	FRANKLIN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	Op-5 TFST
	Task Force & Strike Team Responses	DATE 7/13/2023
		Effective Date 9/26/2023


**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE FOR
TASK FORCE & STRIKE TEAM INCIDENT REPOSESES**

PURPOSE: The objective of this guideline is to establish language, definitions and procedures outlining the request and utilization of Franklin County emergency Task Forces and Strike Teams to effectively and efficiently mitigate extraordinary emergency incidents.

SCOPE: This guideline applies to all agencies operating within Franklin County, PA.


TERMINOLOGY:

- A. **BRUSH TASK FORCE** – A combination of suppression resources including three brush trucks, one engine and one tanker.
- B. **EMS TASK FORCE** – A combination of EMS resources including three transport units, one Advanced Life Support provider and one manpower unit. An ALS unit with transporting capabilities meets the requirement as a transport unit and an ALS provider.
- C. **FRANKLIN** – The call sign of the Franklin County Department of Emergency Services Communication System Talk Group (TG) Dispatcher/Operators.
- D. **INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC)** – The individual who is in charge of and responsible for making the strategic decisions and delegating assignments necessary to control an incident.
- E. **MANPOWER UNIT** – Any Engine, Truck, or Rescue Squad listed on the Franklin County Department of Emergency Services Box Card submitted by each Authority Having Jurisdiction in Franklin County.
- F. **PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (PAR)** – The acronym used to describe a report conducted by the IC or designated individual, which requires contacting crew, division and/or group leaders to ensure the immediate accountability for their personnel.
- G. **STRIKE TEAM** – In accordance with the National Incident Management System, five units of the same resource type and category
- H. **TASK FORCE** – In accordance with the National Incident Management System, any combination of single resources assembled to accomplish a specific tactical mission.
- I. **WATER SUPPLY TASK FORCE** – A combination of suppression resources including three tankers/engine-tankers and one engine.

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PROCEDURES:

- I. Franklin County defines and recognizes the following Task Force and Strike Team resources for dispatch and utilization to mitigate emergency incidents. Determination of specific unit typing and category is determined by Franklin, via reference to the Authority Having Jurisdiction's submitted Box Card.
 - A. **Water Supply Task Force**
 Three (3) Tankers/Engine-Tankers
 One (1) Engine
 - B. **Brush Task Force**
 Three (3) Brush Trucks
 One (1) Engine
 One (1) Tanker/Engine-Tanker
 - C. **EMS Task Force**
 Three (3) BLS or ALS Transport Units
 One (1) ALS provider, which may be utilized as a transport unit
 One (1) Manpower Unit
 - D. **Strike Team**
 Five (5) specified unit types (Example: Engine Strike Team = Five (5) Engines)
- II. Task Force and/or Strike Team Request
 - A. Upon identification of an incident warranting additional resources, which are predetermined and defined in this guideline, the IC, first arriving unit, or first due unit shall request Franklin dispatch the respective Task Force and/or Strike Team, followed by any necessary orders, conditions, and/or notifications for the dispatched units.
 - B. Franklin may automatically dispatch a Task Force and/or Strike Team to an extraordinary incident where the given information indicates the initial resources specified on the Box Card will not be sufficient, and no emergency responder is on the scene.
- III. Task Force and/or Strike Team Dispatch
 - A. Franklin will dispatch the Task Force and/or Strike Team and relay the requester's pertinent information respectively.

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1. Example: IC requests, "Command to Franklin, start a Water Supply Task Force to 123 First Road." Franklin references the Box Card and dispatches accordingly.
2. Example: IC requests, "Command to Franklin, dispatch a Brush Strike Team to respond and Level II stage at 1 Field Road." Franklin references the Box Card and dispatches accordingly, stating the staging location.

- B. In the event Franklin dispatches a Task Force and/or Strike Team to an incident where no unit is on the scene, the incident operations shall be placed on a Tactical Operations Group of Talk Groups when available.
- C. Franklin will not verbalize specific Duty/Command Officer(s) on dispatch; therefore, it is understood a respective Duty/Command Officer shall notify the IC/Franklin of their response/arrival to an incident for assignment as a Task Force or Strike Leader.

IV. Task Force and/or Strike Team Operations

- A. When a Task Force and/or Strike Team is requested for an incident, the IC should ensure the communications related to incident operations are placed on an available Tactical Operations Group of Talk Groups (i.e. Ops 5, 8, 11, 14).
- B. The IC should consider the utilization of Incident Support Talk Groups for Task Force and/or Strike Team specific communications (i.e. Ops 5 assigned to the incident, Ops 6 utilized to coordinate tanker shuttle operations).
- C. The IC shall assign a supervisor/leader to respective Task Force/Strike Team(s).
- D. The IC shall ensure Task Force and/or Strike Team units/personnel are incorporated into and accounted for through Personnel Accountability Reports (PAR)