



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Investigative Hearing

Norfolk Southern Railway general merchandise freight train 32N
derailment with subsequent hazardous material release and fires,
in East Palestine, Ohio, on February 3, 2023

GROUP	C
EXHIBIT	
6	

Agency / Organization

Ohio Fire Chiefs Association

Title

Emergency Response System

Quick Reference Guide

2023

2023

Ohio Fire Chiefs Association

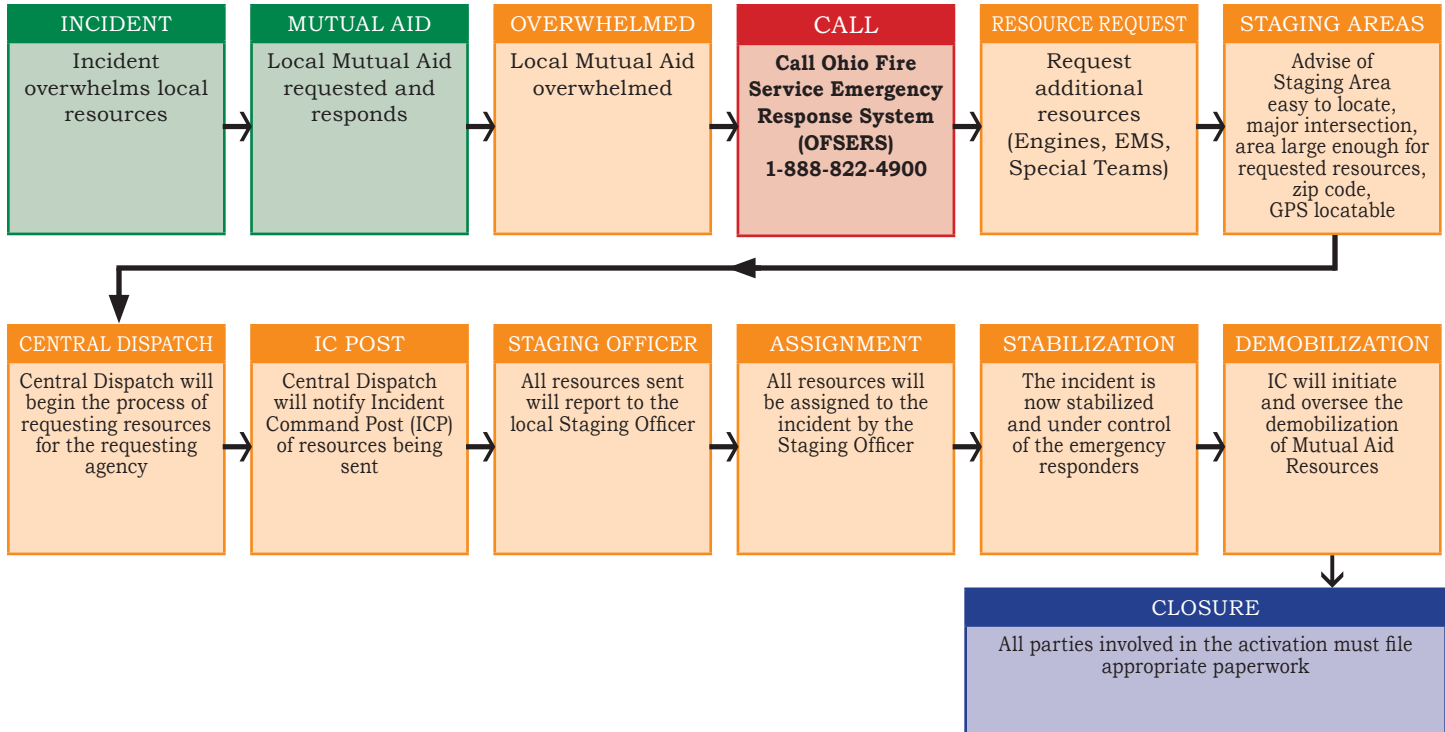
Emergency Response System



PREMIER • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE

TURN THE PAGE FOR A QUICK GUIDE TO REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR INCIDENT

ACTIVATION PROCEDURES



TO REQUEST RESOURCES DIAL:

888-822-4900

Be ready with the following:

1. Name of affected jurisdiction and the name of the Fire Department responsible for providing service to that community.
2. Name of the calling agency; name & rank of caller. Call back phone and fax numbers.
3. Incident Commander (name, rank and department) requesting assistance.
4. Type of emergency.
5. Type and number of needed apparatus (i.e. 20 engines, 30 medics and 4 structural collapse teams).
6. Location of Staging Area (use major highways that can be located on highway road maps).
7. Type of response needed: IMMEDIATE or “SCRAMBLE” (enroute within 30 minutes and be able to be on site for up to 24 hours) OR LONG TERM or “STANDARD” (enroute within 3 hours and be able to be on site for up to 72 hours).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE REGIONS

