

Sonoma County Op Area Upstaffing Plan – 2020

Upstaffing Criteria

In order to enhance preparedness and operational deployment, the Sonoma County Operational Area will consider upstaffing fire resources based on several decision points during the wildland fire season and beyond. Upstaffing will be a collective decision made by the Sonoma County Fire Chief's conference call at 11:00 a.m. Monday mornings or on an as needed basis.

Decision Points

Upstaffing of Sonoma County fire resources for local response enhancement will be considered using the following criteria. These criteria need to be analyzed for the collective needs of the county with considerations for the entire region. These factors may be considered individually or in unison.

- NWS Red Flag Warning, predicted or in effect;
- NWS High Wind Warning, predicted or in effect;
- Relative Humidity <20%, predicted or in effect;
- Burning Index >100 in CAL FIRE Zone 1 or >150 in CAL FIRE Zone 2;
- CAL FIRE Severe Weather Forecast Model (LNU Predictive Services);
- Dry Lightning predicted in the region;
- Other NWS Weather Warnings, predicted or in effect;
- Major Op Area resource drawdown;

Decision Making Model

Driven from the Op Area Coordinator or designee, the decision to upstaff resources will be a collective decision based on the totality of factors and the greater good of all Sonoma County Regions. This decision can be made due to forecasting or on an as needed basis. The planned Op Area conference call will look at forecasting the need to upstaff on a weekly basis. As needed, a conference call can be requested by the Op Area Coordinator, the REDCOM Duty Officer, or any Sonoma County Fire Chief. The Op Area Coordinator or designee will maintain ultimate decision-making authority to upstaff fire resources.

Operational and Logistical Considerations

The upstaffing of fire resources will result in the formation of a Sonoma County Task Force consisting of various types of engines, water tenders, and a leader. If available, each Sonoma County Region will dedicate one upstaffed apparatus on a rotational basis. In other words, if possible, the Sonoma County Task Force will be comprised of one apparatus from Region 3 through 9 for a total of 7 apparatus.

Volunteer Fire Companies will fall under their geographic region they reside in. If a Region is unable to provide apparatus, there will be no penalty and the Task Force will be formed with remaining available resources. Task Force Leaders will be chosen based on a rotational basis and assigned solely to the Task Force. The Active Status spreadsheet will be used to maintain fair and equitable opportunities to all agencies in the Op Area.

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Upstaffed apparatus will remain housed in their respective districts and respond when dispatched as a Task Force or Single Resource to assemble at the scene. In the event a district requires logistical support (i.e. housing) closer to the core of the Op Area, other agencies may opt to “host” that upstaffed apparatus. The Fire Chief responsible for the upstaffed apparatus will express the expectation that while not engaged in emergency response, the personnel assigned will remain operationally ready and engaged with the community within their region. Additional resources, when staffed, should be actively engaged in public fire prevention and education opportunities, up to and including after hour patrols in high hazard areas as needed, for the duration of the event.

Should an immediate need single unit or strike team/taskforce request come from an adjoining county, the REDCOM Duty Officer and Operational Area Coordinator have the discretion of deploying the closest resources, utilizing the upstaffed taskforce units or both. Should a planned need Strike Team/Task Force be requested through Mutual Aid, the Active Status list shall be utilized, keeping upstaffed apparatus assigned to the Op Area available for local needs.

Other Considerations

Based on the upstaffing decision points and other potential threats to the Op Area, there may be consideration to upstaff two apparatus per region leading to the development of two Sonoma County Task Forces.

In extreme conditions, the Op Area may consider upstaffing local overhead positions dedicated to local response. Some examples may include Battalion Chiefs, Safety Officers, Division/Group Supervisors, etc.

REDCOM should consider upstaffing additional call takers/dispatchers falling into similar guidelines set forth by this document.

Fire Chiefs should consider upstaffing additional resources individually based on forecasted or the immediate needs of their jurisdiction. This upstaffing will not be eligible for FSAC funding.

Fire Chiefs should consider providing direction that during predicted or realized significant fire weather events, on-duty staff will halt all non-essential daily operations (i.e. out of district training, fire inspections, etc.) to focus on readiness, community engagement, and fire prevention education with the public. Consider fleet readiness by having reserve apparatus available and non-safety related or long term planned repairs potentially deferred to keep equipment available.

Funding Stream

Funding for the Op Area fire resource upstaffing plan will be provided by FSAC monies. The program will be administered by Gold Ridge Fire Protection District using the CAL FIRE Assistance by Hire Invoicing process. An “E” number will be assigned to each upstaffed taskforce which can be found in the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs website for invoicing purposes: sonomachiefs.org/active-status-equipment.html. This upstaffing plan is a local resource that resides outside of potential staffing brought forth by DRiSC funding.

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Reimbursement Procedure

Personnel rates will be based on the current CAL OES Salary Survey on file. If a department does not have an established CAL OES Salary Survey, their personnel will be reimbursed based on the established CAL OES Rate Letter. Apparatus will be reimbursed at \$10.42/ hour. Overhead vehicles will be reimbursed at \$5.21/hour.

Only agencies listed on the XSN Upstaffing List will be reimbursed. This list is updated frequently and can be found on the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs website: sonomachiefs.org/active-status-equipment.html by clicking the XSN Upstaffing tab at the bottom of the page. Reimbursement will be based on the rates listed above and the hours shown on the XSN Upstaffing list.

To be reimbursed for an upstaffing event please submit the following forms to Leslie McCormick lmccormick@goldridgefire.org **within 30 days of the LAST day of the event:**

1. Current Cal OES Salary Survey (only needed for 1st reimbursement request of the season)
2. Completed SoCo Chief's Upstaffing FC-33 Form
3. Completed SoCo Chief's Upstaffing Invoice

These forms can be found on the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs website: sonomachiefs.org by selecting the Documents tab then click on Forms. All information on these forms must match the information listed on the XSN Upstaffing list which is created by the Op Area Coordinator. Failure to submit forms within 30 days of the last day of the event will delay payment until the next event invoice.

Apparatus and Personnel Liability

The host agency upstaffing the apparatus assumes all liability for any injuries or damages to the personnel and apparatus assigned to the in-county Task Force during stand-by time, initial and extended attack operations.

Personnel

All personnel hired under the Sonoma County Up-Staffing Plan shall comply with the following:

- Meet the required training for the position they were hired for by CAL OES/CICCS standards.
- Shall have all mandated personnel protective equipment (PPE) for all risk incident response.
- Shall fully meet CAL OSHA Title 8 Section 5144 by being clean shaven to provide SCBA facemask seal and have been fit tested within the last 12 months.
- Shall be in their respective agencies uniform when under hire. If the sending agency does not have a uniform, appropriate attire that identifies the personnel as fire department representatives shall be worn.

Staffing

Engine staffing shall not be less than three, with a reimbursable maximum of four people: One company officer, one operator and one or two firefighters.

Tactical water tender staffing shall be reimbursed based upon the actual classifications responding, not to exceed two Apparatus Operators or one Company Officer and one Firefighter. Personnel filling Engine Company or tactical water tender positions shall be certified at the appropriate level per Wildland Fire Qualification NWCG 310-1.