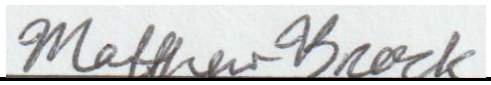
Rowan County Fire and Rescue Association	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES	
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 7-16-2009 REVISION DATE: 7-20-2023	POLICY NUMBER:
SECTION: INCIDENT OPERATIONS	SECTION TITLE: CODE RED	
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ADOPTION SIGNATURE:		DATE: 7/20/2023

EMERGENCY EVACUATION (CODE RED) PROCEDURES PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to designate a standardized system "CODE RED" of alerting fireground personnel to imminent dangers which require immediate withdrawal from a building or area and to alert personnel of the declared "CODE RED".

INTRODUCTION:

"CODE RED" is the designated code word to clearly communicate the need to evacuate the area immediately by any means necessary with no regard towards removal of unnecessary equipment.

During structural fire fighting and other emergency scene activities, immediate evacuation of fire fighting forces may be required of personnel due to extremely dangerous or rapidly deteriorating conditions. Such conditions would be recognized as imminent building collapse, possible cave-ins, explosions, hazardous vapor plumes, or other hostile conditions such as riots or other acts of violence that puts emergency personnel in harm's way.

"CODE RED" PROCEDURE:

Upon sighting or noticing any condition warranting emergency evacuation of fire department personnel, an *officer will announce via the portable radio on the operating channel "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC, CODE RED, CODE RED, CODE RED ALL UNITS EVACUATE THE AREA/STRUCTURE."

DISCUSSION: "CODE RED"

*Officer – defined as any fire department officer on the scene, to include Incident Command, Division Officers, Safety Officer, or Company Officers may initiate the "Code Red" emergency evacuation procedure.

The initiating officer must then notify command of the condition and location.

Command will notify all other units that may be operating on other radio channels, of the Code Red condition. Rowan will also be notified of the condition by Command.

Upon hearing the verbal Code Red via portable radio, the EVACUATION tone should be sounded by the IC or the communications center on the fire ground operations channel being utilized for the incident. Once the alert tone ends, a radio announcement should be made informing all personnel of the Code Red being declared. Once the IC or communication center's verbal announcement has ended, the driver/ operator of the working apparatus should make **one** long blast with the apparatus air horn. The horn blast should be expressed for a **maximum** of 15 seconds so not to impede further emergency radio traffic. After these steps have been taken, the IC should conduct a PAR check to confirm all members are accounted for on the scene.

All personnel, upon hearing the emergency evacuation signal, either via radio or air horn, will notify personnel assigned to their unit, and without delay will evacuate the area and return to their apparatus for roll-call (PAR). The company officers will conduct roll call and prepare to report status to Command. All Command Staff officers will report to the Command Post, Personnel not able to report to their respective apparatus will report to the closest working engine or to the Command Post for roll-call. Use of the radio will be reserved for transmissions of company status reports and roll-calls only.

Prior to initiating company roll call via the radio, Command will conduct an open inquiry for any company who has emergency traffic. For example: "Command to any company who has Emergency Traffic"…..... If Engine 9 has two personnel unaccounted for, then Engine 9 will report "Engine 9 to Command, Emergency Traffic, Firefighter_____, and Firefighter_____ are missing, last operating in the Division B"

After Command addresses the emergency messages, he/she will then conduct company roll-calls (PAR).
For example: "Command to Engine 1, Code Red status?" Engine 1 replies: "Engine 1 PAR" and give current location.

Only Command can terminate Code Red procedures upon its activation.

SUMMARY: The "Code Red" is conducted as a three (3) step process:

Step 1) **SIGNAL**: Initiation of the "CODE RED, CODE RED, CODE RED", ALL PERSONNEL EVACUATE THE AREA", IC/Comm. Center activates evacuation alert tone, verbal announcement of the Code Red, Engineers activate the air horns.

Step 2) **EVACUATE**: All personnel evacuate without delay and assemble at their respective apparatus.

Step 3) **ROLL-CALL**: Command determines status of all companies.