



Incident Command System
Position Manual

RAPID EXTRACTION MODULE SUPPORT
(REMS)

ICS-223

2022

FIRESCOPE
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INTRODUCTION

This ICS position manual was developed with the intent to provide a clear description of the role, duties, and equipment pertinent to the position of the Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS). The REMS is a pre-staged rescue team assigned to a wildland fire to provide firefighters a safe, effective, and efficient method of egress off the fireline in the event of injury or illness incurred during firefighting operations.

Wildland firefighting is an inherently dangerous profession. While safety is the primary concern during all operations, unintended incidents do occur which result in injury or illness to firefighters. It is the intent of the REMS to provide firefighters, who are unable to egress under their own power, a safe and secure transport off the fireline while simultaneously receiving the appropriate medical attention.

While REMS does not intend to replace ground or air transport, ideal conditions may not exist due to a number of circumstances such as heavy smoke inversion, no roads, or equipment malfunctions. REMS provides incident managers another option to reach incapacitated firefighters, with fully equipped resources, prepared to package and transport injured or ill personnel off the fireline to the appropriate medical care unit. While this position manual recommends minimum staffing levels of the REMS, it is not intended to exclude the potential need to augment staffing levels based on the complexity of the rescue.

FIRESCOPE, which has broad representation from the California Fire Service created this manual.

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.

This document reflects the standards established by FIRESCOPE. A description of the REMS position and how it fits within the Logistics Section can be found at ICS 420-1 Field Operations, Guide, Chapter 10.

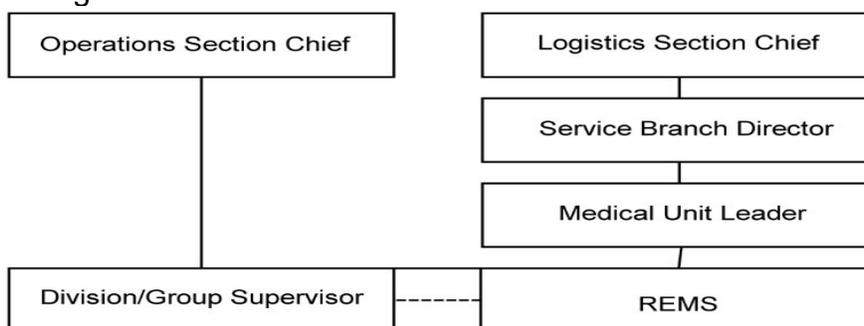
CHECKLIST

- Obtain briefing from MEDL
 - Expectations and Assignments
 - Hazards
 - Communications plans
 - Record keeping
- Obtain proper Communications Equipment
 - Portable radios and incident frequencies
 - Cell phone or Satellite phone numbers
- REMS Leader
 - Attend daily briefing
 - Obtain daily IAP including communications plan
 - Ensure radios are cloned to current communications plan
 - Pay particular attention to whether air resources will be available
 - Obtain large operational maps including transportation system
- Conduct a crew briefing
- Establish crew manifest
 - List all crew members assigned to REMS for record keeping
 - Maintain crew time reports
- Establish equipment manifest
 - Rescue cache
 - Minimum PPE (line-pack/fire shelter)
- Provide crew and equipment information to complete flight manifest
 - Ensure weight of crew/equipment meet flight requirements
 - Crew may require separate flights depending on type of aircraft, available seats, and maximum load capacities
 - Establish priority order of crew members for flights
 - Establish equipment priority list for flights
- Establish crew expectations and performance objectives
- Line out crew member responsibilities and positions
 - REMS Leader
 - Riggers
 - Rescuer / litter team leader / litter team member
- Review Rope Rescue Operations
- Notify MEDL that team is ready for deployment
- Obtain briefing from fireline supervisor
- Recon assignment area
- Determine access routes to drop points in the operational area
- Develop rescue plans in conjunction with fireline supervisor and brief operational resources/personnel on REMS rescue plans, capabilities, required logistical support, staging location, and safety protocols
- Maintain awareness of where crews are working and, if possible, crew assignments
- Weigh REMS cache for flight manifest
- Maintain a Unit/Activity Log (ICS Form 214).

ORGANIZATION

Upon arrival on an incident, REMS initially reports to the Medical Unit Leader (MEDL). Once assigned to a Division, Group, or Branch the REMS will work under the direction of an assigned Fireline Supervisor. REMS personnel may travel by vehicle or hike into the intended location with litter basket and equipment. Once with the patient, REMS personnel should get a report on the patient's condition, the environment, available resources, and implement an effective plan of egress to definitive medical care. Once the patient has been properly packaged, the extrication plan will be placed into effect. Based on environmental factors, the patient as a package can be extracted by walking over various terrain features or trails or a rope system can be assembled to raise or lower the litter basket to an identified location.

The REMS is assigned as illustrated below:



STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT

Minimum staffing consists of four (4) qualified technical specialists, one of which shall be Single Resource Boss qualified. The REMS personnel shall meet the requisite qualifications as outlined in the Training and Experience Requirements section below. The entire four- person module should maintain unity and not be split to accomplish separate missions. When ordered, the REMS will come with all equipment identified in the Minimum Equipment List (MEL).

