

El Dorado County Fire Protection District

Standard Operating Guideline

Article: 3 Emergency Operations
Section: 19 Fireground Emergency Distress Signal (FEDS)

Adopted: 05-01-2000
Revised: 06-18-2020

I. Purpose

To establish a procedure to notify all personnel operating at an emergency regarding vital safety information. This signal must be easily recognized, understood and implemented by all personnel and dispatchers. This signal is used when there is a safety issue that must be immediately addressed including but not limited to hazardous conditions, building evacuations and other life threatening situations.

II. Policy

A - The Fireground Emergency Distress Signal(FEDS) shall be utilized at any incident when a situation occurs that is hazardous to incident personnel and requires immediate action be taken.

B – It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to initiate the FEDS upon his notification of the situation

C – If the Incident Commander cannot be reached, or if time is critical, anyone on the incident may declare an emergency and activate the FEDS.

III. Definitions

Fireground Emergency Distress Signal (FEDS) – A signal activated at an emergency incident that is easily made by any person on the scene. The signal alerts all personnel to immediately move to a safe area and listen to their radios for additional information in regards to a safety issue and subsequent actions.

IV. Procedure

A – FEDS shall consist of activation of an electronic siren utilizing the Hi-Lo tone. A Personal Alarm Locator(PAL) may be substituted for the Hi-Lo siren.

B – The siren tone or the PAL tone shall be broadcast over the radio using the tactical frequency assigned to the incident for 15 seconds.

C – The tone shall be followed by verbal instructions indicating:

1. Safety instructions (Evacuate the building, Live wires down)
2. Repeated 3 times

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V. Related Policies

A – A Par check will be performed (reference Article 3 Section 18)

B – The RIC Team will move to a safe area, but will remain ready for activation if needed (reference Article 3 Section 21)