

P-202

Operational Retreat

P-202.1 PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a standard procedure for the immediate and rapid operational retreat of personnel from a building or other hazardous environment in the event of imminent danger.

P-202.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that all fire companies involved in joint operations follow the procedures for operational retreat outlined in this policy.

P-202.3 REFERENCES

ICS-910 Firefighter Incident Safety and Accountability Guidelines

P-202.4 PROCEDURES

Upon determination that an imminent hazard exists in a building or other operational environment, the Incident Commander, or a designated Safety Officer will institute an immediate recall of all personnel to a safe location outside and beyond any potential collapse zone. The evacuation will be done as follows:

1. The EVACUATION SIGNAL will consist of repeated short blasts of the air horn for approximately 10 seconds, followed by 10 seconds of silence. This sequence of air horn blasts for 10 seconds followed by a 10-second period of silence will be done three times; total air horn evacuation signal including periods of silence will last 50 seconds.
2. Simultaneously an emergency broadcast will go out on all working radio frequencies "Emergency Traffic. All personnel evacuate, evacuate, evacuate."
3. Personnel assemble outside and report in person to their supervisor. All supervisors will report personnel status to their next level of supervision under ICS.
4. Air horn blasts and "Emergency Traffic" messages will be repeated as needed until all personnel are accounted for.