REMS TYPING

Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
-4 Personnel (4 Rope Rescue Technician or Equivalent) - (2) 4x4 vehicle - Agency owned REMS cache - Agency owned Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) Optional	-4 Personnel (2 Rope Rescue Technician or Equivalent, 2 Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational) - (2) 4x4 vehicle - Agency owned REMS cache	-2 Personnel (2 Rope Rescue Technician or Equivalent, or 2 Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational) - 4x4 vehicle - Agency owned REMS cache

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

The major responsibilities of the REMS are stated below.

- a. Check in and obtain briefing from the Logistics Section Chief or the Medical Unit Leader, if established. The briefing should provide the following:
 1. Current incident situation
 2. Review the Medical Plan (ICS Form 206) and “Incident within an Incident” Plan
 3. Incident communications channels
- b. Anticipate needs and ensure equipment needs as necessary:
 1. Incident base assignments
 2. Fireline assignments
 3. Spike camp assignments
- c. Resupply expended materials when necessary.
- d. Secure operations and demobilize as outlined in the Demobilization Checkout (ICS Form 221).
- e. Maintain a Unit/Activity Log (ICS Form 214).

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational (LARRO) or Equivalent – All members Rope Rescue Technician or NPFA 1006 Equivalent

- Type I – 4 members
- Type II/III – 2 members

REMS Leader – Single Resource Boss Qualified

Team Members - Firefighter 1 or 2 Wildland Fireline qualified

Arduous physical fitness level

CONSIDERATIONS

- a. Terrain will likely be very steep and unstable in areas where REMS use is applicable.
- b. In many cases walking a patient out of an area with the litter basket and wheel combination may not be possible due to terrain features.
- c. Rope systems may be deployed to ensure that a victim and the REMS team can safely transition from the incident location to the medical evacuation site.
- d. Long lowering and hauling distances may be encountered in REMS operations. This may require the patient to be moved in multiple pitches, or rope lengths. As a result, anchors may also be required to secure the patient while the system is moved and reset.

- e. Anchor systems should be kept as simple as possible due to the multiple and progressive anchor systems required and the urgent need to reach definitive medical care.
- f. Hand Crews may deploy in front of the litter basket to clear the trail and identify hazards.
- g. A Rigger in front of the system pre-setting anchors saves valuable time.
- h. A REMS minimum equipment cache should be assembled and stored prior to an incident so it is readily available at the time an Incident Management Team decides to implement REMS at an incident.
- i. Utilization of the raising/lowering system may be beneficial during the hike into a patient as well as during an extraction.

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT LIST (MEL)

- 2- 4-person 4x4 pickup truck or equivalent
- 1500' rope (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use 9.5mm (3/8") to 12.5mm (1/2"))
- 4- Descent control device (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- 22- Carabineers (NFPA 1983 Technical or General Use)
- 4- Small or mini prusik minding pulley (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- 4- Small or mini prusik minding double pulley (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- 1- Gathering plate or "O" ring (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- 16- Prusik (8- short, 8 long)
- 12 - 20' webbing
- 8- 12' webbing
- 8- 5' webbing
- Edge protection kit
- Sked® or Collapsible Multi-piece basket stretcher with hoist pre-rig
- Backboard
- Pickets or picket system
- Sledge Hammer
- Rope rescue gear packs for the above listed gear
- Litter wheel with tire repair kit
- Fire shelter (for patient)
- GPS Device
- Flagging
- Basic First Aid Kit
- 5-Class II or III harnesses (agency specific requirement)
- Class II victim harness

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT LIST (OEL)

- Utility Task Vehicle (UTV)
- Mechanical winch
- Artificial high directional device
- Generator
- Set of four mechanical advantage system
- Glow sticks
- Signal mirror
- Whistle
- Headlamps
- High lift Jack
- Chainsaw
- Knee and lumbar padding
- Leg splint with fiber tape and trauma shears
- Sleeping bag (patient padding)
- Spinal immobilization kit

NON-VEHICLE RESCUE CACHE

The following is recommended to outfit REMS personnel with the equipment inventory to perform a remote rescue in steep terrain and with no vehicle access to transport REMS personnel to a rescue site. This equipment cache shall be multifunctional and lightweight for potential of traversing long distances in steep terrain to access and complete a REMS mission. Rope length(s) and equipment quantities may be mission specific based on hiking in, inserted by air operations, and/or utility task vehicle off road transportation.

- Rope [NFPA 1983 Technical, 9.5mm (3/8") to 12.5mm (1/2")]
- Carabineers (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- Small or mini prusik minding pulley (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- Small or mini prusik minding double pulley (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- Prusiks
- Descent control device (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- Various webbing
- Gathering plate or ring (NFPA 1983 Technical or General use)
- Gear packs capable for transporting equipment
- Multi-piece basket stretcher with hoist pre-rig
- Litter wheel with tire repair kit
- Fire shelter (for patient)
- Flagging
- GPS
- Basic First Aid Kit
- Class II or III harnesses (agency specific requirement)
- Class II victim harness