



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:  
Section:  
Original Date:  
Revised Date:

## PURPOSE

In order to protect health and life safety of RFD personnel while on the scene of a working fire, this policy is established to provide a signal to all personnel on the scene to evacuate the structure immediately upon hearing it.

## POLICY

During the progress of fighting a fire if the Incident Commander determines that the structure is unsafe for RFD personnel to occupy, Command will instruct crews of the change from offensive operations to a defensive operation and ordered to evacuate. Initially personnel will be notified by radio (Ex. "Emergency Traffic, We are switching from Offensive Operations to Defensive Operations, all interior crews evacuate immediately and advise Command when they have exited the structure.")

If crews are unable to be contacted by radio, the Incident Commander shall designate a specific apparatus to sound the evacuation signal using air horns. The "Evacuation Signal" will consist of repeated short blasts of the air horn for a period no longer than 10 seconds, followed by 10 seconds of silence. This sequence of air horn blasts for 10 seconds followed by a 10-second period of silence will be done three times; total air horn evacuation signal including periods of silence will last 50 seconds.

This should be done in conjunction with another radio announcement of "Emergency Traffic," with direction for emergency scene personnel to evacuate the hazard area.

*Note: The apparatus selected to conduct the air horn "Evacuation Signal" should not be an apparatus in close proximity to the Command Post, if possible, thus reducing the chance of missing any radio messages.*

Upon the sounding of the EMERGENCY SIGNAL, strict radio silence shall be maintained by all RFD personnel, except for emergency traffic concerning the safety of personnel on the scene. Such radio silence shall be maintained until the Incident Commander transmits an "All Clear, resume radio traffic."

A Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) will immediately follow any Emergency Evacuation or shift from Offensive operations to Defensive operations.

Approved

Fire Chief

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