

REHAB AREA: Site Selection



REHAB AREA: Site Selection

1. Locate in the **"COLD ZONE"** or **"SAFE AREA"** as far away from incident hazards as possible.
2. Locate **UPWIND AND UPHILL** during a Hazmat or heavy smoke related incident. Setup a place where personnel can remove their turnouts and SCBA safely.
3. Locate a **SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE INCIDENT**. A minimum of 200 feet during a high rise incident, is suggested. Locate the site so firefighters coming off the incident can flow thru the Rehab Area. The site should permit quick reentry to the incident when rehab has been completed. The Rehab Area should not be so remote that firefighters can easily return to the incident.



4. The site should have **ADEQUATE ROOM** for expansion if the incident rehab needs change. There should be sufficient room around a Rehab Air Utility or Support Tender for serving. Include space for personnel to remove PPE's. The shade and cooling areas will need space for firefighters to sit while resting. Remember that large incidents may need space for rehydration, along with air fill, backup supplies and check in and out. Evaluate the incident need and function prior to committing to an area.

5. Find **LEVEL, WELL-DRAINED GROUND**. Natural drainage helps keep serving area dry. (Avoid clay and mud)



6. Area should be free of **SAFETY HAZARDS SUCH AS BROKEN GLASS, CANS, TRASH, RUTS, LOW TREE STUMPS, AND OPEN OR BROKEN SEWAGE LINES.**
7. Evaluate the need for a **QUIET ZONE** or area. Don't do air fill across from the cooling or treatment air. Place it on the other side of the rehab air tender to try to reduce the noise level and reduce the stress level.
8. Site should be in **SHADE AND PROTECTION FROM THE ELEMENTS** if possible. Locations that can provide extra shade and cooling areas during hot weather, and warm, dry, wind protected areas during colder weather.



9. **LOCATION OF SANITATION FACILITIES** (restroom and hand sink wash stations). Is this going to be a multi-day incident? If so, the Logistics Chief or Facility Leader will need to order portable restroom and hand wash stations through Supply and Maintenance to be delivered to the site. Plan for these facilities to be located downwind from the rehab and command post area. Also remember that access for a large vacuum truck will be needed on a daily basis, to clean out the restroom.



10. A nearby facility may have **RESTROOMS** but it should be evaluated if the impact of the incident emergency workers will overwhelm the facility. General Services and LAPD maintain a mobile trailer unit that has 4 to 6 self-contained restroom.

11. **LOCATE A WATER SOURCE.** The Rehab Air Tenders carry a large misting fan with a second "slave fan" to cool firefighters. The fan can be supplied from a building garden hose or the apparatus is also equipped with a 100-gallon water tank on board to supply the misting fans. When the water tank is low it can fill from a standard water hydrant.

12. Make space for **EATING AREAS**, if needed.



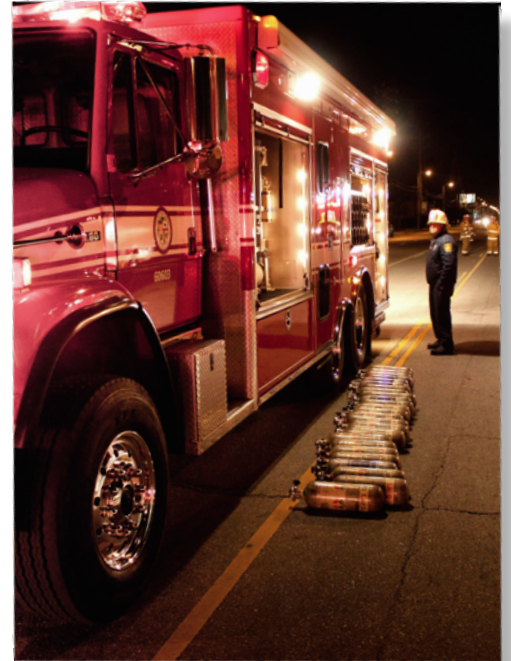
13. **DO NOT SET UP THE REHAB AREA WERE IT WILL BLOCK ANY EMERGENCY VEHICLES.** Apparatus must leave without breaking down the Rehab Area.
14. Remember: if you setup on the street, you may need to move the Support Utility or Rehab Area if they need to **OPEN THE STREET TO TRAFFIC**. You may want to setup near a curb, in a parking lot or on side street if the incident is on a major street.



15. The site should be accessible to drivers for delivery of supplies, pickup of food and rehab support supplies. Plan for **RESCUE AMBULANCE ENTRY AND EXIT**. They may need to stage in a parking lot or on the street. Keep the exit point clear of vehicles so the ambulance flow will not be delayed while vehicles are moved.
16. Do not park the Rehab Utility in **HIGH GRASS** or brush.

17. Secure a location for **SCBA BOTTLE EXCHANGE AND REFILL**. Allow room for air bottle exchange on structure fires. Each Rehab Air Tender and Emergency Air 1 carries approximately 100 45-minute SCBA bottles. On small incidents the air bottles can be exchanged (one empty for one full). On large working fires, both sides of the air fill section will be used and room will be needed for exchange, and bottle collection for filling. The air compressor may not be needed until enough empty bottles have been delivered that need to be filled. Remember the air fill stations are at the rear of the apparatus with the compressor behind the cab.

18. Make an area for **GARBAGE AND TRASH COLLECTION**. You may add a container for aluminum cans. Can the trash be dumped at the site or will we need to transport it back to a city facility? Who will transport it?



These procedures have been selected from the Los Angeles Fire Department Support Utility Basic Operations Handbook. Section 6 - Site Setup & Apparatus Placement. Pages 6-2 through 6-6

Support Service Volunteer Unit Photographers
Gary Mikialian and Michael Cunningham