State Coordinator

Ret. Chief Bill Houk,

[Redacted] m

REGION 1

Chief Kevin Bernhard, 4
Ch [Redacted] b [Redacted] cl [Redacted]

Chief Mike Ramm 419.343.4599
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REGION 2

Chief Scott Hildenbrand, [Redacted]
[Redacted]

Chief Mike Carroll, [Redacted]
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REGION 3

Chief Jeff Leaming, [Redacted]
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Chief Scott K [Redacted]
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REGION 4

Chief Allen [Redacted]
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Ret. Chief Matt Noble, [Redacted]
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Assistant State Coordinator

Chief Bill Shaw,

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REGION 5

Chief Tim Berczik, [Redacted]
th [Redacted] @ [Redacted]

Chief Rick Anderson [Redacted]
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REGION 6

Chief Steve Kelly, [Redacted]
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REGION 8

Chief Glenn Hill, [Redacted]
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IT Liaison

Ret. Chief Bill Houk,

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MARCS Communications Liaison

Ret. Chief Scott Skeldon,

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If you would like more information regarding the Ohio Fire Emergency Response System or would like for us to give a presentation to your regional or county group, please contact your regional coordinator or the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Office at phone: 614.410.6322 or 800.347.3704. Thank you.

List current as of April 1, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF FIELD GUIDE	6
REQUESTING AGENCY	7-8
RESPONDING UNITS	9
CODE OF CONDUCT	10-11
FORCE PROTECTION	12
COMMUNICATIONS	12
SUGGESTED PRE-DEPLOYMENT LIST	13
THINGS TO CONSIDER/DO WHILE RESPONDING	14
EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS	14
PERSONAL ITEMS	15
CONVOY TRAVEL SUGGESTIONS	16
KEY POSITION CHECKLISTS	17-22
ICS 214, UNIT LOG (MULTIPLE COPIES)	23
ICS 211, INCIDENT CHECK-IN FORM (MULTIPLE COPIES)	25
HAZ-MAT RESOURCE TYPE DECISION FLOW CHART	27
COLLAPSE SEARCH AND RESCUE DECISION FLOW CHART (ONCE COMPLETED BY TAC)	28
WATER RESCUE TEAM DECISION FLOW CHART (ONCE COMPLETED BY TAC)	29
PROCEDURES FOR USE OF THE OHIO TURNPIKE DURING DEPLOYMENT	30
QUICK CHECKLIST FOR DEPLOYMENT (MULTIPLE COPIES)	31

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF FIELD GUIDE

The purpose of this Quick Reference Guide to the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association Emergency Response System (OFCAERS) is to provide first responders a quick reference to the essential operational procedures for requesting and providing mutual aid within the state of Ohio.

The purpose of the OFCAERS is to provide guidance for a response to catastrophic emergency incidents of state significance involving fire. These include, but are not limited to, incidents that are:

- Beyond the resource capabilities of local response organizations, including local mutual aid resources
- Multiple single significant (major) events occurring that exceed local resources

OFCAERS was created to provide for the systematic mobilization, deployment, organization, and management of Ohio local fire related resources in order to provide assistance in mitigating the effects of emergencies and disasters through Ohio and the Nation, when so requested.

REQUESTING AGENCY

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRICKEN AREA UNITS & SUPPORTING UNITS

Initial Assessment

What are the:

- Conditions?
- Actions?
- Needs?

What is at risk?

- Who has the jurisdictional responsibility for this incident?

Current Assumptions

Current Actions:

- Strategic goals, tactical objectives and tactics?
- Effectiveness? How to improve?
- Efficiency? How to improve?

Important Considerations

- Request supporting units through proper protocols
- Look at big picture when requesting help

REQUESTING AGENCY (continued)

Have proper amount of command staff to handle responding units; If not request command support.

