AREA C CICCS COMMITTEE
REMS AVAILABILITY & DEPLOYMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES (6/2020)

Purpose
This policy outlines the response of REMS Qualified Personnel ordered by an incident to provide rescue capability on the fire-line. This policy identifies any required training, certifications and equipment to be used by REMS personnel in compliance with the California FIRESCOPE Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS), ICS-223-12 document. It also describes the processes used during deployment and the related responsibilities while assigned, deployment methods, as well as demobilization.

Authority
This document reflects the standards established by California FIRESCOPE. Personnel may be assigned to incidents that are managed by agencies that adhere to NWCG Standards for Medical Units. Personnel assigned to such incidents should be familiar with the NWCG Standards document.

Policy
This policy was developed with the intent to provide a clear description of the role, duties and equipment pertinent to the position of the Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS). The Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) is a pre-staged rescue team assigned to a wildland fire to provide firefighters a safe, effective and efficient method of egress off the fire-line in the event of injury or illness incurred during firefighting operations.

Wildland firefighting is an inherently dangerous profession. While safety is the primary concern during all operations, unintended incidents do occur which result in injury or illness to firefighters. It is the intent of the REMS to provide firefighters who are unable to egress under their own power, a safe and secure transport off the fire-line while simultaneously receiving the appropriate medical attention.

While REMS does not intend to replace ground or air transport, ideal conditions may not exist due to a number of circumstances such as heavy smoke inversion, no roads, or equipment malfunctions. REMS provides incident managers another option to reach incapacitated firefighters, with fully equipped resources, prepared to package and transport injured or ill personnel off the fire-line to the appropriate medical care unit. While this position manual recommends minimum staffing levels of the REMS, it is not intended to exclude the potential need to augment staffing levels based on the complexity of the rescue.

1. **Responsibilities & Procedures**
   Check in and obtain briefing from the Logistics Section Chief or the Medical Unit Leader, if established. The briefing should provide the following:
   a. Current incident situation
   b. Review the Medical Plan (ICS Form 206) and "Incident within an Incident" Plan
   c. Obtain briefing from MEDL to include expectations, assignments, hazards,

communications plans and record keeping.

d. Obtain proper communications equipment including portable radios, frequencies, GPS, cell and/or satellite phone.

e. Anticipate needs and ensure equipment needs as necessary:

f. Incident base assignments

g. Fire-line assignments

h. Spike camp assignments

i. Establish crew manifest and maintain crew time reports.

j. Establish equipment manifest.

k. Conduct a crew briefing to include establishing a crew leader and assigning team positions.

l. Establish crew expectations and performance objectives.

m. Line out crew member responsibilities and positions.

n. Conduct initial training with all assigned resources.

o. Establish team readiness

p. Recon assignment area

q. Train during assignments

r. Equipment readiness

s. Configure equipment

t. Configure vehicle

u. Resupply expended materials prior to next operational period.

v. Secure operations and demobilize as outlined in the Demobilization Checkout (ICS Form 221).

w. Maintain a Unit/Activity Log (ICS Form 214)

2. **Position Qualifications**

a. LARRO (Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational)

b. Rescue Systems 1

c. Rope Rescue Technician or NFPA 1670 Equivalent (Advanced Rope)

d. Basic GPS Class (Certificate or Qualifying Letter from Fire Chief)

e. RT-130(Current Certification)

f. S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior

g. S-290 (Classroom Based)

Highly desirable:

a. Fireline EMT (FEMT)

b. Fireline Medic (FEMP)

c. S-270 Basic Air Operations

d. Prior experience as Single Resource/Overhead position

3. **Staffing**

   Minimum staffing consists of four technical specialists (THSP) who are also REMS qualified. One member *must* be Single Resource Boss qualified and will act as the REMS Boss.

   a. The four-person module shall not be split-up. They may be paired up with an Engine crew (preferably a Type 3) or hand crew to assist the REMS with equipment deployment and rope system implementation.

   b. Training with the assigned resource will be part of their daily routine.

   c. A hand crew may be assigned to assist with patient movement and clearing an egress route.

   d. When ordered, the REMS will come with all equipment identified in the ICS 223-12 Standard Equipment List (SEL).

