

Emergency Operations

Book:	3 Emergency Operations
Chapter	III Command Operations
Subject	5 Incident Rehabilitation
Code	3-III-5
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5.01 Purpose

To establish a policy of Personnel Rehabilitation (Rehab) so that company integrity, accountability, health and safety are ensured. To define the desired Rehabilitation System and describe specific responsibilities of those individuals vital to its proper function.

5.02 Policy

- a. Personnel Rehabilitation will be utilized to evaluate and assist personnel who may be suffering from the effects of sustained physical exertion during emergency operations.
- b. Rehab will provide a specific area where personnel will receive:
 - Revitalization –rest, rehydration, etc.
 - Treatment for injuries
 - Monitoring of physical condition
- c. This policy is in no way intended to diminish fire attack aggressiveness. The intent is to establish a reasonable procedure to lessen the risk of injury resulting from extended emergency operations under adverse conditions. An effective Rehab approach should allow companies to be replaced in tactical positions and rotated to Rehab. After going through the Rehab process, in most cases, companies can be reassigned to tactical positions or a resource pool.
- d. Consideration of establishing Rehab should be under the following emergency conditions:
 - Where a moderate to long working time is envisioned
 - Where personnel are operating under adverse temperature or weather conditions.
 - Where a moderate to large manpower force is indicated.
 - Any other incident where the Incident Commander (IC) deems necessary.

5.03 Procedure

a. Rehab Team

Incident Command (IC) shall establish a Rehab Team for monitoring of crews when any or all of the considerations in section 5.02 d. are met.

The Rehab Team shall consist of the following members at a minimum:

1. A designated Rehab Officer.
2. An ALS crew
3. Any additional assistance requested by the Rehab Officer.

b. Rehab Site Location

1. Unless the IC designates a site the assigned Rehab Officer will survey the area, select a suitable site, and advise IC. The location of the Rehab site will be announced over the radio.
2. The Rehab site should be located outside the operational area, where breathing apparatus and protective clothing may be safely removed. Consideration should be given to wind direction, hazard zones, noise levels, and fire perimeters. The area chosen should allow access for medic units or any other equipment that may be needed in the Rehab area, when feasible.

c. Stress and/or Fatigue Monitoring

1. It is the responsibility of every company officer to continually monitor the condition of all crewmembers for signs of stress or fatigue. When these conditions are noted, the company officer shall request reassignment of the crew to Rehab. When assigned, the company officer and the entire crew will report to the Rehab Officer. It is the responsibility of the company officer to keep the crew together in Rehab.
2. The Rehab Team shall record the arrival time of each crew into Rehab on the appropriate form. The Rehab Team shall attempt to obtain a base line set of vital signs on each crewmember and a follow up set, at timed intervals as necessary to establish the condition of all crewmembers. The information obtained shall be recorded on the Rehab Form and the form shall be turned over to the IC at the termination of the incident.
3. The Rehab Officer will update the IC throughout the operation, with pertinent information including the identity of companies in Rehab, their availability for reassignment, the status of any injured personnel. When all crewmembers are refreshed, rested, hydrated, and medically cleared, and all SCBA's have been serviced, the company officer will report to the Rehab Officer as available for reassignment. The rehab Officer will release companies to the IC for reassignment or to the Resource Pool.

d. Reporting To Rehab

1. All members reporting to Rehab should arrive as FULL CREWS to ensure company integrity. These companies will report to the Rehab Officer, where they will be assessed by a member of the rehab team, and logged in on the Rehab report.
2. Companies reporting to rehab will use the accountability system.
3. The Rehab Officer is responsible for placing crews on a list for reassignment as soon as they are able to actively participate in further operations.

e. Medic Crew Assigned to Rehab

1. The ALS Crew(s) assigned to Rehab are to provide medical evaluations and treatment for injuries or fatigue. They will advise the Rehab Officer of personnel requiring transportation to a medical facility, or those who have recovered adequately to join their crew for reassignment.
2. In the event that a member or members of a crew require prolonged rehabilitation, the Rehab Officer shall advise and coordinate with IC the assembling of partial crews to form full crews for reassignment.