- Be prepared to supply maps, known hazards etc. to responding agencies
- Realize units responding may not know the area
- Build command staff to appropriate size for support

Considerations for Successful Outcome

- Planning will be a key to your success
- Support units with essentials as soon as possible, fuel, food, shelter, etc.
- Consider safety and control of stricken area
- Command needs to listen to reports from field to insure plan is progressing or needs to change
- Suggestions need to be considered and answered professionally
- Assign staging areas large enough for amount of help that may be requested overall
- Staging areas need security provided
- Assign Public Information officer as soon as possible. Press and news will be uncontrollable very quickly
- Give orders clearly and professionally
- Effective work time for all personnel including command personnel is twelve hours
- Command staff needs to evaluate overall operations and inform field personnel with constant updates and proper intelligence for the accomplishment of the assignments given
- Have a plan for relief crews and demobilization procedure
- Return units in a timely manner

RESPONDING UNITS

Important Considerations

- Bring proper Code Word documentation (should be given to you from your dispatch)
- Send qualified personnel for the job
- Be prepared to respond and have all proper suggested equipment and supplies
- Use proper protocols for responding units
- Accept plan and assignment
- Ask for equipment or extra units to accomplish assignment
- Use proper check in and checkout procedures
- Make suggestions to command professionally and accept decision
- Operate safely
- Be able to accept and accomplish assignment with the equipment you have
- Be self sufficient for all your needs for at least 72 hours
- Make sure you understand orders, if not ask for clarification
- Represent yourselves professionally and courteously
- Try to understand the situation and give assistance accordingly
- Do not talk to the media about the incident unless requested by command
- You will need permission to leave once the assignment is accepted
- Let command know of any special circumstances that would cause you not to complete your assignment
- Work professionally with all units assigned
- Use checkout procedure when you have received orders to leave
- Provide all documentation as requested
- Be positive in your critique; use it as a tool for improvement
- Critical comments to personnel that weren't involved will be what is heard and relayed so make your comments and reports as positive as possible

CODE OF CONDUCT

Topic	Primary Agency	Responding Agency
Invitation	Send formal request to all responding agencies.	Accept request and advise the IC of your estimated time of arrival.
Resources	Advise responding agencies what resources and equipment they will need to bring.	Provide adequate resources/equipment that are in good working condition.
Action Plan	Develop an Action Plan including responsibilities, maps, known hazards, etc. and communicate plan to all responding agencies.	Review the Action Plan and seek clarification if you do not understand your team's role/assignment.
Assignments	Utilize the strengths and preferences of the responding agencies when possible.	Carry out the assignment(s) you are given and capable of doing.
Leadership	Lead by example. Work vigorously to earn and keep the trust of the responding agency and the community.	Follow the lead of the IC. If asked to lead a certain task/section, lead as if you were in charge of your own community.
Professionalism	Hold yourself to the highest standards and remain professional at all times.	Hold yourself to the highest standards and remain professional at all times.
Safety	Implement a world-class safety program and stress safety is the #1 priority	Conduct safe operations and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
Listening	Know your incident objectives Seek input from responding agency to utilize their skills, equipment and resources.	Review Action plan. Offer input that reflects your agency's skills, equipment and resources
Understanding	Be cognizant of what the responding agency is giving up to come and assist you.	Recognize the issues facing the primary agency and understand their situation.

CODE OF CONDUCT (continued)

Topic	Primary Agency	Responding Agency
Teamwork	You have an obligation to lead and work effectively with all responding agencies. Teamwork will stabilize and terminate the incident quicker than not working together.	You must be committed to working in a team environment. Work together to solve problems with the goal of stabilizing and terminating the incident as quickly as possible.
Citizenship	Always be appreciative of the assistance you received.	Appreciate the opportunity to serve and assist another community.
Public Information	Clearly identify the PIO. Ensure all responding agencies and the media work through the PIO	Do not speak to the media unless you have been given permission by primary agency
Fatigue	Primary agency needs a clear mind at all times when managing the incident. If the IC starts to become fatigued they should be replaced with a fresh IC.	Responding agency should advise the IC when their staff become fatigued. Tired staff members should be replaced with fresh staff who are ready to perform all tasks at optimum efficiency
Demobilization	When the incident is at the point that you no longer need mutual aid, let responding agency return to their community.	Follow the IC's plan for demobilization and return to your community.

FORCE PROTECTION

Protection of responders will be coordinated with ESF 16 (Law Enforcement and Security) based on the nature of the mission and extent of risk to those responders and may include but not be limited to:

- Protection of personnel and equipment while in transit
- Security at the base of operations
- Protection during search & rescue operations
- Protection during rescue operations

COMMUNICATIONS

Central Dispatch will offer to the requesting agency to include a State Communications Vehicle (using either a regional Buckeye State Sheriff's Association Communications Unit or another communications vehicle) into the dispatch assignment. The State of Ohio, Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) has available mobile repeaters and caches of portable radios that can be requested through Central Dispatch.

Where MARCS radios are available, an ECOMM channel should be requested from the State and assigned to the incident for coordination of responding agencies. Plain language for all voice transmission must be utilized.

Initially ECOMM -20 will be assigned to all agencies that are responding as part of the Emergency Response System.

