



# VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

## DESK PROCEDURE 18-6

DATE: JUNE 27, 2018

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY MODE PROCEDURE

REFERENCE: EARTHQUAKE/EMERGENCY MODE PROCEDURES, CHEAT SHEET & CHECK OFF SHEET

### INTRODUCTION

This procedure provides guidelines for a standardized process in the event of any earthquake activity. The goal of Earthquake Emergency Mode is to provide maximum coordination and prioritized utilization of resources in the post-earthquake environment. Earthquake Emergency Mode Procedures are designed to be utilized with pre-disaster preparedness activities.

### PROCEDURE

When an earthquake is felt in the Verdugo System, Verdugo will operate in **Earthquake Stand-By** and initiate the following:

1. Create an incident with **@EQUAKE** on the incident mask, incident-location field:

```
INCIDENT Loc @equake
Loc Info
Inc# Rsp Lat: Lon:
RP Addr Name RP Pbn
```

- a. The following pre-formatted incident mask will display:

```
ALARM* KEY EQUAKE Type EQUAKE Act Src 0
Location EARTHQUAKE STAND-BY / EMERGENCY MODE
Location Info ** ALL UNITS ON RADIO STAND-BY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE **
Name DISPATCH ON RED 1 Inf Addr Phone VERDUGO
Text * STAND BY FOR POSSIBLE EARTHQUAKE MODE ACTUATION * TAC CHNL ASSIGNMENTS:
BC-T0-UFC = RED2; BRK/BUR = RED3; GLN = RED4; PAS = RED5; ARC/SMD = RED 6;
SGB/SNM/SPS = RED7; MPK/ALH = RED8; MRU = RED12; HTB/UER = RED15 *
Rsp 050 Pri Dgrp BLK EQ
Oper ID: UF03 Last Changed: 082518 1614
```

- b. Enter the pre-formatted incident mask to create incident; add ALL BC's and R17 to the incident.
2. Activate the **ALL FS** and **ALL BC's** alert groups on the Motorola MCC 7500 radio controller.

3. Verbalize the following message: **‘An earthquake has been felt within the Verdugo System. All Verdugo System fire stations shall stand by for possible earthquake mode activation, all units shall be on radio stand-by unit further notice.’ REPEAT.**
4. Simultaneously, Verdugo will access <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map/>, and ascertain location (epicenter) and magnitude of earthquake.
5. The Verdugo Duty Chief will be immediately contacted by cell phone and apprised of the earthquake, epicenter/mileage from Verdugo and magnitude.
  - a. The Duty Chief will then determine based on location and magnitude of earthquake; system activity, reported damage; or other factors, if the Verdugo System will continue activation and operate in the Earthquake Emergency Mode (**EEM.**) Conversely, if conditions warrant, the Verdugo Duty Chief may cancel the Earthquake Standby; direct resources to return to quarters; and return the Verdugo System to normal operations.
    - i. If the Duty Chief is not immediately available, Verdugo Supervisors may use the following as a guide for determining criteria to fully implement EEM: epicenter is located within 50 miles (80 km) of Verdugo, with a magnitude of 4.0 or greater. Supervisors may also use their good judgement and other criteria such as reported damage or increased activity to any Verdugo City/Area for cause to fully implement the EEM.
    - ii. Verdugo will immediately activate and operate in EEM if it experiences any of the following: immediate physical damage to the communications center infrastructure or any interruptions or failures to the radio, CAD or telephone systems.
6. If EEM is activated verbalize the following message on RED1 & RED2: “Earthquake Mode has been activated [include Earthquake location and magnitude.] The following TAC Channels are assigned: Incident dispatch & communication = RED1; BC-to-Verdugo = RED2; BRK = RED3; GLN = RED4; PAS = RED5; ARC/SMD = RED6; SGB/SNM/SPS = RED7; MPK/ALH = RED8; MRV = RED12; MTB/VER = RED15”
7. Depending on the epicenter of the earthquake and using the other indicators mentioned above, the Verdugo Duty Chief may elect to not fully implement EEM, but may remain in ‘Earthquake Stand-By’—all Verdugo System agencies may be instructed to stage their apparatus away from fire stations for a period of time or they may be directed to immediately return their apparatus into quarters.
  - a. After a reasonable amount of time has elapsed with no increase in seismic activity, Earthquake Stand-By will be cancelled and all Verdugo System apparatus may return to quarters and resume normal operations. The timeframe will be determined by the Verdugo Duty Chief.

Silvio Lanzas, Deputy Chief