



Incident Command System  
Position Manual

RAPID EXTRACTION MODULE SUPPORT  
(REMS)

ICS-223-12

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FIRESCOPE  
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## INTRODUCTION

This position task 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.

FIRESCOPE, 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 FIRESCOPE.

This document reflects the standards established by FIRESCOPE. A description of the REMS position and how it fits within the Logistics Section can be found at [ICS 420-1 Field Operations Guide](#) , Chapter 10.

## CHECKLIST

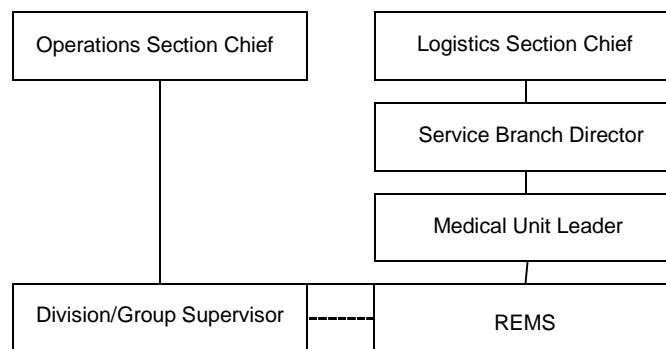
- Obtain briefing from MEDL
  - Expectations and Assignments
  - Hazards
  - Communications plans
  - Record keeping
- Obtain proper Communications Equipment
  - Portable radios and incident frequencies
  - Cell phone or Satellite phone numbers
- Attend daily briefing
  - Obtain daily IAP including communications plan
  - Ensure radios are cloned to current communications plan
  - Pay particular attention to whether or not air resources will be available
  - Obtain large operational maps including transportation system
- Conduct a crew briefing
- Establish crew manifest
  - List all crew members assigned to REMS for record keeping
  - Maintain crew time reports
- Establish equipment manifest
  - Rescue cache
  - Minimum PPE (line-pack/fire shelter)
- Provide crew and equipment information to complete flight manifest
  - Ensure weight of crew/equipment meet flight requirements
  - Crew may require separate flights depending on type of aircraft, available seats and maximum load capacities
  - Establish priority order of crew members for flights
  - Establish equipment priority list for flights
- Establish crew expectations and performance objectives
- Line out crew member responsibilities and positions
  - Module Leader
  - Riggers
  - Rescuer / litter team leader / litter team member
- Review Rope Rescue Operations
- Notify MEDL that team is ready for deployment

- Obtain briefing from fireline supervisor
- Recon assignment area
- Determine access routes to drop points in the operational area
- Develop rescue plans in conjunction with fireline supervisor and brief operational resources/personnel on REMS rescue plans, capabilities, required logistical support, staging location and safety protocols
- Maintain awareness of where crews are working and if possible crew assignments
- Maintain a Unit/Activity Log (ICS Form 214).

## ORGANIZATION

Upon arrival on an incident, REMS initially reports to the Medical Unit Leader (MEDL). Once assigned to a Division, Group, or Branch the REMS will work under the direction of an assigned Fireline Supervisor. REMS personnel may remain mobile or have to hike into the intended location with litter basket and equipment. Once with the patient, REMS personnel should get a report on the patient's condition, the environment, available resources and implement an effective plan of egress to definitive medical care. Once the patient has been properly packaged, the extrication plan will be placed into effect. Based on environmental factors, the patient as a package can be extracted by walking over various terrain features or trails or a rope system can be assembled to raise or lower the litter basket to an identified location.

The REMS is assigned as illustrated below:



## **STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT**

Minimum staffing consists of four (4) qualified technical specialists, one of which shall be Single Resource Boss qualified. The REMS personnel shall meet the requisite qualifications as outlined in the Training and Experience Requirements section below. The entire four-person module should maintain unity and not be split to accomplish separate missions. When ordered, the REMS will come with all equipment identified in the Standard Equipment List (SEL).

## **MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND 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).

## **TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational (LARRO) – all

High Angle Rope Rescue Operations – 2 team members

Leader – Single Resource Boss Qualified

Team Members - Firefighter 1 or 2 Wildland Fireline qualified

Arduous physical fitness level

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

- a. Terrain will likely be very steep and unstable in areas where REMS use is applicable.
- b. In many cases walking a patient out of an area with the litter basket and wheel combination may not be possible due to terrain features.
- c. Rope systems may be employed to ensure that a victim and the REMS team can safely transition from the incident location to the medical evacuation site.
- d. Long lowering and hauling distances may be encountered in REMS operations. This may require the patient to be moved in multiple pitches, or rope lengths. As a result, anchors may also be required to secure the patient while the system is moved and reset.
- e. Anchor systems should be kept as simple as possible due to the multiple, and progressive anchor systems required and the urgent need to reach definitive medical care.
- f. Hand Crews may deploy in front of the litter basket to clear the trail and identify hazards.
- g. A Rigger in front of the system pre-setting anchors saves valuable time.
- h. A REMS standard equipment cache should be assembled and stored prior to an incident so it is readily available at the time an Incident Management Team decides to implement REMS at an incident.
- i. Utilization of the raising/lowering system may be beneficial during the hike into a patient as well as during an extraction.

## STANDARD EQUIPMENT LIST (SEL)

- 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 General use)
- 1- 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
- 1- 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 hoist pre-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 General use)
- 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
- 1- 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 hoist pre-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 or Fix-a-flat
- Tire plugs



## **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
- 1- Hardware bag/pack
- 1-Sked or Collapsible Litter
- 5-Pickets
- 1 – Sledge Hammer