



Burlington Fire Department

136 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont 05401-8378

(802) 864-4554 • (802) 658-2700 (TTY)

Business Fax (802) 864-5945 • Central Station Fax (802) 865-5387



Section: 01 - Suppression	
SOG Number: 01.20	Effective Date: 10/26/2020
Subject: Multiple Alarm Response	
By Order of Fire Chief Steven A. Locke	

I. Purpose:

To provide Burlington Fire Department personnel a guideline for response to multiple alarm incidents.

II. Scope:

This guideline applies to all Burlington Fire Department personnel who respond to a multiple alarm incident. As with any emergency, the authority to deviate from this procedure rests with the Incident Commander or Chief Engineer.

III. Definitions:

2nd Alarm Recall: Members of the Burlington Fire Department, available for off-duty recall, and are within 30 minute travel time to the City.

First Alarm: The initial response to an incident. Resource deployment modeled in the Burlington Fire Department standards of cover document based upon incident type and risk.

Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Alarms: Alarm escalations of the Burlington Fire Department that, in addition to a total recall of BFD personnel, summon two additional engine companies and one additional truck company, per alarm, from mutual aid departments.

Level I Staging: Staging at the incident address, a block away, or otherwise in the immediate area.

Level II Staging: Staging away from the incident, usually at a designated area with other apparatus which is managed by a Staging Area Manager.

Multiple Alarm Response Matrix: A response matrix delineating resource allocation in a multiple alarm response.

Pilot: A Burlington Firefighter; Senior Firefighter or higher in rank, assigned to act as a liaison with mutual aid companies for the purpose of district familiarity and operational guidance. BFD Pilots will be assigned Knox keys and BFD SCBA.

Second Alarm: An emergency incident which requires the use of a 15-person effective response force (ERF) for greater than 30-minutes duration.

Special Call: Specific resources requested by the Incident Commander needed to mitigate the incident.

Third Alarm: An emergency incident which requires more resources than immediately available with the current on-duty staffing and for a prolonged duration. This will initiate a full department recall.

IV. Guidelines:

A). Second Alarm.

1. Upon declaration of a Second Alarm by the Incident Commander, a notification of a Second Alarm will be broadcast by Dispatch.
2. A group notification will be sent to the “Multiple Alarm” group. This group consists of all BFD personnel regardless of proximity to the city. Available members whom are within a 30-minute response time are to return to the city.
3. All recalled personnel will be required to wear seat and shoulder belts when responding to a recall, including personally owned vehicles (POV’s). Members are required to follow all state laws in their recall response.
4. Deployment of recalled Second Alarm personnel – Chief Officers.
 - a. The first arriving Chief Officer will report to the incident scene.
 - (1) Duties include a face to face progress report from the Incident Commander.
 - (2) Determine a need for additional resources.
 - (3) Communicating with later arriving Chief Officers for assignment.
 - b. The second or later arriving Chief Officer or Shift Commander
 - (1) Reports to Central Fire Station and act as the Recalled Shift Commander for recalled BFD resources and mutual aid companies.
 - c. The Battalion Chief of Training & Safety will report to the incident scene and assume the role of the Safety Officer.

- (1) In the absence of the Battalion Chief of Training and Safety, another recalled Chief Officer or Company Officer shall be assigned as the safety officer.
 - d. The Fire Marshal will report to the incident scene and assume the role of Fire Investigator.
5. Deployment of recalled Second Alarm personnel –
- (1) Members are to retrieve their PPE from their assigned stations.
 - (2) The first arriving backfill personnel at Stations 4 or 5 shall retrieve Ambulance 4 and Ambulance 5.
 - (a) Ambulance 4 shall be relocated to Station 2.
 - (b) Ambulance 5 shall be relocated to Station 1.
 - (c) If personnel arrive at their assigned station and the reserve apparatus has already been relocated, members shall relocate to the station in which the reserve apparatus has moved to.
 - (d) Each reserve ambulance will be staffed with a minimum of two (2) personnel, one of which is licensed as an AEMT or higher.
 - (e) Once staffed, the unit must sign available with dispatch.
 - (3) Backfill personnel assigned to Station 2 will staff reserve Engine 6.
 - (a) This unit will be staffed with a minimum of two personnel, one of which is a Senior Firefighter or higher in rank.
 - (b) Once staffed, the unit must sign available with dispatch.
 - (4) Backfill personnel at Station 3 will retrieve their PPE and report to Fire Station 2 to backfill Engine 6 or Ambulance 4.
 - (5) Backfill personnel at Station #1 will report to the recalled Shift Commander for assignment.
 - (a) One member, Senior Firefighter or higher, will be detailed to act as a Pilot for the mutual aid company.
 - (b) Other members will serve at the discretion of the recalled Shift Commander.
 - (i) The recalled Shift Commander shall ensure that the reserve Ambulance is staffed with adequate personnel.
 - (ii) The recalled Shift Commander may elect to staff Rescue 1.
 - (c) In the absence of a recalled shift commander, the on scene incident commander may be consulted for guidance.