SUGGESTED PRE-DEPLOYMENT LIST

(Also see checklist on back cover)

1. What is the deployment duration? (Plan accordingly, especially if an EMAC deployment)
2. What is the reporting location?
3. Is there an assembly point to convoy to the incident? (See Convoy Suggestions section)
4. What is the reporting time?
5. Who does the deployed crew report to on arrival?
6. Does the crew have the proper Code Word?
7. What is the incident commander's name?
8. What is the command post telephone number?
9. What is the mission number?
10. What are the emergency contact numbers for all deployed personnel?
11. If needed what room and board provisions are there for personnel?
12. Have all appropriate forms been faxed?
13. Prepare go-kit for specific assignment. (suggested items on page 14)
14. Provide a cell phone or other contact numbers if known.
15. Perform communications check with all assigned communications equipment prior to departure.
16. Insure all expenditure accountability documents are understood and identified before departure.
17. Requisition (the number given to the team by OEMA or Central Dispatch)

THINGS TO CONSIDER/DO WHILE RESPONDING

1. Unless this is a local mutual aid event, response should be done in a non-emergency mode
2. Make sure you have the code word readily available for arrival at staging
3. Begin work on your ICS 214, Unit Log (Forms are in the appendix of this FOG)
4. When possible form Strike Teams or Task Forces prior to departure from home area

EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Each team should consider equipment needs. The following are suggestions:

- Radios with batteries, spare batteries, and chargers
- Flashlights – all shapes and sizes
- Extra batteries for flashlights and battery tools
- Tools – hand, power, and extrication as appropriate to the mission
- Compressed breathing air
- Generator, lights, extension cords, adapters
- Thermal imagers, gas meters
- Fuel for power tools, oil, spare parts
- Tool kit (wrenches, pliers, screwdrivers, etc.)
- Shelter, tents, etc. for Base of Operations
- Cash, credit cards, or purchase orders for team expenses

PERSONAL ITEMS

Each responder should consider their equipment needs. The type of deployment should be considered when choosing personal items. (standard or scramble response)

The following are suggestions:

- Food / Water (enough for expected duration of deployment)
- Full set of NFPA compliant protective Structural Firefighting gear including SCBA (coat, pants, helmet, fire fighting gloves, suspenders, boots, protective eyewear, and flash hood).
- Full set of wildland fire PPE (including fire shelter) [for wildland response only]
- Infectious disease control kit, with basic body substance isolation items
- Shirts appropriate for the weather (at least three)
- Sweat shirts (at least three, based on weather)
- Long pants (at least three; no shorts in the field, shorts OK in camp)
- Socks (at least three pair)
- Boots - consider bringing an extra pair
- Jacket (based on weather)
- Under clothing (at least three sets)
- Personal toiletry items (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, shaving kit, towels, etc.)
- Medicines (at least a week's supply)
- Bed roll & pillow (cot optional)
- Eye glasses / Contact lens (extra set)
- Money
- Identification materials
- Sunscreen
- Rain gear
- Heavy-duty work gloves (not to be used for firefighting)
- Cell phone

CONVOY TRAVEL SUGGESTIONS

The following should be the responsibility of the Task Force or Strike Team Leader

1. When travelling by convoy check in at the Mobilization Site on time
2. Travel with the slowest vehicle leading the convoy (think Ladder or Tanker)
3. Make sure at least the front and rear vehicles have a common radio frequency to communicate
4. Make sure each vehicle:
 - Knows the travel route
 - Has a map
 - Has a way to contact lead vehicle in an emergency (radio or cell phone)
5. Communicate the convoy time of departure and estimated arrival time at the Staging area to your county dispatch center
6. Upon arrival at the Staging area, check in with the Staging area manager

SYSTEM ACTIVATION

Key Position Checklists

Responsibility: The responsibility for activation of this system shall remain with the person or persons with incident management authority in the event of a disaster within that jurisdictional area.

Actions:

- _____ In the event of an emergency/disaster and local/regional mutual aid systems have been exhausted, the local jurisdiction shall determine the type and amount of additional resources required; requests shall be in accordance with the Resource Inventory guidelines of this System
- _____ The local/regional dispatch center of the affected jurisdiction establishes contact with Central Dispatch Center at 1-888-822-4900 and requests additional resources
- _____ During any major incident, interagency coordination is essential. Upon the activation of the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), requests for assistance shall be channeled through the local EOC
- _____ The local/regional dispatch center shall then contact and notify the County Coordinator and the local County Emergency Manager to inform them of activation of the System
- _____ The Central Dispatch Center dispatches the requested resources, contacts the requesting dispatch center to verify the response, and advises the State Coordinator of activation of the System
- _____ The State Coordinator notifies the Assistant State System Coordinator and the Regional Coordinators of activation of the System
- _____ The State Coordinator will establish an appropriate contact with the State Fire Marshal Office operating within the State EOC

PRESIDENT OF THE OHIO FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Position Responsibilities: Overall coordination of the Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response System through the State System Coordinator.

