POSITION OVERVIEW

• Covered in this Section:
  – Position Description
  – Position Requirements
Description

• The EMTF/EMPF provides medical aid for injured or ill incident personnel
  – EMTF/EMPF’s may be asked to monitor trends in camp medical conditions including behavioral concerns
  – Beyond the emergent situations the EMTF/EMPF may serve to monitor and detect when minor illnesses or injuries require referral to definitive care
Description

• Uniqueness and challenges associated with remote sites tend to expand the EMTF/EMPF’s role to provide care
  – Assisting with first-aid, self care and health management
  – Triaging conditions to determine appropriate self-care vs need for transport
  – Consider alternate modes of transport
Description

- Fireline activities do not alleviate the requirements set by CA EMSA and your LEMSA
  - Know your protocols
  - It is your responsibility to make sure you inform your MEDL of your protocols
Description

• Occasionally the EMTF/EMPF may be required to treat civilian representatives assisting with the incident, whether on the line or in base.

• Regardless of who’s being treated the EMTF/EMPF is expected to function within their own Scope of Practice.
  – Own LEMSA Policy and Protocol
  – Home documentation requirements
Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA)

CA currently is divided into 32 separate and distinct LEMSA’s

Working with CA Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), each LEMSA determines the pre-hospital medical needs of a geographical area

Understanding your LEMSA’s EMTF/EMPF policies is imperative prior to receiving the call out
LEMSA Cont.

Review your local protocols including medical supplies and equipment requirements specific to the EMTF/EMPF

If your LEMSA hasn’t developed protocols, work with them following the FIRESCOPE ICS-223 document as the minimum standard
LEMSA Cont.

Know the documentation requirements including time standards

Your LEMSA is your partner to prevent errors in patient management
Reciprocity

Nearly every state in the nation has reciprocity guidelines – before traveling outside CA, learn the process

The MEDL is responsible to determine the guidelines and coordinate between the EMTF/EMPF and that state
Reciprocity Cont.

States are currently working on developing a national level to enact the:
“Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act”

If enacted, the stated will accept paramedics without going through a lengthy reciprocity process but would be limited to the duration of the incident – CA currently does not have such laws
Reciprocity Cont.

Assume that you do not have reciprocity with another state until it can be verified

It is your personal responsibility to protect your license
Description

- The EMTF/EMPF formally works under the Logistics Section of the incident working directly for the MEDL.
- While on the line, the EMTF/EMPF reports to the STL, DIVS and/or Branch Director responsible for the geographical location.
Fireline Medic Supervisor Flow Chart

Representation of the EMTF/EMPF Working in the Operational Area
Description

• The EMTF/EMPF should be paired with another EMTF/EMPF while working in the operational area due to safety considerations

• The EMTF/EMPF may however be assigned as a single resource
Description

• All levels of EMT’s may be ordered to fulfill the role of an EMTF and are permitted to function within their Scope of Practice regardless of jurisdictional or political boundaries
  – Referenced in NWCG Medical Unit Operating Standards
Position Requirements

• Understand the relationship of the EMTF/EMPF to the overall ICS organization
• Be able to complete the required documentation for the EMTF/EMPF position
• Be able to utilize proper communication procedures while functioning as a EMTF/EMPF
• Be able to identify and assemble the minimum equipment required for the position of EMTF/EMPF
Requirements Cont.

• Be able to perform the basic EMT procedures for common injuries
• Demonstrate the ability to perform basic map reading skills using a topographic map
• Be able to utilize the information found in the Incident Action Plan (IAP)
Requirements Cont.

• During fireline assignments the EMTF/EMPF may work with a variety of incident personnel and should develop close working relationships with supervisors:
  – DIVS
  – STL/TFL
  – SOFR
Requirements Cont.

• The EMTF/EMPF will be required to maintain forms specific to the incident command team, department requirements and local protocol.

• In addition, the EMTF/EMPF will need to become familiar with specific ICS forms.
Requirements Cont.

Minimum Equipment and Supplies
– FIRESCOPE ICS 223 Appendix A
– FIRESCOPE ICS 223 Appendix B
– FIRESCOPE ICS 223 Appendix C
– Home Protocol
Requirements Cont.

• Obtain initial briefing from Logistics Section Chief or Medical Unit Leader
  – Incident history & current status
  – Review Medical plan and receive priorities
  – Review Communications plan
  – Overview of the assignment and potential hazards
  – Anticipate incident medical needs
  – Review local medical protocols to include documentation procedures
Requirements Cont.

Receive updates & prepare for assignment

–Number and types of personnel in assigned area
–Fire behavior, weather conditions, terrain, other natural hazards and safety concerns
Requirements Cont.

• Anticipate needs and obtain medical supplies from the incident
• Secure copies of local emergency medical service forms / paperwork as necessary
  – If not available, use jurisdictional agency EMS forms
• If you didn’t bring a portable radio – Secure / check out a radio with all incident frequencies
• Have radio cloned as needed
• Prior to each shift obtain a copy of the IAP and review the medical plan (ICS Form 206)
Requirements Cont.

- Identify and contact your assigned tactical supervisor and confirm your travel route, transportation and ETA prior to leaving your check-in location.
- Meet with your assigned tactical supervisor and obtain a briefing.
- Obtain a briefing from the EMTF/EMPFF you are relieving, if applicable.
Requirements Cont.

• Upon arrival at your assigned location, perform a radio check with your assigned tactical supervisor, Incident Communications Unit and the Medical Unit.
• Maintain ongoing contact and interaction with personnel on your assignment to assess medical needs and provide assistance when needed.
Requirements Cont.

• Be prepared to make requests for transportation of ill and injured personnel, through channels, as outlined in the Medical Plan

• Make notifications of incident related illnesses and injuries as outlined in the Medical Plan
Requirements Cont.

• At the conclusion of each shift advise your tactical supervisor that you are departing and will report to the Medical Unit Leader for de-briefing and submission of patient care documentation

• Maintain All Forms

• Demobilize