

STAGING AREA REHABILITATION		TROY FIRE DEPT. TACTICAL PLAN 206.04	
<i>Issue</i>	<i>04/11</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>06/13</i>
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Purpose: This policy will establish the procedure that EMS will follow when requested to an event including drills, fire ground operations, hazardous materials incidents, lengthy extrications, and any other event where a rehab area has been established by the requesting agency. This policy is intended to meet the requirements of NFPA 1584.

Policy: When rehabilitation is established, EMS will provide medical monitoring of all firefighting personnel as well as make recommendations as to who should or should not return to immediate active duty, based on predetermined criteria.

Procedure: When the first EMS unit arrives on scene, they will advise the Incident Commander and report immediately to the Staging Area Manager. EMS crew members will initiate the Medical Group assignment and assume the following responsibilities:

- Take vital signs and evaluate personnel for signs and symptoms of heat related injuries. If any individual exhibits any signs or symptoms of such injuries, he/she shall be further evaluated in the rehab area.
- Document names and vital signs for each person evaluated on a log sheet for the incident. The log sheet will be kept with EMS for the duration of the incident.
- If any firefighter has vital signs that are out of the below listed ranges, protective gear should be removed (bunker pants can remain on but should be unfastened) and the firefighter will rest for a minimum of 15 minutes, and receive oral hydration as appropriate.
 - **Blood Pressure:** **Systolic >150mm Hg or Diastolic >100mm Hg**
 - **Respirations:** **>24 per Minute**
 - **Pulse:** **>110 per minute, or significantly irregular**
 - **Temperature:** **>100.6° F**
 - **O2 saturation:** **<92% (if equipment is available)**
 - **CO level:** **>5% (if equipment is available)**
 - **Lung Sounds:** **significant abnormal breath sounds (including absence of sounds, wheezes, crackles, or rhonchi)**
- If vital signs return to within normal limits after 15 minutes, the person may be released back to the staging area for reassignment.
- If vital signs are still beyond the desired limits, or symptoms develop, continue observation for another 15 minutes, perform an EKG, and determine if further intervention is required.

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- If after 30 minutes the vital signs are above the desired limit, or symptoms develop, the firefighter should not return to immediate active duty and transportation to a medical facility should be considered. The Staging Area Manager shall be notified immediately of the EMS recommendation that the firefighter does not return to duty and/or that the firefighter will be transported to a medical facility. The Staging Area Manager will subsequently notify the Incident Commander.
- If a firefighter arrives at the rehab area with any of the following complaints, the person should be immediately evaluated and treated according to the appropriate protocol.
 - **Chest Pain**
 - **Shortness of Breath**
 - **Altered mental status**
 - **Symptoms of heat or cold related injuries**
 - **Dizziness**
 - **Weakness**
 - **Nausea and vomiting**
 - **Changes in gait, speech or behavior**
- If a firefighter requires transport, an appropriately licensed transport unit should be requested to the scene by the EMS unit through EMS dispatch if not already present. If the patient requires immediate transport, the unit on scene should proceed with the transport and request another unit respond to the scene to take its place.
- If a firefighter requires any treatment or transport beyond monitoring basic vital signs, the Oakland County Protocols will be followed and the Staging Area Manager will be notified who will in-turn notify the Incident Commander.
- In the course of monitoring the firefighters in rehab, crews may need to access information that is considered private, privileged and confidential. Such information is covered information for the purpose of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. Such information will remain protected at all times and information cannot be released or communicated to another individual (including higher ranking officer) without the signature of the patient releasing the information.

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- All EMS units will remain on scene until released by the incident commander.

EMS staff will work with the requesting agency to coordinate the following:

- Shelter to keep firefighters protected from the environment
- Appropriate liquids are on site for oral rehydration purposes



William S. Nelson
Fire Chief