

AREA C CICC'S 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 FIRESOPE Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS), ICS-223 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 FIRESOPE. 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 ICS position manual 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 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 fireline 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 fireline 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 fireline 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.

FIRESOPE, which has broad representation from the California Fire Service created this manual.

This document contains information relative to the Incident Command System (ICS) component of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This is the same Incident Command System developed by FIRESOPE.

This document reflects the standards established by FIRESOPE and the region 1, Area C CICC'S Committee. A description of the REMS

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

position and how it fits within the Logistics Section can be found at ICS 420-1 Field Operations, Guide, Chapter 10.

1. Responsibilities & Procedures

The major responsibilities of the REMS are stated below.

- a. Check in and obtain briefing from the Logistics Section Chief or the Medical Unit Leader, if established. The briefing should provide the following:
 1. Current incident situation
 2. Review the Medical Plan (ICS Form 206) and "Incident within an Incident" Plan
 3. Incident communications channels
- b. Anticipate needs and ensure equipment needs as necessary:
 1. Incident base assignments
 2. Fireline assignments
 3. Spike camp assignments
- c. Resupply expended materials when necessary.
- d. Secure operations and demobilize as outlined in the Demobilization Checkout (ICS Form 221).
- e. Maintain a Unit/Activity Log (ICS Form 214).

2. Position Qualifications (AREA C)

- a. Rope Rescue Technician or NFPA 1670 Equivalent (Advanced Rope)
- b. Basic GPS Class or Technical Search Specialist (TSS), or letter from Fire Chief confirming Basic GPS/Land Navigation training.
- c. RT-130 (Current Certification)
- d. S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- e. 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

AREA C CICC'S COMMITTEE
REMS AVAILABILITY & DEPLOYMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES (6/2020)

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 (2022) Minimum Equipment List (MEL).

4. Qualified REMS Personnel

All CICC'S 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 CICC'S 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.

5. 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.

6. REMS Team Deployments

A REMS team deployment which includes AOV 4 X 4's (2), **shall always include at least one, same-agency REMS qualified personnel on the REMS response.**

- a. Verdugo will send an "all-text" to qualified REMS Single Resource Bosses to request availability of a team leader.
 - i. If multiple REMS qualified single resource bosses are available, Verdugo will utilize the rotation list to assign the team leader based on last deployment date.

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

- 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. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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 (MEL).
- iv. Any agency providing a vehicle or cache for the team will have the option to send **two** personnel regardless of the rotation list.
- v. Regardless of REMS team type requested, Verdugo will only deploy personnel qualified to AREA C REMS requirements.