

RELIEF OF INCIDENT-ASSIGNED PERSONNEL

7757

(No. 21 March 1999)

Extended periods of maximum effort may reduce a fire suppression force's capability to a level which would adversely affect both safety and productivity. This situation may be offset through the assignment of rest and relaxation (R&R) periods or through assignment relief.

REST AND RELAXATION (R&R)

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Rest and relaxation is assigned by an incident commander to ensure a safe and productive incident work force. Personnel on R&R are temporarily assigned to a short-term situation which will allow them to rest and regain their previous productivity level. R&R is used when the normal off-shift period does not provide sufficient recuperation of an individual's ability to perform at the optimum level. Personnel on R&R assignments remain assigned to the incident and are not subject to reassignment. R&R may take place at or away from the incident area.

The following rules apply to R&R:

1. The determination that a need for R&R exists rests completely with the incident commander.
2. Personnel on R&R assignment may be relocated to an off-incident site but remain assigned to the incident.
3. Employees remain on full pay status and are subject to all department rules and regulations.

ASSIGNMENT RELIEF

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The term "assignment relief" is applied to replacement of an individual or crew from an incident. Released personnel will normally be returned to their home unit to be placed in an assignment of lesser demand than full-time emergency incident work (regular duty assignment) or to take assigned time off duty.

The following rules apply to assignment relief:

1. Assignment relief should take place after an individual has been out of his or her home unit for fourteen (14) consecutive days working on emergency assignments, or sooner if working conditions are unusually arduous, either physically or mentally. It is the responsibility of the crew or strike team leader to make the IC aware of the need for relief ahead of time.

2. Relief may be postponed if the availability of qualified replacements seriously jeopardizes the initial attack capability of the unit providing the relief.
3. It is the responsibility of the using unit to request assignment relief. Relief may or may not be provided by the original sending unit, depending on circumstances at the time.
4. The unit providing the relief is responsible for providing the receiving unit with a qualified replacement for each relieved individual.
5. The receiving unit/incident will work to ensure a timely transfer of relieved and relieving personnel.
6. Relieved personnel will not be held on incidents but may be routed through a demobilization center during release to ensure equipment and personnel safety, or to facilitate travel arrangements.
7. Personnel on assignment relief status are not subject to reassignment from a demobilization center without home unit concurrence.
8. Members of pre-incident established Incident Management Teams may be excluded from assignment relief status when such relief would disrupt the function of the team.
9. All relief orders will be processed through regular ECC ordering channels.
10. Out-of-state incidents may require extension or modification of relief schedules, depending on specific circumstances. The Assistant Deputy Director for Fire Protection will determine needed changes.
11. All assignments associated with Federal Military Crews will be on a voluntary basis. All personnel assigned to the Federal Military Crews should be prepared for a thirty-five-day (35) commitment without assignment relief. Within the commitment period, personnel assigned should expect to receive at least one R&R period.

DEMOBILIZATION CENTER

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Demobilization centers may be established at off-incident locations to facilitate the release or reassignment of a large number of resources. Personnel may be temporarily located at a demobilization center to determine:

1. Any reassignment needs.
2. The physical condition of personnel.
3. The condition of mobile equipment.
4. The condition of tools and other equipment.

Personnel and equipment leaving a demobilization center should be fully ready to respond to a new emergency incident.

The issue of demobilization and demobilization centers are discussed in greater detail in [Section 7770](#).

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