

CHAPTER - EMERGENCY ASSIGNMENTS

6560

(No.21 May 2016)

FIRE CREWS AND FIRE PROTECTION

6560.1

(No.21 May 2016)

Responsibility

All

CAL FIRE has a goal of containing 95 percent of all wildfires (within CAL FIRE's protection jurisdiction) at 10 acres or less. One means of accomplishing this is an "aggressive initial attack" by ground and air units and by rapid and continuing reinforcement of first attack forces. Fire crews are a major resource in achieving this goal, and those of protecting life, resources, and property.

FIRE CREW UTILIZATION

6560.2

(No.21 May 2016)

Responsibility

All

Conservation camp fire crews assist initial attack engine crews, bulldozers, and air attack, and should be part of a preplanned initial attack dispatch. They are used for direct attack, line construction, mop-up, patrol, hose-lay deployment, air attack support, and other related operations.

Moving fire crews around the state, during emergencies, presents several problems for both CAL FIRE and CDCR staff. Among those problems would be: feeding, restroom stops, communications, routing and destinations, diversions, driver fatigue, and mechanical difficulties.

Use of CAL FIRE Conservation Camp crews is confined to the State of California and up to 25 air miles into the State of Nevada ([See Sections starting with 6564](#)).

During the more active portions of fire season, conservation camp forces will be assigned projects to strategically locate the crews. This provides for maximum reinforcement value.

Use of CAL FIRE Conservation Camp fire crews on assignments requiring multiple continuous shift tactics (coyote tactics) is not authorized due to logistic and custodial concerns. However, spiking, or establishing a camp close to a remote incident operational area, may be accommodated if logistic and custodial concerns of the CDCR Agency Representative can be addressed.

FIRE CREW TACTICAL UNITS

6560.3

(No.21 May 2016)

Responsibility

All

The following definitions reflect the organization of CAL FIRE's fire crew resources:

Fire Crew	CAL FIRE's single resource hand crew is the FIRE CREW , consisting of a minimum of twelve (12) fire crew firefighters and a qualified (Type I) Fire Crew Captain. CDCR personnel are considered support staff and are not included in the firefighter count. Crews with fewer than twelve firefighters are used for initial attack however the Incident Commander will be notified of the fire crew's short staffing on its response.
Crew Strike Team	CAL FIRE's basic multiple fire crew tactical unit is the CREW STRIKE TEAM , consisting of a minimum of two (2) fire crews and a qualified strike team leader, providing a minimum total count of thirty (30) including the Fire Crew Captains and the Strike Team Leader. The Strike Team Leader must be equipped with a separate vehicle and radio communications sufficient to meet routine needs and the requirements of the incident radio communication plan.
Crew Task Force	The CREW Task Force is the same as a Crew Strike team with the exception of the minimum total count. The Crew Task Force will consist of fewer than thirty (30) total personnel including the Fire Crew Captains and the Task Force Leader. All other criteria remain the same.
Type I Crews	Type I Crews are initial attack hand crews (Fire Crews). There are no use restrictions, unless stated by the crew supervisor. Type I crews are organized as fire crews, fully equipped, self-contained, and mobile. Type I crews must be able to depart the work site, or designated base, so they arrive at the incident within 12 hours of dispatch, or to meet a specified mobilization time frame.

Type II Crews

Type II Crews are not initial attack crews. There are no use restrictions, unless stated by the crew supervisor.

Support Crews

Support Crews are not fire crews. Support crews can be used for incident base support, mobilization/demobilization center support, etc. Offender support crews are available from various CDCR institutions around the state. These support crews can be activated by contacting CCC, SCC or through CDCR's Central Office AOD. Camp support crews can be made up of in-camp offenders and can be detailed through normal dispatch channels to support incident activities. Kitchen crews are a specialized type of support crew that are also mobilized through normal CAL FIRE channels. Support crews are not supervised by fire- going personnel.

DISPATCH CONFIGURATION FOR FIRE CREWS**6560.4**

(No.21 May 2016)

Responsibility**Emergency Command Centers**

The following are considerations and criteria for the response of fire crews. In strike team and task force configurations a leader is automatically assigned.

CAL FIRE fire crews may only be dispatched as single resources to incidents: (1) within the fire crew's home unit regardless of distance from their assigned camp, (2) to CAL FIRE incidents in other than the crews home unit that are within two hours or less of their assigned camps, or (3) to other agency incidents within their home unit, provided an agency representative is assigned.

For all multiple crew requests to the same incident, the preferred configuration for the response is as a strike team or task force. All Command Centers will dispatch fire crews in these configurations or reconfigure them as necessary to meet the intent of this policy. All levels of command have the authority to reconfigure single resource requests within CAL FIRE's jurisdiction.

When two or more crews are dispatched, or single resources are subsequently dispatched, to the same incident that is: (1) within their home unit and more than two hours driving time from their assigned camp or (2) to CAL FIRE incidents in other than the crew's home unit that are within two hours or less of their assigned camps, Strike Teams, or Task Forces should be formed when possible.

