

# **Tempe Fire Department Policies and Procedures**

## **Squad Operational Policy**

### **202.04**

#### **Rev 6-22-09**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to establish guidelines for the organization, daily operations and deployment of the Tempe Fire Department Engine/Squad Company. This company will co-staff an engine apparatus and squad apparatus.

#### **Scope**

The creation of a Rapid Response Team incorporates a Squad Company that will help to address dynamic and complex incidents. This company will bring to the emergency scene a company capable of several specialties.

The Tempe Fire Department will participate in the statewide Rapid Response Team. As these squads were obtained through grant funding, specifically for this purpose, the Tempe Fire Department Squad Company will be capable of responding anywhere in the State to assist at large scale incidents when ordered by the Governor of Arizona or other ordering agency.

#### Operational Model

The Tempe Fire Department has become a responding participant in the Phoenix Area Urban Security Initiative Strategy with the deployment of the Squad. The members of these Special Operations Companies will be cross-trained in the disciplines of Hazardous Materials response and Technical Rescue. This Squad may be sent on Emergency Deployments for up to 72 hours through the State Asset Agreement. Additionally, this Squad may also be deployed for assignments lasting up to 14 days in the event of a large-scale incident within the State of Arizona, or any outside region with which Tempe has a signed agreement.

#### Squad Assignment

The Squad will be staffed with cross-trained personnel consisting of a Company Officer, Engineer, and Firefighters. Two members of the crew will be Certified Emergency Paramedics with the remaining crew members being Certified Emergency Medical Technicians. Each member will be required to maintain certification in all required disciplines. The management of their certification records will be reviewed annually to assure that this commitment is maintained.

#### Training/Continuing Education

The following initial training requirements shall be met by all members assigned to a Squad:

- Hazardous Materials Technician: 200 hour training course
- Technical Rescue Technician: 200 hour training course

All members shall be required to attend all continuing education as directed by the Special Operations Deputy Chief.

#### Response Functions:

The following tasks represent the standard functions that could be assigned to Engine/Squad Companies. The Squads will provide critical support for companies operating on the fireground. These tasks are intended to provide the basic framework for the assignment of the Squad.

- Search, rescue, removal, and treatment of patients
- Stretch and operate hoselines
- Interior operations
- Forcible entry/breach & secondary means of egress
- Provide lighting
- Overhaul functions
- Extrication
- Loss control

#### EMS Response:

The engine will be the primary response unit utilized for standard EMS calls. Both the squad and engine will have ALS capability. In limited circumstances, the Company Officer may exercise discretion in determining which apparatus to take on a given response. It should be noted that this Company may be dispatched to fulfill extrication requirements.

#### Fire Response:

If the unit is the first or second due engine assigned to a fire incident, the crew will respond in the engine to properly facilitate firefighting operations. If the unit is dispatched as a third due or later engine to fill out the engine requirements of a dispatch, the company officer may use their discretion on which unit to take. An example would be for incidents that will probably require heavy rescue equipment or expertise such as an explosion or collapse rescue assignments. In these situations the company officer should respond in the Squad and notify the Alarm Room immediately of the change so that they can dispatch an additional engine, to fill out the assignment. The level of expertise regarding building construction and structural collapse should be considered by Command when assigning this Company.

#### Hazardous Materials Responses:

The configuration of this truck delivers a 75/25 percent ratio inventory model pertaining to TRT/Hazmat equipment. The Company has the capability to perform A-Level Hazmat entry. Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) capabilities will include the ability to do plume modeling, provide evacuation recommendations, and detect the presence of radiological sources as well as chemical and biological. The balance of the Hazmat equipment is geared heavily towards unknown sampling and detection as well as research & identification of containers and chemicals. Additional equipment carried on this truck will also allow them to mitigate natural gas leaks. The Squad members will be fully trained in all aspects of hazardous materials response and should be considered capable of assuming Hazard Sector responsibilities as well as support functions for a hazardous materials response team.

#### Technical Rescue

The Squad has TRT capability and can be dispatched accordingly. This company will be capable of functioning as a stand alone TRT assignment or as part of a larger response compliment depending upon the demands of the incident. The Squad is fully equipped to perform six principal technical rescue functions: rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, swift water rescue, structural collapse operations, and helicopter operations.

### State Asset Deployment

If requested as a State asset, the Squad will be deployed as part of the Arizona Statewide Response Strategy. A rally point will be designated for deployments outside of the Central Region. When possible, members of the Squad should travel and operate with the members of the Tempe Police Department Rapid Response Team. Along with the squads, there will be an Incident Support Team assigned to aid in the management of the incident. Operations carried out while on deployment will be managed under the National Incident Management (NIMS) Protocols. Additional information regarding deployment can be found in the Rapid Response Team Field Operations Guide.