

# **JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE AND EMS OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY, WV**

### **10-005**

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this guideline is to outline the procedure to be used to provide a quick and safe emergency evacuation of emergency responders operating at incidents.

#### **SCOPE:**

This guideline is intended to improve on scene Risk Management, and is in conjunction with the Jefferson County ECC Operating Procedures for "Emergency Alert Tone".

#### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

When operating at emergency incidents, conditions may develop that would necessitate and immediate evacuation of an IDLH environment or incident area. These rapidly developing conditions may pose an imminent threat to the safety of the personnel operating at the incident. When such is the case, and the evacuation of the IDLH environment or area is desired, the Incident Commander or Safety Officer shall implement the following Emergency Evacuation Procedure. The Incident Commander shall announce the emergency message over the Tactical Channel. He/she shall then notify the ECC dispatcher to sound the Evacuation Alert Tone on all channels being utilized, and on the dispatch channel.

Example:

Command: "XXXX Command to Jefferson, Emergency Message."

ECC: "Go ahead XXXX Command."

Command: "Alert all companies on the incident to evacuate the building due to danger of collapse."

ECC: [Sounds Evacuation Alert Tone] "Attention all personnel, XXXX Command advises to evacuate the fire building immediately due to danger of collapse." (The tone and message is made on all tactical channels and the dispatch channel.)

Upon completion of the announcement, the IC or Safety Officer shall see that apparatus horns are sounded for an emergency evacuation. The horns shall be operated as close to the area to be evacuated as safely possible. The horns shall be sounded 3 times. Upon hearing the emergency evacuation message via the radio, or hearing the sequence of Evacuation Tones and/or apparatus horns in 3 long blasts, all members within the fire building shall immediately exit the building by the shortest available route. Any equipment that may slow evacuation may be abandoned unless they are needed for safe escape. After exiting the structure, Company Commanders shall report with their members to their assigned Division, Group, or Branch leader for a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR). If Division, Group, or Branch leaders have not been designated, the Company Commander shall report to the Incident Commander. The Emergency Evacuation Procedure should be implemented when there is imminent or immediate threat to life and safety of operating personnel. It should not be misconstrued to utilize the Emergency Evacuation Procedure when requesting units to exit the IDLH environment or area as a result in a change of tactics.

For example: It is not necessary to utilize this procedure when requesting that interior units exit the building in order to transition from an offensive mode of operation to a defensive mode of operation. It would, however, be necessary to utilize this procedure in the event of flashover, backdraft, or signs of imminent collapse, etc.

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CHAIRMAN OF CHIEF'S COMMITTEE

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DATE