

ROGUE VALLEY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Document:	Pandemic RV-IMT Response (COVID-19 Specific)
Section & #:	Mobilization #4.11
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Introduction

In general, our response will abide by the direction from the Oregon Health Authority and the County Health Department under the jurisdiction, which the incident falls. Our response could be different depending upon the incident but at all times the safety of responders and the public will be paramount. This document establishes interim standard operating procedures and protocols for screening and use of wildland fire personnel during incident management activities to protect all personnel, appropriately manage potential COVID-19 infection, and reduce risk.

Policy

Before responding we must meet the following “Am I Fit Criteria?”.

- Do I have a fever (100.4+), persistent dry cough, or difficulty breathing?
- During the last 14 days, have I been exposed to anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19 or has exhibited fever, cough or difficulty breathing?
- Do I have any underlying health or other issues that may place me in a high-risk category?
- Have I, recently, lost my sense of taste or smell?
- Have I, over the last 14 days, traveled to countries or regions which are Federal? State/tribal or local government acknowledged widespread community outbreak of COVID-19 or to areas or countries which the Federal government has issued an active travel restriction or advisory.
- If so, should I be in a 14-day self-quarantine?

If either 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 is true, report to your supervisor (based upon department direction) prior to leaving and await their direction.

Responding

Dispatching procedures remain the same.

Overhead positions: If responding by yourself in your own vehicle, ensure you are the only person to use your vehicle. Provide vehicle cleaning materials/supplies. If you travel with other personnel make sure they are the only other people to use your vehicle, do not transport other firefighters or overhead personnel. If possible, carry extra clothing so you can change out every day. Always bring appropriate masks and have one face mask readily available. Avoid cross-over of employees and belongings. Carry a 2-day supply of water and MRE's.

Engine Response: Engine Boss to confirm with ST/TFL the crew meets the "I am Fit" criteria. Bring at least two appropriate masks per person. Engine personnel stay with responding engine, do not transport other firefighters. Carry cleaning supplies and clean vehicle after every operational period. Carry hand sanitizers. Avoid cross-over of employees and belongings. Carry a 2-day supply of water and MRE's. Carry a crew manifest and give to planning section personnel.

Incident Command Post

All resources will be accounted for. If a Status Check-in Recorder position has not been established, each command & general staff position will be responsible for tracking people in their functional area and providing the information to the planning section.

All resources accessing any entry point location will wash their hands. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer may be used. All personnel will meet social distancing requirements. In the event social distancing might be compromised, masks must be worn. This may mean bringing more support vehicles to the incident, such as command trailers. All areas will have cleaning materials and hand sanitizers. All areas will be cleaned at the end of each operational period or as directed by the Safety Officer. Wipes, not sprays are recommended, thoroughly wet surfaces with cleaning solutions and air dry. Any news media or general public will not be allowed in work areas. ICP/camp will be closed, extra security will be required. A separate area for news media will be established by the PIO. Agency administrators must meet these requirements. For longer term assignments, porta-potties and hand washing stations will be provided. Trash collection should be done on a regular basis. Use of virtual conferencing techniques for communication with agency administrators and media is recommended.

Safety must immediately evaluate the ICP and work with Logistics to ensure current COVID-19 guidelines are being met. The Safety Officer will develop an ICS-215A to address this issue.

Briefings, Etc.

In order to meet social distancing requirements, only the Single Resource Boss, STL/TFL, Division/Group Supervisors or designated specialists should attend briefings. No more than one printed IAP per engine and overhead positions. Create QR coding for IAP and other documents to be distributed. Stand at least 6 feet from nearest personnel attending briefing and wear masks.

Consider giving briefing over the radio and use of QR coding of IAP.

When meeting other agency or contractor personnel, meet distancing requirements. Wear masks.

In-briefing for incoming team will take place at a facility where social distancing can be achieved.

Other

Personnel who are permitted to take an assignment following an exposure will have self-monitored under supervision of their employer's occupational health program. Meet the "Am I Fit?" criteria.

If you or one of your personnel believe they have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, immediately report to your ST/TFL or immediate incident supervisor. Isolate to your vehicle or designated area until cleared by Safety Officer or transported back to your unit. Safety Officer to notify the local health department for guidance.

Usually, local assignments only last 1-2 operational periods. If possible, bring 2 sets of wildland fire clothing for an extended assignment.

Minimize contact with non-fire personnel. Wear a mask if you interact with homeowners.

Allow contract resources access to incident services equal to department/agency personnel.

Discourage multiple personnel use of phones, radios & other work tools and equipment.

Ventilate vehicles during and after use.

Use MRE's for feeding whenever possible. If ordering meals, ensure providing restaurant meets COVID-19 safety requirements and all meals are served in individual containers. Ensure where food is distributed, adequate cleaning is accomplished before and after distribution.

Document on your 214's who you have had contact with throughout the assignment. This will help in the event there is any tracing that needs to be done due to a positive exposure.

For the purposes of this document an exposure is as follows;

- Someone that has had close contact with a known positive COVID case in the last 14 days that was not related to being on duty.
- If the contact was on duty for a medical call, then it would be considered an exposure if they were not following current PPE and care guidelines.
- You are currently under surveillance by the local health department due to a COVID exposure.

Implementation

To meet Oregon Health Authority guidelines all personnel and all other contacts made by incident personnel shall be checked-in and tracked on a daily basis. In order to do this, if available, use the attached form (5.25 Pandemic RV-IMT Check-In Form). If the form is not available, all incident supervisors will track personnel and contacts on an ICS 214 and turn in daily to incident Lead Safety Officer.