4. STANDARD EQUIPMENT LIST (2018)

- ☐ 4-person 4WD pickup truck or equivalent
- ☐ 2- 200' ropes (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- ☐ 2- 300' ropes (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- ☐ 2- 150' ropes [NFPA 1983 Technical, 9.5mm (3/8") to 12.5mm (1/2'")]
- ☐ 4- Descent control device (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- ☐ 22- Carabiners (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- ☐ 4- Small or mini prusik minding pulley (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- ☐ 2- Small or mini prusik minding double pulley (NFPA 1983 Technical or Generaluse)
- ☐ Gathering plate or ring (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- ☐ 16- Prusik (8- short, 8 long)
- ☐ 12 - 20' webbing
- ☐ 8- 12' webbing
- ☐ 8- 5' webbing
- ☐ 1 – Edge protection kit
- ☐ Hardware bag/pack
- ☐ 1 - Multi-piece basket stretcher with hoist pre-rig
- ☐ 1-Sked® or Collapsible Litter
- ☐ Backboard
- ☐ 5-Pickets
- ☐ 1 – Sledge Hammer
- ☐ Bicycle pump or Fix-a-flat
- ☐ Tire plugs
- ☐ Up to 4 gear packs for the above listed gear.
- ☐ Multi-piece basket stretcher with hoistpre-rig
- ☐ Litter wheel
- ☐ Knee and lumbar padding
- ☐ Leg splint with fiber tape and trauma shears
- ☐ Sleeping bag (patient padding)
- ☐ Fire shelter (for patient)
- ☐ GPS Device
- ☐ Flagging
- ☐ Basic First Aid Kit
- ☐ 4-Class II or III harnesses (agency specific requirement)

The equipment listed below are optional items.

- ☐ Glow sticks
- ☐ Signal mirror
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Headlamps
- ☐ Highlift Jack
- ☐ Chainsaw

Hike-In Rescue Cache Recommendations

The following is designed to outfit REMS personnel with the required inventory to perform a Remote Rescue when terrain and/or access will NOT permit the use of a vehicle to transport REMS personnel and equipment to a rescue site. This equipment cache was formulated to be multifunctional and minimize the weight carried by REMS personnel due to the potential for traversing long distances and steep terrain to access and complete a REMS mission.

☐ 2- 150' ropes [NFPA 1983 Technical, 9.5mm (3/8") to 12.5mm (1/2'")]
☐ 12- Carabiners (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
☐ 4- Small or mini prusik minding pulley (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
☐ 2- Small or mini prusik minding double pulley (NFPA 1983 Technical or Generaluse)
☐ 8- Prusik (4- short, 4 long)
☐ 2- Descent control device (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
☐ 6 - 20' webbing
☐ 4- 12' webbing
☐ 4- 5' webbing
☐ Gathering plate or ring (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
☐ Up to 4 gear packs for the above listed gear.
☐ Multi-piece basket stretcher with hoistpre-rig
☐ Litter wheel
☐ Backboard
☐ Knee and lumbar padding
☐ Leg splint with fiber tape and trauma shears
☐ Sleeping bag (patient padding)
☐ Fire shelter (for patient)
☐ GPS
☐ Flagging
☐ Basic First Aid Kit
☐ 4-Class II or III harnesses (agency specific requirement)
☐ Bicycle pump of Fix-a-flat
☐ Tire plug

Vehicle Based Rescue Cache Recommendation

The following is designed to outfit REMS personnel with the required inventory to perform a Vehicle Based Rescue when terrain and/or access WILL permit the use of a vehicle to transport REMS personnel and equipment to a rescue site. This equipment cache was formulated to be multifunctional, provide maximum flexibility and be part of the assigned inventory.
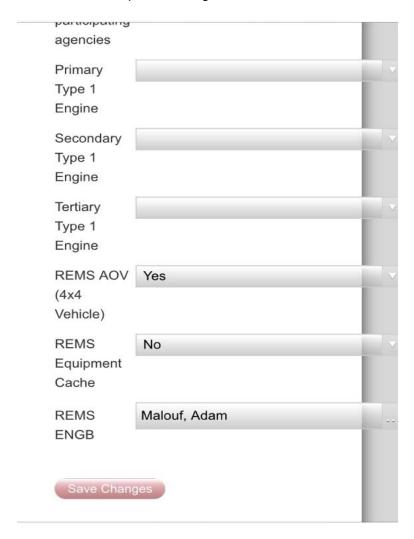
- ☐   4-person 4WD pickup truck or equivalent
- ☐   2- 200' ropes (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- ☐   2- 300' ropes (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- ☐   2- Descent control device (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- ☐   10- Carabiners (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- ☐   8- Prusik (4- short, 4 long)
- ☐   6 - 20' webbing
- ☐   4- 12' webbing
- ☐   4- 5' webbing
- ☐   1 – Edge protection kit
- ☐   Hardware bag/pack
- ☐   1-Sked or Collapsible Litter
- ☐   5-Pickets
- ☐   1 – Sledge Hammer

5. Assignment Duration

REMS personnel shall have an expectation of assignment durations with a minimum of 14 days and potentially a maximum of 21 days.