B). Third Alarm or Greater

1. Upon declaration of a Third (or subsequent) Alarm by the Incident Commander, notification of a Third Alarm, and all subsequent alarms thereafter, will be broadcast by Dispatch.
2. A group notification of the Third Alarm, will be sent to all BFD Personnel. Group notification beyond the Third Alarm will not occur to save time within the Dispatch Center.
3. All recalled Multiple Alarm personnel will be required to wear seat and shoulder belts when responding to a recall, including personally owned vehicles (POV's). Members are required to follow all state laws in their recall response.
4. Deployment of recalled Multiple Alarm personnel – Chief Officers.
 - a. The first arriving recalled Chief Officer will report to the incident scene.
 - (1) Duties include a face to face progress report from the Incident Commander.
 - (2) Determine the need for additional resources.
 - (3) Communicating with later arriving Chief Officers for assignment.
 - b. The second or later arriving recalled Chief Officer or Shift Commander
 - (1) Reports to the Incident Scene and may assume the role of Staging Area Manager.
 - c. Later arriving Line Chief Officers or Shift Commanders
 - (1) Work at the discretion of the Incident Commander or DC of Operations.
 - (2) One Chief Officer should report to Central Fire Station and act as the Recalled Shift Commander for recalled BFD resources and mutual aid companies.
 - d. The Battalion Chief of Training & Safety will report to the incident scene and assume the role of the safety officer.
 - (1) In the absence of the Battalion Chief of Training and Safety, another recalled Chief Officer or Company Officer shall be assigned as the safety officer.
 - e. The Fire Marshal will report to the incident scene and unless directed otherwise, assume the role of Fire Investigator.
5. Deployment of recalled Multiple Alarm personnel.
 - (1) Members are to retrieve their PPE from their assigned stations.
 - (2) Reserve apparatus shall be brought to the incident scene as outlined below. If reserve apparatus are out of quarters, members shall respond to the

incident scene and report to the Staging Area Manager. Members who report to the incident scene are reminded to park POV's out of the immediate area in a position to not impede the incident.

- (3) First arriving personnel at Station 1 shall retrieve Rescue 1 and respond to Level II staging in the incident scene.
- (4) First arriving personnel at Station 2 shall retrieve reserve Engine 6 and respond to Level II staging at the incident scene.
- (5) Recalled personnel assigned to Station 3 shall retrieve their PPE and report to the Incident scene.
- (6) First arriving recalled personnel assigned to Station 4 shall retrieve reserve Ambulance 4 and respond to Level II staging at the incident scene.
 - (a) If staffed for citywide coverage, each reserve ambulance will be staffed with a minimum of two (2) personnel, one of which is licensed as an AEMT or higher.
- (7) First arriving recalled personnel assigned to Station 5 shall retrieve Ambulance 5 and respond to Level II staging at the incident scene.
 - (a) If staffed for citywide coverage, each reserve ambulance will be staffed with a minimum of two (2) personnel, one of which is licensed as an AEMT or higher.
- (8) Members who arrive after the above apparatus have left the station or the apparatus is otherwise not available shall retrieve their PPE and report to the incident scene.
- (9) The Staging Area Manager or Incident Commander may elect to detail recalled personnel, Senior Firefighter or higher, to Fire Station 1 and Fire Station 4 to act as the Pilot for the Mutual Aid Companies.

C). Multiple Alarm Response Matrix

1. A response matrix delineating resource allocation in a multiple alarm response (See Appendix A attached).

V. Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of all members to read, understand and follow this Standard Operating Guideline.

