



Nelson County Emergency Services Council
Nelson County, Virginia

<i>Nelson County Emergency Services Council Standard Operating Guideline</i>	
Subject:	Emergency Evacuation
Reference Number:	OPS 02-001
Effective Date:	1-Jan-16
Last Revision Date:	
Signature of Approval	David Graves, President

Purpose:

To establish a procedure for evacuating unsafe fire grounds.

Procedure:

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

During the incident operations, it may become necessary to withdraw or evacuate members from the structure or incident area. An evacuation may be initiated by anyone at the incident, but the order to evacuate must be transmitted through the established chain of command to ensure that everyone can be accounted for.

The order to withdrawal or evacuate will be given by Command on the primary operating channel and repeated on any sub-channels by Nelson Dispatch, following use of the alert tone. Sector officers can initiate an evacuation; however, they must communicate this to IC immediately.

Emergency evacuation is called for when life-threatening danger is imminent, i.e. structural collapse, severe fire condition, etc. When emergency evacuation is ordered, the apparatus at the incident command post will activate air horns using a series of short blasts for approximately 20 seconds.

When emergency evacuation is ordered, all members will immediately leave the structure or area and will report to the accountability officer and/or command. In an emergency evacuation, hose is left behind and members should leave the area immediately.

- Incident Command will announce twice on the primary operating frequency, "All companies operating on (street name) are to evacuate the building immediately". This message will be repeated by Nelson Dispatch on all sub-frequencies.
- Radio traffic will be curtailed; urgent message traffic only. (This will allow a possible trapped member to use radio unimpeded)
- Command shall conduct a roll call after everyone has acknowledged the order to evacuate.
- Each company officer will take roll call of his respective company. This roll call will be taken face to face, not by radio, and reported in person to the IC.
- If any member is missing, IC will initiate a search plan using RIT procedures.
- As always, life safety is the highest priority, the sector officer is accountable for the status and safety of his company.

ORDERLY WITHDRAW

Orderly withdrawal is called for when IC elects to affect a change in strategy, e.g. from an offensive to a defensive attack. Orderly withdrawal can indicate units will be withdrawn from a specific area or the entire structure. The order to withdrawal will be given by radio or face-to-face to the units to be withdrawn. Officers will acknowledge the order and affect the order immediately. In an orderly withdrawal there is no imminent lift-threatening danger or imminent collapse potential. Units will back hose lines out of the building.