

Information Guide
Missoula Interagency Dispatch Center 2020
Logistics support for COVID-affected fire personnel

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE:

To identify ways MIDC can provide **Logistics support** to Local Agencies and Incident Management Teams related to COVID-affected personnel within the Southwest Zone (SWZ).

The overarching concern we want to help you address is: **The need to immediately *quarantine or isolate (Q/I) fire personnel from other people and support them because they are:***

- Symptomatic (tested or not tested yet), or
- Asymptomatic but have tested positive, or
- Asymptomatic and contact-traced by their immediate supervisors or a County Health Dept. because they've been in close contact with either someone symptomatic or someone who tested positive.

If/when a firefighter goes into Q/I, and not at their residence, they may need to be supported for up to 14 days. We are trying to anticipate the many scenarios that may happen and offer ways we can help with Logistics.

We are assuming

- 1) Incident personnel:** IMT's will be prepared to separate and support COVID-affected personnel for a short time and will want to get them off the incident as soon as is practical.
- 2) Local personnel:** Local agencies may need extra logistical support for their own local COVID-affected personnel if both COVID activity and fire activity increase.

Logistics support we are preparing to provide:

Lodging and Food

[REDACTED]

- We will be prepared to get food safely delivered to fire personnel Q/I in hotel rooms.

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We are also considering how and where we would stand up a T-3 camp specifically for Q/I COVID-affected fire personnel, if numbers get bigger than could be managed using hotels.

- [Reference COVID Camp Document](#)

Management Action Point- When there are more resources requiring Q/I facilities than the local hotels can support.

Transportation

We are planning to secure vehicles and drivers to safely transport fire personnel:

- From an incident or an agency bunkhouse to a hotel,
- From hotel to a testing site,
- From hotel to medical appointments,
- Back to their crew, if they are cleared to return to work,
- To their residence if they are cleared and live locally,
- etc

Management Action Point- Once an IMT is ordered we will secure 1-2 twelve passenger vans and drivers to safely transport individuals to help support the above transportation goals.

- [Reference COVID Transportation Document this was created with assistance from Missoula City County Health Dept.](#)

Help with Testing and Health Department Contacts

We are trying to gain and maintain current information related to testing, contact tracing and SWZ Health Departments, so we can help expedite the process as much as we can.

- [Reference Health Department and Testing Document](#)

Rapid Test Agreement with [REDACTED] for Symptomatic and Local fire personnel asymptomatic testing

- [Reference SWZ Rapid Test \[REDACTED\] Agreement Document](#)

Our role

We are here to support you, if needed. If you can take care of all the Logistics related to supporting your COVID-affected fire personnel - good. We are not insisting you use our services. Rather, the SW Zone Agencies anticipated having this additional Logistics resource as something that may be needed, especially if COVID-affected personnel are numerous.

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Current Challenges

- Numerous counties within the SWZ that all have different health departments with different protocols.
- Health Departments mainly work M-F 0800-1700, some health departments within the SWZ work significantly less hours. Finding a test after hours could be challenging.

Test results have been very sporadic taking from 24 hours to multiple days.

Potential Future Needs

- I have started the conversations about having the National Guard come in and do mass testing on a large wildland fire if/ when there is a large outbreak within a fire camp.

Physician on call to provide medical expertise

Questions for IMT's

Are they considering/planning to:

- Designate an area to temporarily isolate COVID-affected firefighters?
- Have vehicles & drivers to transport COVID-affected personnel off of the incident?

Demobilization of COVID affected Resources

- [Reference Demobilizing out of area resources affected by COVID document](#)
- **This document is not a protocol/policy but a reference to start the conversation with the local health departments to safely demob a resource.**

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Health Alert Network (HAN) report (August 3, 2020)

Information

SUBJECT: Release of individuals from Isolation/Quarantine.

INFORMATION: For health care providers

Based on state law, individuals may be released from Isolation/Quarantine **ONLY** by the Health Officer or their designee.

Isolation of COVID-19 Cases

Isolation is the separation of an individual with a disease (also known as a “case”) from others during the infectious period of the disease. With COVID-19 illness, isolation will last at least 10 days after symptom onset, and fever must have resolved for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms must have improved.

Quarantine of COVID-19 Close Contacts

Quarantine is the separation of an individual exposed to a disease but not diagnosed with it (otherwise known as a “close contact”) during the full incubation period for that disease. A close contact of a COVID19 case must be quarantined for 14 days after their last contact with that case. **Even if the close contact tests negative for COVID-19 or feels healthy, they must remain at home for the full 14-day quarantine period. Symptoms, which may signal contagion, can appear up to 14 days after exposure and warrant re-testing.**

Testing

Please continue testing symptomatic individuals regardless of symptom severity. Many COVID-19 cases may experience mild symptoms yet be contagious. Also please test individuals reporting that they are a close contact to a case, even though they may be asymptomatic. Testing of asymptomatic close contacts should occur no sooner than 3 days after exposure.

A close contact, as determined by the case investigation through the Health Department, is defined as exposure within 6 feet for an accumulation of 15 minutes or longer, **regardless of the use of non-medical masks or face coverings.**

Please contact your local health department for any needed clarification.