

307 Emergency Egress Guideline

TERMINOLOGY FOR EMERGENCY EGRESS OF STRUCTURES

1. **Abandon:** The term “abandon” is used to direct companies or crews operating in the hazard zone to immediately exit via escape routes to a safety zone. For example, at a structure fire the order to “abandon the building” directs all companies or crews in the hazard zone to immediately exit to a safety zone. Companies or crews abandoning the hazard zone will take only the tools, equipment, and hose lines necessary to permit their emergency egress.
2. **Withdraw:** The term “withdraw” is used to order a controlled tactical movement from current operating positions to a safer location. For example, offensive operations at a structure fire could be shifted to defensive by ordering the companies to “withdraw from the building”. Companies or crews withdrawing from an operating position will also remove tools, equipment, and hose lines.
3. **Evacuate:** The term “evacuate” will be limited to removal of civilians who are exposed or potentially exposed to hazards presented by the incident, i.e. evacuation of exposures at a structure fire or evacuation conducted downwind of a hazardous materials release.
4. **Emergency Traffic:** The phrase “emergency traffic” is the code word used in radio communications to indicate a critical, life safety related message. Emergency traffic has priority over all other radio communications with the exception of a mayday message. Situations in which emergency traffic communications are indicated are (but not limited to):
 - Abandoning the hazard zone
 - Reporting extreme safety hazards such as imminent structural collapse
 - Changing strategy from offense to defense
 - Requesting additional resources in a critical situation
5. **Safety Zone:** An area of safe refuge located outside the hazard zone.

ABANDON ORDER

In the event a situation occurs that an emergency abandonment of a structure or area by all firefighters is required, an alert tone (10 seconds) generated by CRESA will be sounded in conjunction with an audible abandon signal on the fire ground. Verbal "emergency traffic" information will immediately follow the alert tones on all frequencies in use on the scene, followed by the continuous sounding of air horn and sirens for a period of ten seconds.

When abandonment of a structure or area is needed, the sequence of events is as follows:

1. The IC will announce "emergency traffic" and order an immediate abandonment of a structure or area, by all divisions, over the radio. At this time, apparatus operators in the immediate area will sound the audible abandon signal (air horn and/or sirens) for 10 seconds.
2. The IC will then contact a CRESA dispatcher and request the abandon alert tone be sounded. The IC will also advise the dispatcher of pertinent "emergency traffic" information that should immediately follow the alert tone. If applicable, the announcement will also include the location of a meeting place(s) in a safe zone.
3. The dispatcher will tap out the alert tone on all frequencies in use, followed by the "emergency traffic" information relayed from the IC.
4. Division Supervisors will order all crews out of their respective area of responsibility immediately.
5. The IC will start a PAR by Division, beginning with Division most at risk.
6. Each Division Supervisor will account for their assigned personnel, and advise the IC. If there are no Division Supervisors, the IC will assume that responsibility.
7. Simultaneous with the abandon signal and the PAR, the RIT will proceed to the Division most at risk to prepare for rescue operations if needed.
8. If anyone is not accounted for, the abandon alert tone/signal will be repeated.