Actions:

- _____ Annually appoints the Chair of the OFCA Emergency Response System Committee who also serves as the State System Coordinator
- _____ Upon recommendation from the State System Coordinator, annually appoints the Assistant State System Coordinator and the eight (8) Regional System Coordinators
- _____ Considers and approves/disapproves recommendations from the State Coordinator regarding committee membership
- _____ Notifies the Division of State Fire Marshal annually with the identity of the State System Coordinator
- _____ Communicates with State System Coordinator on all matters affecting Ohio disaster planning
- _____ Assists State System Coordinator with system management as necessary
- _____ Contacts adjacent state fire chief associations, as necessary, to coordinate planning activities
- _____ Liaison with IAFC for situation updates and assistance needs
- _____ Attends critiques of the System at his/her discretion

STATE SYSTEM COORDINATOR

Position Responsibilities: Overall coordination, management, maintenance of the Ohio Fire Service Emergency Response System.

Actions:

- _____ Appointed annually by the President of the OFCA
- _____ Serves as Chairman of the OFCA Emergency Response System Committee
- _____ Recommends candidates for the position of Assistant State System Coordinator to the President of the OFCA
- _____ Recommends candidates for the positions of Regional System Coordinators to the President of the OFCA; obtains input from the OFCA District Director and the County Fire Chief's Associations in each region
- _____ Recommends to the OFCA President alterations to the Emergency Response System Committee as deemed necessary
- _____ Holds regular committee meetings; these meetings shall be conducted at least semi-annually
- _____ Represents the Emergency Response System Committee to the Board of Directors of the OFCA
- _____ Makes reports to the full OFCA on the System and the activities of the committee, as needed
- _____ Makes annual written report to the President of the OFCA
- _____ Insures system updating, training, and other administrative functions are on-going
- _____ Notifies the President of the OFCA when the System is activated
- _____ Serves as Fire Service representative/liaison to the State Fire Marshal's Office operating in the State Emergency Operations Center
- _____ Serves as the liaison, during the disaster, to the affected Regional System Coordinator
- _____ Notifies Regional System Coordinators of system activation and that resources may be required
- _____ Directs the coordination of the reimbursement process
- _____ Critiques responses with committee and makes appropriate recommendations to the OFCA for changes in the System
- _____ Develops a system to provide for the continued staffing of the position during extended operations

ASSISTANT STATE SYSTEM COORDINATOR

Position Responsibilities: Assists the State System Coordinator in the overall coordination and maintenance of the Ohio response system.

Actions:

- _____ Appointed annually by the President of the OFCA
- _____ Serves as chairman and system coordinator in the absence of the State Coordinator
- _____ Responsible for coordinating all grants and training programs in support of the System
- _____ Provides recommendations on revisions as necessary to update the System
- _____ Liaisons with external associations and agencies on training opportunities

REGIONAL SYSTEM COORDINATOR

Position Responsibilities: Maintenance and coordination of the System at the regional level.

Actions:

- _____ Appointed annually by the President of the OFCA.
- _____ Identifies and trains at least one (1) alternate for the Region (preferably a County Coordinator)
- _____ During activation, serves as coordinator for the System in the assigned region
- _____ During activation, assigns or is assigned a liaison in the disaster area
- _____ Serves as member of the OFCA Emergency Response System Committee
- _____ Appoints County System Coordinators with the input of the County Fire Chiefs' Associations in the area
- _____ Maintains current resource list of equipment, personnel, etc. within the region that are available for response upon System activation. Updates resource list at least semi-annually
- _____ During System activation, communicates with the State System Coordinator

COUNTY SYSTEM COORDINATOR

Position Responsibilities: Maintenance and coordination of the System at the county level.

Actions:

- _____ Appointed annually by the Regional System Coordinator upon the recommendation of the County Fire Chiefs' Association.
- _____ Identifies a contact for each department in the county.
- _____ Identifies the fire service dispatching points within the county.
- _____ Maintains current resource list of equipment, personnel, etc. within the county that are available for response upon System activation; updates resource list at least semi-annually.
- _____ Prior to System activation, establishes and maintains an on-going dialogue with the local EMA.
- _____ Assists with the creation/expansion of local and county mutual aid systems.
- _____ Serves as a liaison for the System to the local fire service representatives within the County EOC.
- _____ Assists local jurisdictions and EMA with incident documentation and the processing of reimbursement document.

