



Incident Command System  
Position Manual

RAPID EXTRACTION MODULE SUPPORT  
(REMS)  
ICS-223-12

January 2015

## INTRODUCTION

This position task 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 Rapid Extraction Module Support (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.

The FIREScope Task Force that 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. Personnel may be assigned to incidents that are managed by agencies that adhere to NWCG Standards for Medical Units. Personnel assigned to such incidents should be familiar with the NWCG Standards document. The NWCG document is available at:

[http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/iems/policyguides/minimum\\_stds\\_for\\_medical\\_units.pdf](http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/iems/policyguides/minimum_stds_for_medical_units.pdf)

Additional information and documentation can be obtained from the following source:

OES FIREScope  
Document Control  
2524 Mulberry Street  
Riverside, CA 92501-2200  
(951) 782-4174  
Fax (951) 782-4239  
www.firescope.org

## CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Contents.....	2
Checklist .....	3
Checklist Use.....	3
Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) Checklist.....	3
Organization.....	5
Staffing and Equipment .....	6
Major Responsibilities and Procedures.....	6
Training and Experience Requirements.....	6
Considerations.....	6
Standardized Equipment List (SEL) .....	8

## CHECKLIST

**CHECKLIST USE:** The checklist presented below should be considered as a minimum requirement for the position. Users of this manual may augment these lists as necessary. Note that some of the activities are one-time actions while others are ongoing for the duration of an incident.

### **RAPID EXTRACTION MODULE MOBILIZATION CHECKLIST:** \_

Obtain briefing from MEDL

- Expectations

- Assignments

- Hazards

- Communications plans

- Record keeping

Obtain proper Communications Equipment

- Portable radios and incident frequencies

- Cell phone or Satellite phone

Attend daily briefing

- Obtain daily IAP including communications plan

- Ensure radios are cloned to current communications plan

- Pay particular attention to whether or not air resources will be available

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)

Secure transportation appropriate to the incident and crew compliment

- 4WD pickup truck to transport stokes litter

Establish a flight manifest for crew and equipment

Depending on the type of aircraft, crew may need to be split

Establish crew priorities for flights

Establish equipment list for flights

Conduct a crew briefing

Establish crew leader

Assign other team positions

Rigger

Rescuer / litter team leader

Litter team members

Establish crew expectations and performance objectives

Line out crew member responsibilities, and positions

Module Leader

Rigger

Rescuer / litter team leader / litter team member

Conduct initial training with all assigned resources

Review Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational (LARRO) curriculum

Walk through rescue system set-up and operations

Conduct drills focusing on REMS mission

Obtain incident maps from Situation Unit

Obtain large operational maps including transportation system

Update maps as incident progresses

Configure equipment

Set-up equipment to carry in to the victim

Decide on crew responsibilities for equipment

Use back packs for equipment if possible

Configure vehicles to carry necessary equipment

Load rescue gear into vehicles

Assign personnel to vehicles

Ensure vehicles are operational

Establish team readiness

- Ensure team members understand assignment and job
- Notify MEDL that team is ready for deployment

Conduct readiness exercise

- If possible a scenario based drill
- Under real world conditions if possible

Continue training during assignments

- When staged or at drop points on incident, conduct training
- Train with other crews if possible
- Learn how to integrate other crews into REMS mission

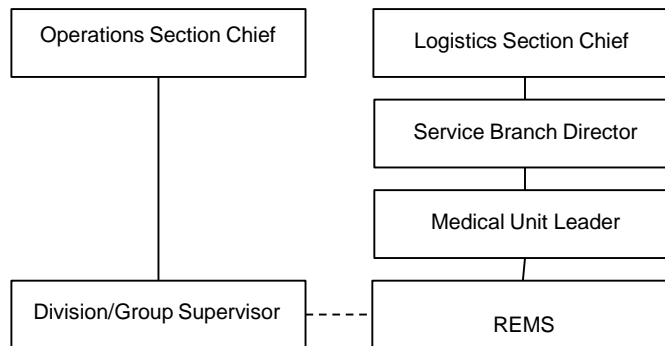
Recon assignment area

- Know access points to drop points in the operational area
- Know where crews are working and if possible crew assignments
- Obtain briefing from Fireline Supervisor
- 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 remain mobile or have to hike into the intended location with stokes 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 simple rope system can be assembled to raise or lower the stokes basket to an identified location.

The REMS is assigned as illustrated below:



**STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT:**

Minimum staffing consists of two technical specialists who are fireline qualified and trained in low angle rope rescue. The entire two-person module shall not be split-up. They should be paired up with an Engine crew (preferably a Type 3) or hand crew to assist the REMS with equipment deployment and rope system implementation. Training with the assigned resource will be part of their daily routine. A hand crew may be assigned to assist with patient movement and clearing an egress route. When ordered, the REMS will come with all equipment identified in the SEL.

**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 prior to next operational period.
- 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)

Firefighter 1 Wildland Fireline qualified

Arduous physical fitness level

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

- a. Terrain may 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 Stokes basket and wheel combination may not be possible due to terrain features.
- c. Rope systems may be employed to ensure that a victim and the REMS team can safely transition from the accident location to the medical evacuation site.
- d. The technical rope handling component of the REMS team is critical to ensure that mission objectives are met.
- e. Long lowering and hauling distances may be encountered in REMS circumstances. This may require the patient to be moved in multiple pitches, or rope lengths. Because of this, anchors may also be required to secure the patient while the system is moved and reset.
- f. 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.
- g. Hand Crew may hike in front of the Stokes to clear the trail and identify hazards.
- h. Rope systems may a necessity for safe operations.
- i. A scout in front of the system pre-setting anchors saves valuable time.
- j. A REMS standard 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.
- k. Utilization of the raising/lowering system may be beneficial during the hike into a patient as well as during an extraction.



## STANDARD EQUIPMENT LIST (SEL)

- 2 piece stokes basket
- Wide litter wheel
- Backboard with foam padding
- Foam knee and lumbar padding
- Cardboard leg splint
- Fiber tape
- Trauma shears
- Sleeping bag (for patient)
- Fire shelter (for patient)
- GPS
- Flagging ribbon
- 4WD pickup truck or equivalent

### Rope rescue cache:

- 2 - 150' Ropes (of a size to meet current LARRO standards)
- 15 - Carabiner
- 4 - 2" Prusik minding pulley
- 4 - Prusik
- 10 - 20' Webbing
- 4 - 10' Webbing
- 4 - 6' Webbing
- 1 - Gang plate
- 2 - Rope Bag
- 1 - Hardware Bag
- 2 - Class II harness

\*\*\*If possible, all gear in Backpack\*\*\*

### Recommended equipment:

- Glow sticks
- Signal mirror
- Bicycle pump or Fix-a-flat
- Tire plugs
- Whistle
- Headlamps

Equipment cache should be lightweight, minimal and multifunctional due to the potential of traveling long distances over steep terrain to complete the REMS mission.