

CERT “Hydration/Rehab” Unit Procedures

INTRODUCTION:

For the purposes of determining if a CERT Call-Out for the staffing of Hydration Unit(s) will occur, the Burning Index (BI) is utilized. Components of that index which determine the overall rating are listed below:

High Temperature	Burning Index (BI)	Rating
Low RH (relative humidity)	0 to 37	Low
Wind Direction	38 to 47	Moderate
Wind Speed	48 to 110	High
Fireline Intensity	111 to 161	Very High
Flame Length	162 and Above	Extreme
BURNING INDEX	Wind>25mph +RH<15%	Red Flag Alert

When the BI is “Very High” or higher (or as needed), a CERT call-out will be initiated.

Call-Out:

When it is determined that the BI will reach “Very High” and 95 degrees, the CERT Unit will initiate a call-out for the various fire stations that are used for Hydration. Priority will be given to volunteers who have completed the Defensive Vehicle Operations Course (DVOC). Secondly, non-DVOC volunteers will be called out.

CERT volunteers will report to the fire station locations as determined by the call-out message:

1. Fire Station 59 – 11505 West Olympic Blvd, West Los Angeles
2. Fire Station 84 – 21050 Burbank Blvd, Woodland Hills
3. Fire Station 89 – 7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd., North Hollywood
4. TBD
5. TBD

Pre Deployment Procedures:

Please insure that the following procedures are followed:

- Check in with Station Commander (if in quarters)
- Confirm which vehicle is to be utilized for CERT
- Check fuel, running lights, and all gauges to insure proper working conditions
- Conduct an inventory of the equipment assigned to the vehicle
- Check for a supply of plastic trash bags to be used to collect empty drink bottles and other trash

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- Each vehicle should have two orange traffic cones available. If not found, ask the station Captain to supply these.
- Conduct a complete walk-around of the vehicle. Note the condition of the vehicle.
- Be sure that there is an Accident Packet (F620) in the vehicle. If not found, ask the station Captain for the forms that comprise this packet.
- Fill at least 2 ice-chests with water, Gatorade and ice.
- Obtain latex gloves for use while reaching into the cooler for drinks or serving meals.
- If you don't have a GPS device, be sure to have a Thomas Guide or other maps available.
- Cell phones are the preferred method of communication. Obtain the cell phone numbers of all members of your hydration team. Be sure to have the Metro Fire Communications (MFC) Floor Captain's phone number: (213) 576-8920 or (213) 485-4701 on your phone.
- PPEs – Always have your Personal Protective Equipment with you. This includes your helmet, eye protection, N95 dust masks, gloves, CERT vest or High Visibility Vest (HVV) and your brush jacket if you have one, etc.

Arriving On-Scene:

Advise the Staging Manager (if established), otherwise notify the Incident Commander (IC), that you have arrived and ask where you should locate your hydration unit. Notify Metro that you have arrived on scene so that you will be attached to the incident on the computer system.

Be sure that the location assigned is safe. A clear, level area should be used. If there is smoke blowing toward your location, advise the IC and ask for a better location.

Driving into, and around the Scene:

- Turn on vehicle headlights and flashers. Drive slowly.
- If backing is necessary, one team member shall guide the driver from a position behind the vehicle, and visible from the right side-view mirror.

Driving over hose lines:

- ONLY DRIVE OVER HOSE LINES IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IF NEEDED TO GET TO YOUR STAGING LOCATION!
- Steer to cross over the hose at an angle. If you steer straight on, the hose may just slide on the pavement.
- Drive **SLOWLY** over hose lines.

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- DO NOT allow tires to roll over the metallic connection points (couplings) on the large 4 inch supply lines. **This may cause disconnection or bursting of the hose. Extremely high water pressure may cause the hose lengths to burst apart violently, at a high velocity.**

Using Fire Department Radios (if supplied):

Determine what dispatch channel is being used for the incident to which you are reporting. These will normally be 7 for South Division, 8 for North Division, 5 or 9 for brush or large structure fires in either division.

Determine the Tactical Channel (TAC) being used for the incident. These will be channels 12 thru 18.

Determine if the incident or the incident command has a name assigned. This may be: Canoga IC, Freeway IC, etc.

Use the appropriate Dispatch Channel to advise the dispatcher when you are enroute to the incident and again when you have arrived at the incident.

Upon arrival, check-in on the Staging channel (if established). The Staging channels are TAC 1, TAC 2 and TAC 3 and determined by the geographical location of the incident.

Typical conversation for this should be:

You: Metro from Hydration 59 (or your team designation)

Response will be: Hydration 59 go

You: Metro show Hydration 59 enroute to XYZ incident, (or on-scene at XYZ incident)

Response will be: Roger, we show Hydration 59 enroute (or on-scene)

You: Roger

The dispatcher will attach your hydration unit to the incident on the computer system. This will insure that your location is known by Metro and the Incident Commander. Should you have an emergency and need to use the Emergency Trigger on the radio, Metro will notify the IC that you need help. This is very important for accountability and your safety. Your Hydration Unit will be listed on the official list of resources assigned to the incident as HU59, HU86, etc.

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Distribution of drinks:

DO NOT allow firefighters to reach into the ice chests to get their drinks, especially if their hands are dirty or contaminated. Explain that we must prevent contamination of the drinks. Ask what they would like and hand it to them.

Be sure that your own hands are clean. Wear latex exam gloves whenever possible. A box of these is provided on the RAT in the food storage area, top shelf.

Demobilization:

Dispose of any trash in a nearby trash bin or return it to the fire station for disposal.

Pick up all of your supplies and equipment for return to the fire station.

Advise the Incident Command team that you are leaving the incident to ensure proper accountability.

Use the appropriate Dispatch Channel to advise the dispatcher when you are released from the incident.

Typical conversation for this should be:

You: Metro from Hydration 59 (or your team designation)

Response will be: Hydration 59 go

You: Metro show Hydration 59 released from XYZ incident and available

Response will be: Roger, we show Hydration 59 released and available

You: Roger

- Return to your fire station
- Restock all expendables used
- Drain ice chests and refill to be ready for the next incident
- Clean the vehicle (if at the end of the deployment period)
- Refuel if necessary
- Return vehicle keys to proper location (if at the end of the deployment period)
- Check out with the station Captain (if at the end of the deployment period)
- Fill out & submit a completed ICS-214 Incident Report. Send to the CERT Commander and to each of the members of your team.

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