

## Verdugo System Field Users– Earthquake/Emergency Mode Procedures

### Fire Stations perform the following:

- A. Account for personnel
- B. Move apparatus to “Safety Zone”
- C. Determine status of fire station/facility
- D. Go to assigned Primary Radio Channel – Radio Check
- E. Report unit status & visual intensity to BC within 15 min.  
Place MCT status as AOR and remain on Radio Standby.

### Earthquake Visual Intensity Scale (EVIS):

- 0 – Nothing Felt
- 1 – Earthquake felt; no damage
- 2 – Windows broken
- 3 – Block walls down
- 4 – Structures shifted off of foundations
- 5 – Structural collapse visible

### Primary Radio Channel/Talkgroup Assignment Plan

RED1	RED2	RED3	RED4	RED5	RED6	RED7	RED8	RED12	RED15
<u>In/Outbound</u> Dispatch	<u>In/Outbound</u> B.C. to Verdugo Only*	BRK BUR	GLN	PAS	ARC SMD	SGB SNM SPS	MPK ALH	MRV	MTB

**Note: Unified Response no longer applies.** RED1 remains Dispatch channel. RED2 is radio traffic to Verdugo Dispatch exclusively for Battalion Chiefs only. Agencies assigned to RED11 or RED12 must use two radios – one on RED1, one on their assigned Conventional channel. MCTs shall be used as extensively as possible. Field staff are required to also monitor RED1 for dispatches!

### Second Radio Channel/Talkgroup Assignment Plan – Use only if Trunked System is non-operational

#### XLC ACCESS (UHF) – All agencies assigned & on Radio Standby – Strict Radio Discipline – Possible Auto Dispatch Mode

Secondary “Tactical” radio assignments apply. XLC-ACCESS is both a Command and Dispatch channel in this mode. Secondary Tactical radio assignments will apply in this mode of operation.

### Tertiary Radio Channel/Talkgroup Assignment Plan – Use only if all previous plans are non-operational

ALH	ARC	BRK	GLN	MPK	MRV	MTB	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS
XLC-V6	XLC-V3	RED10-D	RED12-D	XLC-V10	XLC-V2	ACCESS	RED9-D	XLC-V8	XLC-V4	XLC-V1	XLC-V6

Verdugo Fire has no ability to communicate to/with agencies in this mode of operation.

Primary Jurisdictional Survey	Secondary Jurisdictional Survey	
Report findings to B.C. within 30 minutes of event	Status of essential facilities	
Interrupt survey only to respond to life threatening events	Status of major transportation arteries	
EVIS of 2 or greater = Code 3 jurisdictional survey	Damage assessment to jurisdiction using EVIS scale	
Primary Report: Status of high life/hazard occupancies	Determine resources needed	
Primary Report: Damage assessment using EVIS scale	Other significant information, record activity on ICS-214	
Strategic Considerations		
<b>Priorities</b>	<b>If Limited Resources</b>	<b>If Adequate Resources</b>
Protect Life	Life Safety	Life Safety
Protect Property	Exposure Protection	Interior Attack
Protect Environment	Exterior Attack	
Assist other Agencies		

### Earthquake/Emergency Mode – Levels of Operation

<b>Level-A</b>	Low volume of incidents/calls. Normal operating procedures apply with all units operating on radio standby. Verdugo continues dispatching normally.
<b>Level-B</b>	High volume of incidents/calls. All calls may be downgraded, regardless of nature/type of incident. Verdugo continues dispatching. EOC may be activated.
<b>Level-C</b>	Overwhelming volume - all responses are given by Verdugo to the B.C. and resources assigned are then determined by B.C. – i.e., Structural damage, collapse, victims trapped, etc. – EOC’s are likely activated.
<b>Level-D</b>	Verdugo unable to communicate and/or receive calls – EOC activated – 1 Engine and 1 B.C. are to respond to the local PSAP Law Enforcement communications center to receive and subsequently dispatch calls.

