

# Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guideline

**Subject: Emergency Evacuation**

**SOG 210**

**Purpose:** To establish guidelines identifying actions to be taken by Egg Harbor Fire Personnel to initiate an emergency evacuation of personnel functioning in or near a hazardous environment.

**Scope:** This procedure applies to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

**DEFINITIONS:** **Emergency Evacuation Signal:** An established and consistent signal to warn and advise personnel to evacuate a building, structure or area during emergency operations.

## **PROCEDURE:**

### **A. Initiation:**

The emergency evacuation signal will be initiated by the Incident Commander or Safety Officer whenever conditions exist or are imminent that require an immediate evacuation of a fire building by **ALL** personnel. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Change from offensive to defensive mode of operation
- Collapse potential
- Explosion potential

### **B. Process; Air Horn Blast:**

The air horn of all apparatus in proximity of the hazard zone shall be activated for a period of 15 (fifteen) seconds. This will be followed by 15 (fifteen) seconds of silence and another 15 (fifteen) second blast from the air horn.

Optional Supplement: In addition to the apparatus air horn blast, a blast from a portable air horn, (i.e. handheld marine horn) may be sounded inside the affected hazard area to further facilitate notification of personnel.

Upon hearing these signals, all personnel must evacuate the structure or hazardous area and report to their sector, company or Incident Commander. A PAR of all personnel operating at the emergency scene shall be performed after the emergency signals are used. If the PAR is incomplete, the IC shall repeat the before mentioned procedure until the location of all personnel is secured.

### **C. Accountability “PAR”**

Upon completion of an emergency evacuation procedure, Incident Command will perform or cause to be performed, a “PAR” (Personnel Accountability Report) according to guidelines established in the Personnel Accountability Standard Operating Guideline, SOG 201.

### **APPENDIX:**

The emergency evacuation signal, in most cases, should be directed by the Incident Commander. Company Officers may initiate the emergency evacuation signal if there is a dire immediate need to do so. If the signal is initiated by someone other than the Incident Commander, the Incident Commander will be notified of the situation immediately. Considerable discretion should be used when initiating emergency evacuation signals. They are not to be used to issue a routine evacuation order.