

# San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: USAR Response Guideline

Policy No. 2009-03

Adopted 11/24/09

Revised XX/XX/XX

**Purpose:** To establish operational guidelines for initial Engine Company actions to be taken when responding to, and dealing with, Technical Rescue emergencies. This will assure the timely response of proper equipment and adequately trained personnel to the scene of these Technical emergencies.

**Guideline:** It is the recommendation of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that the County Fire Agencies will follow the procedures below when dealing with Technical emergencies.

Definition: Technical Rescue Emergencies will be defined as, but not limited to, the following:

1. Confined Space Rescue- (CCR title 8 sec. 5156-5158)
2. Trench Rescues- (CCR title 8 sec. 1540-1541)
3. Low/High angle rescue.
4. Heavy machinery emergency / entrapment.
5. Structural instability / collapse.
6. Mass transportation Emergencies.

**Background:** The close working relationships of the various San Mateo County Fire Agencies requires that the agencies work cooperatively with one another on various incidents including but not limited to Technical Rescue Emergencies.

**Procedures:** The initial arriving Fire Company or Companies should evaluate the situation and determine the need for specialized personnel and equipment. The Initial Company Action Worksheets sheets should be followed to ensure the critical initial steps are taken in dealing with the incident. All pertinent information should be gathered and documented on the proper forms.

Battalion 8 is available through PSC for any needed consultation (same procedures as asking PSC for a Haz-mat consult). Consultation with Battalion 8 can help determine what resources will satisfy your needs. If Battalion 8 is not available Battalion 5 is also able to provide consultation.

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Resources available:

Balance of USAR Response:

1. Balances out Full Assignment to include:
  - 3 Engines
  - 1 Truck
  - 2 USAR's
  - 2 B/C'

Single unit specialty resource request:

1. USAR's
2. Truck's
3. Lumber Tender's
4. Search dogs.
5. Refer to County Resource list.

\* A Battalion Chief can always request a consultation.