UNIT LOG (ICS 214) Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Emergency Response System	1. Incident Name	2. Date Prepared	3. Time Prepared
4. Unit Name/Designators	5. Unit Leader (Name and Position)		6. Operational Period
7. Personnel Roster Assigned			
Name	ICS Position	Home Base	
8. Activity Log			
Time	Major Events		
9. Prepared by (Name and Position)			

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Ohio Fire Chiefs' Emergency Response Plan CHECK-IN FORM (ICS 211)

Incident Name _____ Check-in Location _____ Date _____ Time _____

Leader's Name _____ Communication _____ Radio Frequency _____
 Link to Leader _____ of Resources ____ p/1 _____

Personnel	Department	County	DEPARTURE FROM HOME JURISDICTION		ARRIVAL AT CHECK-IN		DEMOBILIZATION	
			Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

Resources: Kind _____ Type/GPM/Size _____ Misc _____

Sent to or Deployed at _____ Local Contact _____ Comm Link/Local Contact _____

Time Sent _____ Time Released _____ Nature of Work Performed _____

Personnel Used: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Pump Used _____ Hrs. Aerial Used _____ Hrs.

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Leader's Name _____ Communication _____ Radio Frequency _____
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Leader's Name _____ Communication _____ Radio Frequency _____
 Link to Leader _____ of Resources ____ p/1 _____

Personnel	Department	County	DEPARTURE FROM HOME JURISDICTION		ARRIVAL AT CHECK-IN		DEMOBILIZATION	
			Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

Resources: Kind _____ Type/GPM/Size _____ Misc _____

Sent to or Deployed at _____ Local Contact _____ Comm Link/Local Contact _____

Time Sent _____ Time Released _____ Nature of Work Performed _____

Personnel Used: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Pump Used _____ Hrs. Aerial Used _____ Hrs.

Ohio Fire Chiefs' Emergency Response Plan CHECK-IN FORM (ICS 211)

Incident Name _____ Check-in Location _____ Date _____ Time _____

Leader's Name _____ Communication _____ Radio Frequency _____
 Link to Leader _____ of Resources ____ p/1 _____

Personnel	Department	County	DEPARTURE FROM HOME JURISDICTION		ARRIVAL AT CHECK-IN		DEMOBILIZATION	
			Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

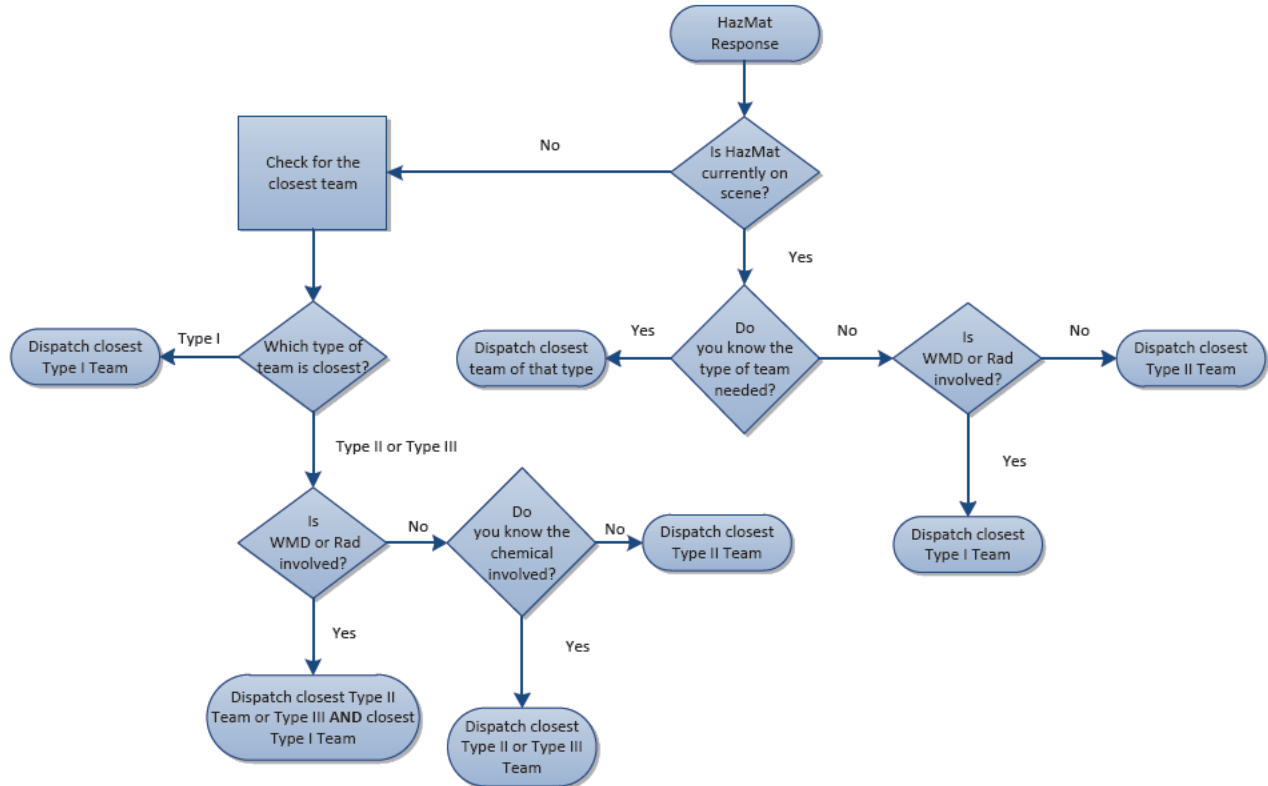
Resources: Kind _____ Type/GPM/Size _____ Misc _____

