment) with communications, including cellular telephone
 - IV. Approval of Department/District Chief
 - V. Approval of Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association Certifications and Qualifications Review Panel.
 - VI. Completion of current year OES Strike Team Leader Refresher
 - VII. Additional desirable qualifications
 - a) Completion of Command 2E - Wildland Fire Tactics
 - b) Completion of S-290 - Intermediate Fire behavior
 - c) Completion of I-300 - Intermediate ICS
 - d) Completion of Wildland Firefighter Survival
 - VIII. The Strike Team Leader shall have full command and control of all assigned Strike Team resources and personnel.

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- B. The Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator MAY also assign a Strike Team Leader Trainee meeting the following minimum qualifications:
- I. Company Officer or above
 - II. Required training and experience consist with the current version of the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS)
 - III. Approval of Department/District Chief
 - IV. Completion of current year OES Strike Team Leader Refresher
- C. The Strike Team Leader may assign a participating Company Officer as the Assistant Strike Team Leader, who shall have full command and control of all Strike Team resources and personnel in the absence of the assigned Strike Team Leader.
- D. The Strike Team Leader shall provide the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Dispatch Center with a daily status report.
- E. The Strike Team Leader shall complete an Incident Personnel Performance Rating (ICS-225) for each assigned resource prior to demobilization, and shall ensure that the original is received by the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator within 48 hours of return to Monterey County. The Monterey County Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall forward a copy of the incident evaluation to the respective department/district chief.
- F. The Strike Team Leader shall solicit an Incident Performance Evaluation for the Strike Team from the assigned line supervisor prior to demobilization, and shall ensure that the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator receives it, or a written explanation why it was not prepared, within 48 hours of the Strike Team's return to Monterey County.

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- G. The Strike Team Leader shall provide each resource Company Officer with an Incident Personnel Performance Rating form (ICS-225) prior to demobilization. The Strike Team Leader shall encourage each participating Company Officer to evaluate the performance of the Strike Team Leader, and shall ensure confidentiality of the evaluation if so requested by the Company Officer. The Strike Team Leader shall ensure that the Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator receive evaluation(s) within 48 hours of return to Monterey County.

7. Annual Meeting / Training

- A. The Monterey County Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall schedule an annual meeting for all Strike Team Leaders and Strike Team Leader Trainees after the Spring OES Region II meeting. Attendance at this meeting shall meet the annual Strike Team Leader Refresher training requirement.