



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

PURPOSE

The Russellville Fire Department strives to provide a safe and established rule regarding the rehabilitation for personnel on emergency scenes as well as the training grounds in close regards to following NFPA 1584. It is not the purpose of this policy to hinder emergency response personnel, but to ensure the health, well-being, and safety of all responders from preventable incidents.

POLICY

It is the primary role of the Incident Commander (IC) to provide a safe work environment for their assigned personnel. During an incident, when the Safety Officer (SO) position has been established, the SO shall aid in establishing the rehabilitation site(s). On the training grounds, the Training Officer in charge of the evolution shall have responsibility in preparing a rehabilitation site(s), if warranted.

It is the responsibility of the Company Officer (CO) to maintain awareness of the physical and mental conditions of each member operating under their supervision. It is the responsibility of all emergency response personnel to notify immediately their supervising officer when they have approached a level of physical or mental stress that could harbor a dangerous environment for themselves and/or other personnel with them.

Recognition of Rehabilitation Needs:

The rehabilitation area shall be established when one or more of the following needs are present on an emergency scene or on the training grounds.

1. High/Low heat environments
2. Overt physical/emotional stressors
3. Long duration emergency scenes
4. Inclement weather scenes or grounds
5. Hazardous Materials Incidents

Characteristics of Rehabilitation Sites:

The rehabilitation site shall make considerations for the following needs, but not restricted to just this list. The site may be amended to fit the realistic needs of the response personnel.

1. Located away from the warm zone of incident to allow personnel to safely doff PPE and be removed from potential stressors of the emergency scene.
2. To allow the distinguishing between a staging area and rehabilitation site.
3. Allow the relief from climatic conditions
4. Rest/recover of personnel

Approved

Fire Chief



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5. Active and/or passive cooling/heating may be needed for personnel
6. Rehydration, calorie, and/or electrolyte replenishment
7. Medical monitoring/EMS treatment/transport when deemed necessary by onsite EMS personnel or under direction from IC/ISO/TO
8. Personnel accountability and crew continuity
9. Use of EMS crews to monitor and maintain personnel

Note: Medical monitoring personnel shall have the ability to restrict personnel's exit from rehab and/or reentry into the hot zone of an incident if necessary.

Rehabilitation Criteria for Personnel:

Covers the process and guidelines for personnel entering, monitoring, and being released from Rehab.

1. Personnel that are in assigned companies, crews, groups, or teams shall stay together unless medical staffing deems one or more personnel unfit to return to active roles.
2. Personnel must notify IC that their company, crew, group, or team status shall show "In Rehab, and unable for assignment" upon entering the rehab site and upon being released must notify IC or Staging Officer that they are "Available for assignment".
3. Personnel entering rehab for their first time in an incident shall rest for a minimum of 10 minutes. If they have been through 1 full 60 minute SCBA bottle or 40 minutes of intense work without SCBA usage the time should be extended to 15 minutes or more.
4. Personnel entering rehab for their second time or greater shall rest for a minimum of 20 minutes or longer if practical. Time may be extended if deemed needed by IC, SO, TO, or medical monitoring personnel.
5. Personnel entering rehab or being released from rehab shall have the following vitals taken by medical monitoring personnel to include the following:
 - a. Temperature (lower than 103 and greater than 96 degrees)
 - b. Heart Rate (between 60-100)
 - c. Respiratory Rate (between 12-20 respirations per minute)
 - d. Blood Pressure (below 140/90)
 - e. Pulse Oximetry (96% or greater)
6. Personnel that are released from Rehab shall report to the staging area, if one has not been established they will request an assignment from IC.
7. In the event that a member has been deemed unable to return to duty by IC, it will be determined if there is a need to be transported and receive further medical attention.

Approved

Fire Chief