**Note: Verdugo may institute Automatic Dispatch Mode for Level B & C. Meaning, very limited or NO voice traffic will be heard – only data will be transmitted across the MCT as method of dispatch. Radio discipline (silence) applies; use voice radio sparingly and only as needed!**

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**Unified Response is suspended; all requests for additional resources by an Agency (after exhausting their own resources) will be considered as Mutual-Aid from within Area C. If Verdugo is unable to supply from within Area C, then Region I (LA County Fire) will be contacted for the need. Each B.C. retains operational control of their own Agency's resources.**

### Verdugo Personnel

1. When an earthquake is felt at Verdugo, Verdugo will create an incident using the @EQUAKE command in CAD. This incident requires documenting all general information about the radio system/phone system/CAD system/ agency status/and other event information into the Incident History. (ROUTE/ALCL/this info to FS printer or B.C. MCT as needed)
2. The following will be a Simulcast radio transmission on all RED Talkgroups and Conventional Channels:  
**"All units suspend your radio traffic & standby for emergency traffic"**
3. All fire stations are alerted using ICIS Trunked Alerting: "All Verdugo FS" and B.C.'s are alerted using the "All Battalions" button
4. Emergency Warble Alert shall be activated
5. A Verbal broadcast will be made by Verdugo with the following message repeated twice and followed by "Verdugo Clear"  
**"Earthquake Emergency Mode has been activated. [Include Earthquake location and magnitude if available] The following TAC Channels are assigned: Incident dispatch & communication = RED1 / BC/Cmd to Verdugo = RED2 / BRK = RED3 / GLN = RED4 / PAS = RED5 / ARC & SMD = RED6 / SGB & SNM & SPS = RED7 / MPK & ALH = RED8 / MRV = RED12 / MTB = RED15"**
6. Verdugo shall document in the EQUAKE incident, each cities Level of Operation and the time district checks are completed
7. The Earthquake Notification paging group is activated; Icon on workstation desktop or use notification software (FCSS)
8. The Verdugo internal Earthquake/Emergency Mode Check-Off Sheet is initiated to capture operational capabilities

### Field Users

1. All system users shall be assigned to a Talkgroup or Conventional channel using the Primary Radio Plan; B.C.s conduct roll call
2. **All system users shall be in "Radio Standby" until further notice and apparatus shall be placed as AOR using their MCT**
3. RED1 remains as Dispatch only – field users must monitor RED1 and their assigned channel and MCTs for their incidents. Users on Conventional Channels will need to use 2 radios – 1 for assigned conventional channel, 1 for monitoring RED1 (users cannot scan across both conventional & trunked at the same time). Monitoring also requires use of two radios.
4. If Verdugo institutes Automatic Dispatch Mode – an announcement shall be Simulcast across all Talkgroups/Channels. Limited or NO voice traffic will be heard. Only data will be transmitted across the MCT as method of dispatch. Radio discipline (silence) applies; use voice radio sparingly and only as needed.
5. RED2 becomes a Command Channel for in/outbound voice radio traffic between Verdugo and B.C.'s only.
6. Verdugo does not monitor any Talkgroups other than RED1 and RED2.
7. Dependent on Levels of Operation below: Incidents may be entered for dispatch and held until infrastructure checks and roll calls are complete and authorization is received from agency B.C. to begin dispatching. Incident response assignments may be downgraded/modified as directed by incident volume and/or agency B.C.

### Operational Levels

**LEVEL A:** Few calls or impacts to operations at Verdugo; this shall be broadcast across all channels. Verdugo assigns normal CAD recommendations with units in either Radio Standby or in Automatic Dispatch Mode.

**LEVEL B:** Verdugo is receiving a **marked and sustained increase in calls having impact on operations**; this shall be broadcast across all channels. Modified response levels apply – i.e., single Engine response on all Fire Calls unless identified as a working fire. Medical calls may be downgraded using discretion as to nature/severity of incident. Verdugo continues with assigning resources.

**LEVEL C:** Verdugo is overwhelmed with calls; this shall be broadcast on all channels. Response assignments and dispatches are relayed by voice radio or data system to the B.C.; Each B.C. needs to advise Verdugo of actual units assigned for documentation purposes.

**LEVEL D:** When Verdugo is unable to occupy the Center or receive phone calls or manage communications and dispatch effectively. Each PSAP is contacted by Verdugo and advised to halt transfer of all phone calls. Each B.C. and one Fire Engine shall be dispatched to respond to their city's LAW PSAP to receive calls within their agency, dispatching their own resources as appropriate.

**Battalion Chief's: Upon initial check of fire station infrastructure, apparatus, and personnel, the B.C. shall make contact with Verdugo on RED2 and report their Operational Level as described above.** This information will be given to the FCSS to support management of available resources within the Verdugo system. **De-escalation requires each B.C. to advise Verdugo on RED2 once all stations have checked in and reported the status of their districts.** Only when ALL agencies within the Verdugo system have reported that district checks are complete and at LEVEL A, shall mode(s) of operation be either canceled or modified. Verdugo staff will Simulcast on all channels, any operational changes as they occur.

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