Sent to or Deployed at _____ Local Contact _____ Comm Link/Local Contact _____

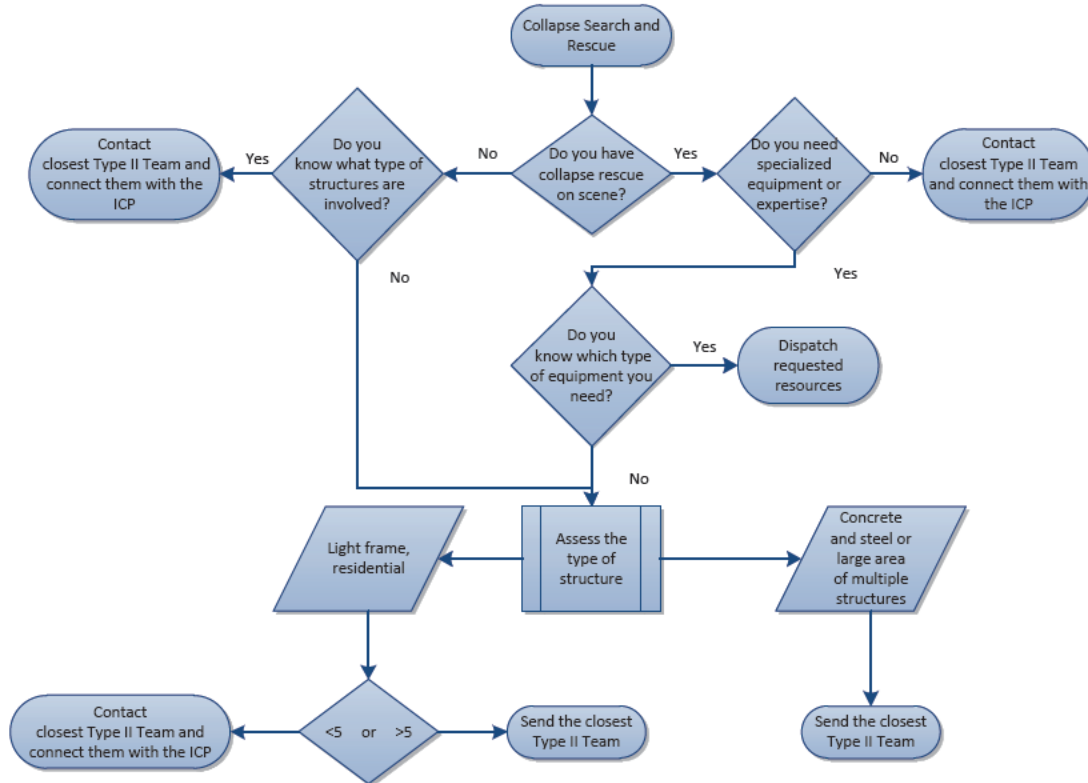
Time Sent _____ Time Released _____ Nature of Work Performed _____

Personnel Used: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Pump Used _____ Hrs. Aerial Used _____ Hrs.

