FELTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

ARTICLE: II SOP: 2402

SECTION: 2400 Response Procedures

SUBJECT: 2nd, 3rd and Greater Alarm Response Assignments

PURPOSE: To establish the standardization of apparatus and personnel assignments for greater alarm responses (2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th) to all incidents in Felton Fire District.

SCOPE: All personnel.

PROCEDURE:

1. Felton Fire District follows the policies of the Santa Cruz County Fire Chief’s Association. Felton Fire SOP #2407 contains these policies. Policy #3110 contained in SOP #2407 is the policy addressing 2nd and greater alarm responses.
2. The dispatch center utilizes a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Information from each fire agency in Santa Cruz County is downloaded into the CAD. Based on location and incident type, a recommended dispatch of apparatus is generated.
3. There is a notion in the information given to the CAD, when a greater alarm is called; responding units will be selected in a manner that gets appropriate equipment to the scene without creating a vacancy in a certain area. For example: Felton calls a greater alarm (2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th alarm). Our neighbors in the San Lorenzo Valley will respond, but as the alarms increase the circle from which units are drawn is increased. Increasing the circle away from the incident allows for any one agency to not be drawn down to a level where they do not have apparatus to cover their area.
4. The County Fire Chief’s have developed a position called Zone Coordinator. One for the north and one for south portions of the county. When an incident goes to a 2nd alarm the zone coordinators are notified. When the incident goes to a 3rd alarm, the zone coordinators are activated. The zone coordinator for the area where the incident is located goes to the incident. The zone coordinator from the other portion of the county goes to the dispatch center handling the incident.
5. A key goal for the zone coordinator is to attempt to fill holes with available units until the incident is controlled and apparatus begins to return to their stations. This action is often called a “Move Up” or “Cover” assignment.

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