



## INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

### Private Fire Prevention Resources FIRESCOPE ICS 902

July 2024

This document contains information relative to the Incident Command System (ICS) component of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This is the same Incident Command System developed by FIRESCOPE. Knowledge of the Incident Command System is required to understand the terminology and variety of ways in which the management of resources can be applied.

Additional information and documentation can be obtained from the following sources:

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## INTRODUCTION

The California Code of Regulations (CCR) adopted a new Chapter 1.1 in Division 2 of Title 19. This CCR established regulations for privately contracted fire prevention resources operating during an active fire incident and for equipment used by privately contracted fire prevention resources during an active fire incident. The regulations specify standards for where private resources are permitted to operate, how they interact with Incident Command, the appearance and use of their equipment, and the activities upon which they should focus.

The CCR on Private Fire Prevention Resources has a direct impact on the local, state, and federal fire resources operating within our state's incident command system. ICS 902 provides clarity on how to consistently manage the safe interaction of our public safety resources with the private fire prevention resources sent to our incidents for their particular missions.

### **CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE 19. PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION 2 CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

#### **CHAPTER 1.1 PRIVATE FIRE PREVENTION RESOURCES**

##### **§ 2470.1 – Definitions**

The following definitions apply to this chapter:

- a) "Active Fire Incident" means a fire where the Incident Commander has not yet declared the fire extinguished.
- b) "Backfire" means a fire set along the inner edge of a control line, to consume the fuel in the path of an advancing fire, or to change the direction or force of the main fire's spread.
- c) "Emergency Lights" means the red and blue lights authorized on emergency vehicles as defined in California Vehicle Code Sections 25252 and 25258.
- d) "Evacuation" means an organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.
- e) "Evacuation Area" means a geographic area from which civilians have been evacuated pursuant to an evacuation order and where movement and entry are controlled by fire and law enforcement personnel having jurisdictional authority. Evacuation area controls remain in effect until an evacuation order is lifted by the initiating law enforcement entity.

- f) "Evacuation Order" means an order issued by the jurisdictional authority to immediately vacate an evacuation area and close the area to public access due to an imminent threat to life and/or property.
- g) "Evacuation Warning" means alerting community members in a defined area of a potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock, should leave the area when an evacuation warning is issued.
- h) "Global Positioning System" (GPS) means a system of navigational satellites operated by the United States Department of Defense and available for civilian use.
- i) "Incident" has the same meaning as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Section 2402(j).
- j) "Incident Command" means the organizational authority with responsibility for the management of the Incident Command System, as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Section 2402(m).
- k) "Incident Commander" has the same meaning as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Section 2402(1).
- l) "Pre-Treatment" means the use of water, foam, retardant, or other fire limiting devices or products upon infrastructure, residences, structures, property and vegetation in advance of a fire, or the removal or reduction of vegetation or other fuel by active means, including, but not limited to, dozing, scraping, cutting and removing in advance of a fire.
- m) "Private Fire Prevention Resources" means the personnel, entities and equipment hired by private persons or entities and operating during an active fire incident. These private resources are not employed by or otherwise associated with the agency having jurisdictional authority over the incident response or any other public agency involved in the incident response.
- n) "Restricted Area" means an area that only authorized persons can enter.
- o) "Situational Awareness Tracking System" means the process and tools used for gathering and sharing information during emergency management incidents to assist with communication, coordination and collaboration.
- p) "State Incident Management System" means the standardized process, structure and plan used for responding to, managing, and coordinating an incident within any jurisdiction or across multiple jurisdictions.
- q) "Values-at-Risk" means the elements of a community or natural area

considered valuable by an individual or community that could be negatively impacted by a fire or fire response operations. These values can vary by community and may include a variety of assets or resources, including homes or other structures, insured assets, water supply, commercial, industrial or agricultural assets, power grids, natural and cultural resources, community infrastructure, and other economic, environmental, and social resources.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 14867 and 14868, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 14867 and 14868, Health and Safety Code.

## **§ 2470.2 - Use of Private fire Prevention Resources**

a) Private fire prevention resources shall:

1. Comply with any orders, restrictions or commands from the Incident Commander or Incident Commander designee, including leaving the evacuation area when ordered to do so and not returning until authorization to reenter the area is received;
2. Communicate with Incident Command and receive Incident Command approval before entering an otherwise restricted area;
3. Designate a representative that reports to Incident Command and can, at all times, contact the private fire prevention resource and communicate the resource's location and movements to Incident Command;
4. Be equipped with a Global Positioning System (GPS) that is compatible with the state's incident management system and situational awareness tracking system, so the private resource representative and Incident Command can locate private fire prevention resource personnel in the event of an evacuation;
5. Monitor Incident Command radio frequencies assigned to a particular incident, as permitted under Part 90 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, but not communicate on Incident Command radio frequencies without prior approval from Incident Command;
6. Whenever possible, focus on pre-fire treatment activities and pretreatment of values-at-risk and other nonemergency activities outside of a restricted area to ensure safety, clear command and control, and minimize potential liability issues; and
7. Clearly label all equipment "nonemergency".

b) Private fire prevention resources shall not:

1. Use emergency lights or sirens on their vehicles;
2. Have any labeling on their vehicles that indicates the operators are public fire department personnel or any other public safety personnel; or

3. Set a backfire or cause a backfire to be set unless given permission to do so by a state or federal forest officer, Incident Commander or Incident Commander Designee.
- c) Any private fire prevention resource that fails to comply with any provision of this section:
1. Shall be removed from the active fire incident area or prohibited from entering an active fire incident area if removal or prohibition does not impede the jurisdictional authority's firefighting effort; and
  2. May be guilty of a misdemeanor, pursuant to California Penal Code Section 409.5 and/or California Public Resources Code Section 4165.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 14867 and 14868, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 14867 and 14868, Health and Safety Code.