**INTENT**

The goal of this policy is to enable a response of REMS Qualified Personnel ordered by an incident to provide rescue capability on the fire-line. This policy will identify the required training, certifications and equipment to be used by Glendale Fire Department REMS personnel in compliance with FIRESCOPE of California Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS), ICS-223-12 document. It will also describe the process used during deployment, responsibilities while assigned and demobilization.

**AUTHORITY**

This document reflects the standards established by FIRESCOPE. Personnel may be assigned to incidents that are managed by agencies that adhere to NWCG Standards for Medical Units. Personnel assigned to such incidents should be familiar with the NWCG Standards document.

**INTRODUCTION**

This policy was developed with the intent to provide a clear description of the role, duties and equipment pertinent to the position of the Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS). The Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) is a pre-staged rescue team assigned to a wildland fire to provide firefighters a safe, effective and efficient method of egress off the fire-line in the event of injury or illness incurred during firefighting operations.

Wildland firefighting is an inherently dangerous profession. While safety is the primary concern during all operations, unintended incidents do occur which result in injury or illness to firefighters. It is the intent of the REMS to provide firefighters who are unable to egress under their own power, a safe and secure transport off the fire-line while simultaneously receiving the appropriate medical attention.

While REMS does not intend to replace ground or air transport, ideal conditions may not exist due to a number of circumstances such as heavy smoke inversion, no roads, or equipment malfunctions. REMS provides incident managers another option to reach incapacitated firefighters, with fully equipped resources, prepared to package and transport injured or ill personnel off the fire-line to the appropriate medical care unit. While this position manual recommends minimum staffing levels of the REMS, it is not intended to exclude the potential need to augment staffing levels based on the complexity of the rescue.

**MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES**

The major responsibilities of the REMS are stated below.

1. Check in and obtain briefing from the Logistics Section Chief or the Medical Unit Leader, if established. The briefing should provide the following:
   1. Current incident situation
   2. Review the Medical Plan (ICS Form 206) and “Incident within an Incident” Plan
   3. Obtain briefing from MEDL to include expectations, assignments, hazards, communications plans and record keeping.
   4. Obtain proper communications equipment including portable radios, frequencies, GPS, cell and/or satellite phone.
2. Anticipate needs and ensure equipment needs as necessary:
   1. Incident base assignments
   2. Fire-line assignments
   3. Spike camp assignments
   4. Establish crew manifest and maintain crew time reports.
   5. Establish equipment manifest.
3. Conduct a crew briefing to include establishing a crew leader and assigning team positions.
   1. Establish crew expectations and performance objectives.
   2. Line out crew member responsibilities and positions.
   3. Conduct initial training with all assigned resources.
   4. Establish team readiness
   5. Recon assignment area
   6. Train during assignments
4. Equipment readiness
   1. Configure equipment
   2. Configure vehicles
5. Resupply expended materials prior to next operational period.
6. Secure operations and demobilize as outlined in the Demobilization Checkout (ICS Form 221).
7. Maintain a Unit/Activity Log (ICS Form 214)

**POSITION QUALIFICATIONS**

*REQUIRED:*

1. Member of RTF 4/Member of Type 1 or Type 2 USAR
   1. Five core classes (Outlined by State Fire Training)
      1. LARRO
      2. Rescue Systems 1
      3. Rescue Systems 2
      4. Confined Space Rescue Technician
      5. Trench Rescue Technician

Or:

* 1. Required Training if not member of RTF 4, Type 1 or Type 2 USAR.
     1. LARRO
     2. Rescue Systems 1
     3. Basic GPS class (Certificate or Qualifying Letter from Fire Chief)

1. RT-130(Current Certification)
2. S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
3. S-230 Crew Boss or S-231 Engine Boss
4. S-290 (Classroom Based)
5. Rope Rescue Technician or NFPA 1670 Equivalent (Advanced Rope)

*HIGHLY DESIRABLE:*

* + - 1. Fireline EMT(FEMT)
      2. Fireline Medic (FEMP)
      3. S-270
      4. Experience as Single Resource/Overhead Position

**AREA C DEPLOYMENT**

Upon being contacted through the ROSS ordering system for REMS availability from Area C, Verdugo Communications shall access the established REMS list(s) and attempt to fill the order.

List “A” consists of Area C members who are QUALIFIED through the CICCS committee for REMS and in addition have the FIRESCOPE standard equipment list (SEL) as well as a 4x4 vehicle for deployment.

List “B” consists of QUALIFIED personnel only.

STAFFING

Upon receiving request for REMS Verdugo Communications will contact AREA departments and attempt to fill and a minimum of one person from List “A”.

Once one member from list “A” accepts the assignment the second position may be filled from either list.

REMS positions will be filled on a “first accepted” basis.

A REMS team may be established with both personnel from a single AREA C agency OR interagency teams may be formed to fill the request.

Departments which maintain a vehicle for deployment and the SEL will only deploy with a QUALIFIED REMS member.

A qualified member WILL NOT utilize equipment caches from an agency other than their own if a member of the agency with the equipment cache is not part of the deployed team.

Members can expect and plan for a potential 21 day assignment.

**STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT**

Minimum staffing consists of two technical specialists who are REMS qualified. The entire two-person module shall not be split-up. They should be paired up with an Engine crew (preferably a Type 3) or hand crew to assist the REMS with equipment deployment and rope system implementation. Training with the assigned resource will be part of their daily routine. A hand crew may be assigned to assist with patient movement and clearing an egress route. When ordered, the REMS will come with all equipment identified in the ICS 223-12 Standard Equipment List (SEL).

**STANDARD EQUIPMENT LIST (SEL ) – ICS-223-12**

* 2 piece stokes basket
* Wide litter wheel
* Backboard with foam padding
* Foam knee and lumbar padding
* Cardboard leg splint
* Fiber tape
* Trauma shears
* Sleeping bag (for patient)
* Fire shelter (for patient)
* GPS
* Flagging ribbon
* 4WD pickup truck or equivalent

**Rope rescue cache:**

* 2 - 150’ Ropes (of a size to meet current LARRO standards)
* 15 - Carabiner
* 4 - 2” Prusik minding pulley
* 4 - Prusik
* 10 - 20’ Webbing
* 4 - 10’ Webbing
* 4 - 6’ Webbing
* 1 - Gang plate
* 2 - Rope Bag
* 1 - Hardware Bag
* 2 Class II harness

\*\*\*If possible, all gear in Backpack\*\*\*

**Recommended equipment:**

* Glow sticks
* Signal mirror
* Bicycle pump or Fix-a-flat
* Tire plugs
* Whistle
* Headlamps

Equipment cache should be lightweight, minimal and multifunctional due to the potential of traveling long distances over steep terrain to complete the REMS mission.