

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OPERATIONS AREA

POLICY 4

SUBJECT: Life Safety Hazard Notification and Marking			
New <i>July 2015</i>	NEW	Approved By XCC Executive Chiefs	Pages 3

INTRODUCTION:

The goal of this policy is to increase Firefighter safety while responding to and operating at the scene incidents, by requiring LIFE SAFETY HAZARD notification and marking.

A. POLICY

Incident Commanders and Communication Centers shall announce “Life Safety Hazard” information by radio and be required to confirm receipt of this information with all assigned resources.

Red “DANGER” or “LIFE HAZARD – DO NOT ENTER” tape shall be used to mark LIFE SAFETY HAZARDS. Emergency personnel **ARE NOT** to cross this Red tape barrier at emergency incidents. Red “DANGER” or “HAZARD -DO NOT ENTER” tape is to be used **only** to identify LIFE SAFETY HAZARDS.

Personnel shall not breach, alter, or remove any LIFE SAFETY HAZARD ZONE measures until the hazard has been abated and approval granted by the Incident Commander.



B. DEFINITIONS

Items that are considered “LIFE SAFETY HAZARDS” can include, but are not limited to:

- Downed power lines
- Unsecure crime scenes
- Ruptured gas lines
- Uncontrolled animals
- Hazardous materials
- Fall hazards (swimming pools, trenches, unstable/uneven terrain, etc.)
- Structural compromise
- Overhaul refuse area

C. PROCEDURE

1. Communications Centers and/or Incident Commanders shall communicate life safety hazards to all assigned resources. This notification will require that units acknowledge and repeat the life safety hazard.

a. Example:

(CON) “Engine 52, request that you stage, scene not secure”

(E52) “Engine 52 copies to stage, scene not secure”

b. Example:

(CON FIRE) “Engine 8, Engine 311, and Battalion 2, Life Safety Hazard- power lines down” “All units responding to Clayton Rd. acknowledge power lines down”

(E8) “Engine 8 copies power lines down”

(E311) “Engine 311 copies power lines down”

(BC2) “Battalion 2 copies power lines down”

2. Information to include regarding the LIFE SAFETY HAZARD when relaying the “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC” broadcast to the IC:

a. Type / Nature of Life Safety Hazard

b. Specific Location (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, side of the incident.)

c. Additional resources needed (PGE, PD, Animal Control, etc.)

3. When a LIFE SAFETY HAZARD is identified, notify the Communications Center and/or IC by radio.

a. The IC shall advise at scene Units and the Communications Center of the LIFE SAFETY HAZARD.

- b. The Communications Center will re-announce the LIFE SAFETY HAZARD and notify responding Units.
 - c. The Communications Center and/or the IC will obtain acknowledgement from the Crews at the emergency scene.
4. Firefighters identifying a LIFE SAFETY HAZARD shall inform the IC, isolate the hazard, and deny entry.
5. Red “DANGER / LIFE SAFETY HAZARD” tape shall be used to mark the LIFE SAFETY HAZARD. The area around the hazard shall be of a size to provide adequate distance and protection from the hazard. When possible, tape should be fastened securely at a height of 36 – 48 inches above ground level surrounding the hazard area.
6. When staffing allows, place a “Life Hazard Lookout” (i.e. Safety Officer, Firefighter, PD, PGE, etc.) to guard the hazard area.
7. Red “DANGER / LIFE SAFETY HAZARD” Tape Removal
 - a. Maintain the Life Safety Hazard Tape for the duration of the incident or hazard. Approval from the IC is required prior to the removal of the Life Safety Hazard Tape

Notes:

1. General Tape Placement Guidelines:
 - a. Three (3) Stripes of tape should be placed at 18 to 24 inch intervals for complete exclusion from hazard area per FIRESCOPE ICS 420 (December 2012).
 - b. Where possible (especially in low light situations) place cones, chemical lights, and/or flashing strobe lights on the ground near the hazard area.
2. One roll of “Life Hazard Safety Tape” shall be carried on every apparatus and Command Vehicle.
3. The difference between Yellow “CAUTION” Tape and Red “DANGER / LIFE SAFETY HAZARD” Tape:
 - a. Yellow “CAUTION” Tape shall be used to establish a “Public Exclusion Zone.”
 - b. **Red “DANGER / LIFE SAFETY HAZARD” Tape** shall be used to establish a “LIFE SAFETY HAZARD Zone” where NO PERSONNEL may enter due to imminent hazard(s).

*Reference: ICS 420-1 Chapter 22 –
Firefighter Incident Safety and Accountability Guidelines*