Revision History			
Revision Date	Section	Summary	Principal Author
2.14.2018		Initial release of document.	DC Collette
10.17.2018	Multiple	Terminology changes to reflect CAD update. Multiple Alarm Matrix updated for CAD.	DC Collette
07.06.2020	Matrix	Multiple Alarm Response Matrix updated to reflect the consolidation of the Colchester Fire Department	DC Collette
10.26.2020	Multiple	Updated for clarity and consistency with Active 911 recall. Changed second alarm recall to 30 minute travel time Updated Run Card with corrections	BC Libby

APPENDIX A – MULTIPLE ALARM RESPONSE MATRIX

BURLINGTON RUNNING CARD <i>Structure Fire</i>												
FIREGROUND CHANNEL BURLINGTON PRIMARY CHANNEL 3						STATION COVERAGE						
COVERING CHANNEL BURLINGTON CHANNEL 1												
TO FIRE												
ALARM	ENGINES			LADDERS	SPECIAL	CHIEFS	Other	ALARM	ENGINES			LADDER
1ST	BFD	BFD	BFD	2 LADDERS	2 AMB	1		1ST				
2ND	Last Remaining BFD R.I.C. Voc alarm				UVM Rescue	2nd Alarm Recall	BPD & Utilities	2ND	658-1234 SBFD to BFD #1			264-5555 Colchester 75' L-3 to #4
3RD	BFD E-6	SBFD 658-1234		Colchester L-3 75'	Recall all Shifts Amb 4 & 5	3rd Alarm Recall	Rescue 1	3RD	660-5911 AIR GUARD to BFD #1	264-5555 Colchester to BFD #4		655-0221 Winooski T-4 to #1
4TH	AIR GUARD 660-5911	Colchester 264-5555		Winooski 70' 655-0221				4TH	985-3233 Shelburne to BFD #1	264-5555 Colchester to BFD #4		985-3233 Williston T-1 to #1
5TH	Shelburne 985-3233	2nd Colchester Engine 264-5555		Williston 95' 985-3233				5TH	878-4300 Essex Twn to BFD #1	3rd Colchester FD Engine to BFD #4		878-4300 Essex Jct to Sta. #1
6TH	Essex Twn 878-4300	3rd Colch. Engine 264-5555		Essex Jct 105' 878-3315				6TH	985-3233 Charlotte to BFD #1	985-3233 Hinesburg to BFD #4		264-5555 Colchester to Station #1
7TH	Charlotte 985-3233	Hinesburg 985-3233		Colch. 100' 264-5555				7TH	985-3233 Ferrisburgh to BFD #1	985-3233 Richmond to BFD #4		893-2424 Milton to Station #1
Additional Alarms												
ENGINES			LADDERS		CAD Fire Unit IDs					CAD Ambulance ID		Utilities
					Engines		Ladders		Heavy Rescue	Ambulance		
SBFD 658-1234	Colchester 264-5555	Jericho 878-7111	Win FD 70' 655-0221	SBFD 75' 658-1234	Air Guard 18E7	SBFD 6E2	Colch. 4T41	Colchester 4L3	So. Burlington 6R343	Colchester CRA1	Essex Rescue ER1	Burl Elec - 865-7367 862-0231
Air Guard 660-5911	Shelburne 985-3233	Underhill 878-7111	Williston 95' TL 985-3233	Colch. 100' TL 264-5555	Colchester 4E4	Shelburne 11E1	Essex Jct. 3L3	So. Burl 6L1	Air Guard 18R6	So. Burl. 6A1	St. Mikes Rescue 12A1	VT GAS - 951-1760
Essex Town 878-4300	Richmond 985-3233	Hinesburg 985-3233	EJFD 105' 878-3315	Milton 100' TL 893-2424	Essex Town 15E1	Winooski 19E1	Milton 25T1	Winooski 19T4	Colchester Tech CTR	Shelburne Amb SEA1	UVM Rescue 22A1	Water - 863-4502
Charlotte 985-3233	Ferrisburgh 985-3233		St.Albans 100' 524-2131	Vergennes 75' 985-3233	Essex Jct 8E7	Williston 2E1	St. Albans City SACL1	Williston 2T1	Charlotte 5R3	Williston Ambulance 2A1		
					Colchester 4E1	Colch. (St. Mikes) 4E9		Vergennes VL319				

Updated - Oct. 10, 2020