Request(s) for crew(s): (1) to the incident of another agency or (2) to a CAL FIRE incident in other than a crew's home unit that is more than two hours from their assigned camp, will be filled utilizing a strike team or task force configuration. For all CAL FIRE fire crew responses in a strike team or task force configuration, a leader will be automatically assigned.

This policy does not override the ability of an incident or protective unit to temporarily disband a strike team or task force to meet local strategic or tactical needs. However, these resources will be reformed at the incident or protective unit to their original configuration prior to their release or reassignment.

Note: Crew strike teams and task forces should be composed of crews from the same agency and of the same gender, if at all possible

Note: For more detailed information concerning criteria for dispatching fire crews see: CAL FIRE Command and Control Procedures Handbook.

FIRE CREW AVAILABILITY

6560.5

(No.21 May 2016)

Responsibility

Region Chief
Unit Chief

To assure that sufficient fire crew resources are available statewide and that proper use of the emergency fund is maintained, minimum staffing of fire crews at CAL FIRE/CDCR camps on evenings and weekends during the peak staffing period will normally be as follows:

Crews Assigned	Crews to Cover
3	2
4	2
5	2
6 and above	3

During normal work hours, crews will respond within 10 minutes of dispatch, plus the time required to reach the CCV/ECT from the work project. During non-work hours, designated standby crews will normally respond within 60 minutes of dispatch. The CAL FIRE Unit Chief may require up to two Fire Crew Captains to remain on duty for emergency dispatch at the camp until aircraft cutoff time ("Hot Crew" coverage). Fire Crew Captains living close enough to the camp to respond with the crew within 30 minutes of the call will be allowed to perform this on-duty time at home.

Response time for Fire Crew Captains, other than those covering a “Hot Crew”, shall be 60 minutes from the time of the call to departure of the crew. When a select-call staffing pattern for crews is in effect, the standby response time is 30 minutes from the time of the call to departure of the crew. Fire conditions may dictate that some or all standby be done at camp. If a camp has no facilities in which to perform the night standby requirement, then other arrangements may be authorized by the unit which provide that the fire crews respond with a minimum amount of delay.

Normally, there are enough fire captains on duty each day to meet the minimum staffing coverage requirements except for some evenings. On those evenings or other times when minimum staffing is not available, the region or unit, based on fire conditions, is authorized to either staff the minimum number of fire crews by assigning an order number for coverage or reduce the minimum coverage. If initial standby crew(s) are dispatched, fire crew captains already on standby/on-call status will be used first to staff next out crew(s), if needed.

When critical fire weather or other emergency conditions exist or are predicted, the CAL FIRE region or unit manager may modify the crew availability to increase the number of crews available for immediate dispatch. See [Procedure 203](#), Command and Control Procedures, Handbook 8100, for details. When requested by CAL FIRE, CDCR will provide adequate staff coverage in camp for the specified period. Any CDCR personnel costs incurred at the request of CAL FIRE will be charged to the CAL FIRE incident. (See Exhibit, [Special Staffing Patterns](#).)

If, after a crew dispatch, the minimum staffing is still necessary due to ongoing fire activity, fire weather, or commitment of resources, additional availability of crews can be authorized by region using a region generated order number.

The use of the emergency fund is appropriate to meet the minimum staffing during evening hours and weekend coverage when normally scheduled standby fire crews have been dispatched to an emergency incident. The emergency fund is not appropriate to meet minimum staffing because of scheduled vacation, CTO and holiday usage, sick leave, or planned vacancies. Reference Section [3821.9\(g\)](#) on Emergency Fund policy in the Incident Fiscal Management Handbook.

Note: Order and request numbers are required for Emergency Fund use.

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST CREWS

6560.6

(No.21 May 2016)

Responsibility

Technical Specialist Crews

While the CAL FIRE technical specialist crews are assigned to the planning section chief as an advisor in the use of crews, the position also has the responsibility of maintaining a close working relationship with the CDCR Agency Representative and informing appropriate incident command staff of necessary operational and procedural considerations in dealing with incarcerated individuals (see Exhibit, [Technical Specialist Crews](#)). This would include, but is not limited to;

1. Crew utilization, tactics, limitations, and expectations
2. Separation and logistic needs of sleeping areas
3. Meal arrangements
4. Grouping of crews on line assignments to facilitate custodial needs and to maximize production
5. The physical condition of CAL FIRE staff, CDCR staff and members of each crew
6. Any special needs or capabilities of the individual crews

The Technical Specialist Crews and/or the CDCR Agency Representative will advise the Incident Commander when it would be cost effective to order a CDCR Medical Emergency Response Team.

For additional guidelines relative to providing for fire crews in the incident base/camp environment, refer to Chapter 6570 (Emergency Incident Support).

The CAL FIRE technical specialist crews will also provide technical assistance to any agency providing fire crews to the incident if requested by that agency.

FORMS AND/OR FORMS SAMPLES: RETURN TO CAL FIRE LIBRARY HOME PAGE FOR FORMS/FORMS SAMPLES SITE LINK.

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