6. Daily Sign-Up /Availability

Three columns can be found in the Daily Strike Team Sign-up to answer availability by agency of Agency Owned Vehicle (AOV) , available REMS Equipment Cache, and available REMS qualified Single Resource Bosses.

a. Each agency may answer YES or NO if they have an available Agency Owned Vehicle (AOV) with minimum 4 X 4 capabilities for a REMS assignment.

b. Each agency may answer YES or NO if they have an available REMS equipment cache. It is the agency's responsibility to ensure the cache is maintained and has all necessary equipment to respond.

c. Available REMS qualified Single Resource Bosses can sign up showing daily availability.

d. The daily signup/availability will be used to pre-plan team availability and needs for rental vehicles.

7. **Qualified REMS Personnel**
   All CICCS personnel qualified as REMS are categorized as OVERHEAD in IROC, and will be considered for response on a rotational basis. The basis uses the Verdugo CICCS database which displays to Verdugo Staff the position of qualified REMS personnel in order of last date of REMS deployment (based on their date of last assignment); those having the oldest date for a REMS response shall be considered first for a new REMS response.

   a. Only qualified/available REMS personnel may be used to fulfill a request.

8. **REMS Module**
   The REMS Module is currently listed in the OVERHEAD category for IROC. It should have its status set to AVAILABLE unless otherwise directed. It is the only method that REGION 1 has to determine the availability of a REMS response from within Area C.

9. **REMS Team Deployments**
   A REMS team deployment which includes an AOV 4 X 4, ***shall always include at least one, same-agency REMS qualified personnel on the REMS response***.

   a. Upon request for REMS, Verdugo will request approval from incident to add one additional vehicle to request (to total 2).

   b. Verdugo will send an "all-text" notification to REMS qualified personnel. Available personnel will be instructed to respond with availability to a designated person within 20 minutes. Contact information will be included. The designee will report to Verdugo with team availability for the request.

      REMS PAGE EXAMPLE:
      "REG1 is polling for REMS, for the <inc name>, in <general location, city>. Need by <date & time>. <Include finance codes & any approvals/get second veh approved?>. If you're avail, get approval from your line BC, then contact <avail ENGB & phone #> with availability. He will contact VFCC with available members & we will go by CICCS list for rotation."

   c. Dependent on the availability of an AOV and related equipment cache and recommended deployment history found in the CICCS database, a REMS team may be established with all personnel from a single Area C agency **OR** interagency teams may be formed to fill the request.

      i. If there are no same-agency REMS qualified personnel available to respond, then the respective available AOV 4 X 4 vehicle shall not

be used for a REMS response

    ii. REMS qualified personnel may be skipped on the rotational list to fulfill the "at least one, same-agency REMS qualified personnel" requirement to respond with an AOV.

    iii. A qualified member **WILL NOT** utilize equipment caches from an agency other than their own. A member of the agency with the equipment cache must be a part of the deployed team to use their own equipment cache.

    iv. REMS qualified personnel may be skipped on the rotational list to fulfill the "at least one, same-agency REMS qualified personnel" requirement to respond with a cache (SEL).

d. **Incident Authorized 4 x 4 Rental**: If a 4 X 4 rental is authorized concurrent with available AOV 4 X 4's, the REMS response shall solely be based on the OVERHEAD rotation list (as listed in item 2), e.g., if the next available REMS qualified personnel(s) do not have a same-agency AOV, they shall be deployed via a 4 X 4 rental.

10. **Info will then be included in INFO/SYS:**

...ter ...der	Engine Type 3	REMS AOV (4x4 Vehicle)	REMS Equipment Cache	REMS ENGB
		No	No	
		No	No	Sutton, Jacob
		No	No	
		No	No	
		No	No	
		No	No	
		No	No	
		Yes	Yes	Sepulveda, Robert
		No	No	