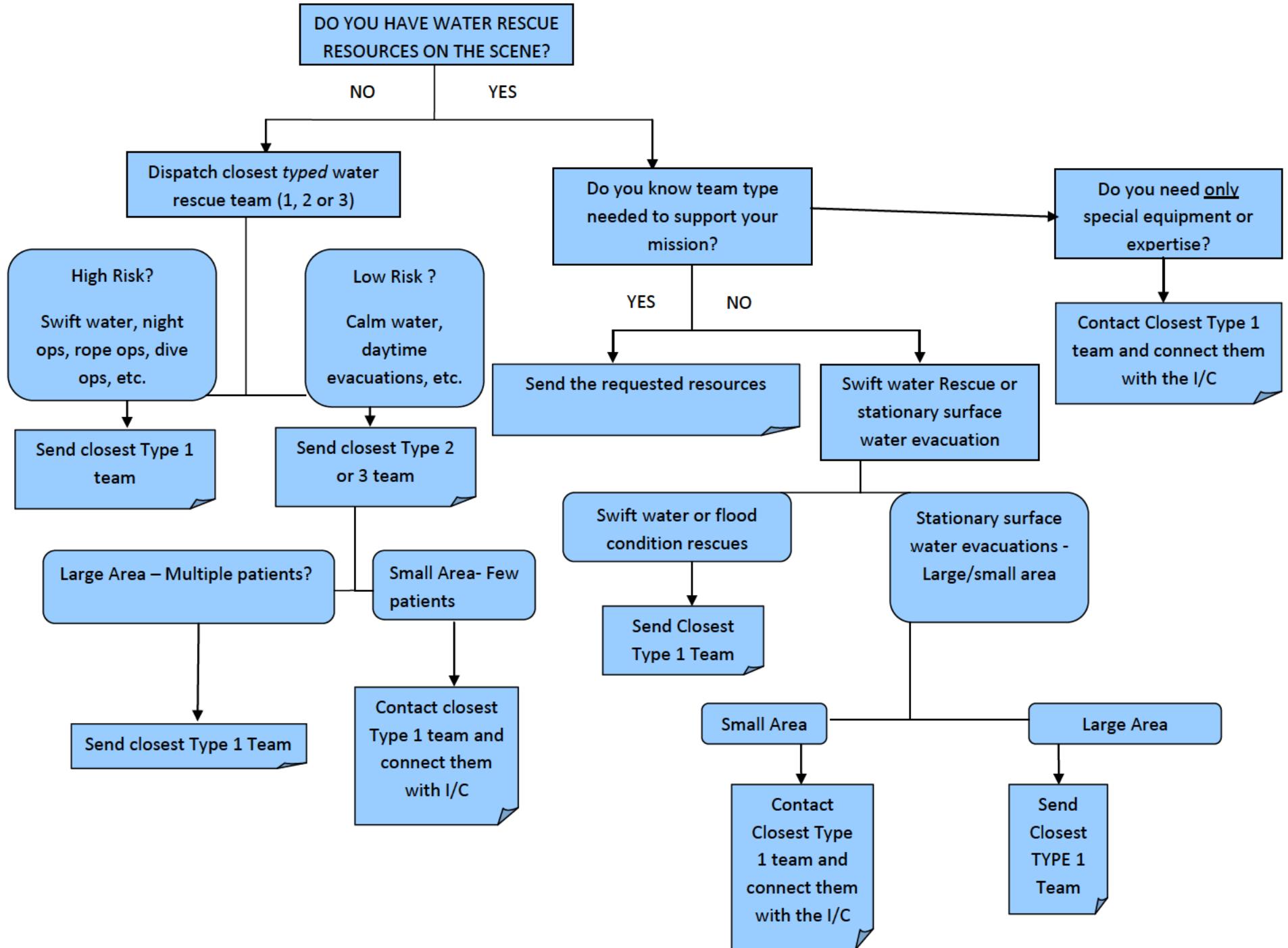
OHIO FIRE SERVICE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM REQUEST FOR HAZMAT TEAM



Collapse Search and Rescue Decision Flow Chart



OHIO FIRE CHIEF RESPONSE PLAN REQUEST FOR WATER SEARCH AND RESCUE (WSAR) TEAMS



PROCEDURES FOR USE OF THE OHIO TURNPIKE DURING DEPLOYMENT

If possible advise Central Dispatch of Entry and Exit Points on the Turnpike prior to departure.

At the Toll Plaza have the following information available:

- Codeword assigned to this incident
- Your Name
- Your Organization
 - The nature of the emergency (You are responding as part of the OFC ERS to a statewide deployment)
 - Location of the emergency

If the Toll Plaza is unstaffed, the responding vehicle(s) must stop at the toll booth and press the “**PUSH for HELP**” button located on the ticket machine, which automatically connects you to a Turnpike Commission Supervisor. The Supervisor will remotely raise the gate and allow the vehicle to enter/exit. Any necessary instructions will be relayed at that time.



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