

SUPPORT UTILITY SITE SETUP & APPARATUS PLACEMENT

SECTION
6



Los Angeles Fire Department
Support Service Volunteer Unit



Section 6 Site Setup & Apparatus Placement



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What should you be looking at when you are helping select a site for rehab? Once you have a site selected how should you set it up? Think about how the Support Utility is going to the setup. When you arrive, you need to have drinks setup for the first hydration (Quick Setup). If you are just going to be serving drinks, snack and maybe some coffee, and have a limited amount of side room. (then Serve out of the Back). Are you going to need to get the generator out and have access to all the coolers? (Serve on the side) Do you need to get the generator out, and make coffee? (Serve on the Curbside) Do you need lighting at night for the work area (Serve on the Roadside or Curbside) Will you be there for a while, Two hours or more? (Setup a table for one or two coolers, snacks and coffee if needed) Night Operation? (Setup on a Curb or Roadside and pull extra lights) Is it hot and sunny? (Use the EZ-Ups to create shade) Are you going to serve meals? (Meal Storage and Serving) Do you need a Rest Area? (EZ-Ups and Chairs). Are we going to be supporting Fueling Operations? (Fuel Pod Support). Are you setting up other areas such as Check-In, Logistics Support, Staging Area? (Cargo Area Access).



Site Selection

- ☑ Locate in the **“COLD ZONE”** or **“SAFE AREA”** as far away from incident hazards as possible.
- ☑ Locate **upwind and uphill** during a Hazmat or heavy smoke related incident. A place where personnel can remove their turnouts and SCBA safely.
- ☑ Locate a **safe distance from the incident**. A minimum of 200 feet during a high rise incident, Locate so the 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 have to expend extra energy coming of the incident.
- ☑ Find **level, well-drained ground**. A natural drainage helps keep serving area dry. (Avoid clay and mud)
- ☑ Area should be free of **safety hazards such as broken glass, cans, trash, ruts, low tree stumps, and open or broken sewage lines**.
- ☑ 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.



Site Selection

- ☑ 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 area will need space for firefighters to site while resting. Remember that large incident 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.
- ☑ 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.



Site Selection

- ☑ **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.
- ☑ On a small incident each Rehab Air Tender is equipped with a restroom that has a small holding tank. If the site is using outside portable restroom, see if the rental company can pump out and clean the Rehab Air Tenders if used.
- ☑ A near by facility may have **restroom** 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.



Site Selection

- ☑ Make space for **eating areas**, if needed.
- ☑ **Do not block any emergency vehicles** or traffic without warning devices.
- ☑ Do not park the Rehab Utility in **high grass** or brush.
- ☑ 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 many need to stag 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 being moved.
- ☑ **Locate a water source**. The Rehab Air Tenders carries a large misting fan with 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



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

Site Selection

- ☑ 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?
- ☑ **Locate away from the media area** whenever possible. Firefighters don't need to have a camera shoved in their face when they are trying to get some rest, food, and hydration. Media can come in a get something to drink, but no interviews or cameras setup in the rehab area.



Access Point Setup

This is one of the biggest changes that we have done for rehab delivery and setup. When we arrive on a structure fire we scan the area for the most used access points, such as doors and entryways into the effected buildings. We load up a had truck with one to two coolers and drop them near the entry. Then we look for other entries such as side doors or back gates and drop one to two coolers there.

We then write down the locations with apparatus reference such as Truck 60 or the back of Engine 7 along with the location of the SU and Hydration (if on scene). I write them on a post-it note and then take to the Command Post. Give it to the EIT or IC and ask if there are any other areas that need immediate rehab, and return to the Support Utility and wait for instructions. Do not “hang out at the Command Post”



When you return to the Support Utility you should review:

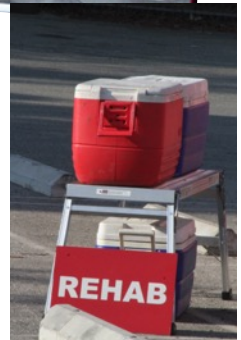
- ◆ Icing down additional coolers.
- ◆ Tracking resources on site who have received rehab
- ◆ Periodically check coolers for stock and ice levels. Swap out empty coolers or combined them.



Access Point Setup

Other things to consider:

1. Placing a REHAB AREA banner
2. EZ-up Shelter Area
3. Platform
4. Trash Bags and Recycling
5. Metal sign
6. Lights
7. Restock
8. Wheels





Cooler Setup

We found a great system to bring the coolers up to the right height for distribution. This is a painters platform that sits two feet high. Its large enough to hold the standard coolers (one Gatorade and one bottled water). The legs fold up for storage.

We have some metal signs “REHAB” that we use around the apparatus so firefighter can see it from down the street. We added some velcro to the front of the platform so the sign can be up and out of the way.

The platform can also be used as a seat for rest during rehab. We carry a couple of padded seat backs from an ambulance that was being salvaged.



Serve on the CURB Side

Most of the setups we do is serving out the back or on the curbside or on a sidewalk away from traffic. It is safer. If you need to get equipment or the generator out out the back to make coffee then setting up on the curb side will work the best.

- ◆ In some situations such as when you need to keep the rear clear in order to off load equipment and supplies the curbside of the Support Utility can be used to setup a rehab area. You will not block any compartments, although you may have problems if someone is standing in front of the side door or compartment 6, but firefighters normally work there way to the back of the rig.
- ◆ Remove a folding from Compartment 3 and set it up. Place coffee and coffee condiments on the table. If you are not serving coffee you can setup coolers for hydration on the tables. If the tables are being used place the coolers on the ground facing away from the Support Utility.



Serving out the back - PART 1

It is one of the quickest ways to getting firefighters hydrated. You can set it up and drive from location to location, both of the back doors have the firefighters grab a drink, some snack food and maybe a sack lunch if we are serving them. Here is what has to happen:

- ◆ Relocate the ice cooler to in front of the generator. That's next to the attendant seat.
- ◆ Move the top cooler so its on the deck next to the bottom cooler. Make sure the cooler lids open way from the door and not in the way of each other. This makes it easy to access from the back door.
- ◆ Move the snack food into the same area. Open the lid when you arrive so nothing will fall into the snack food during transit.
- ◆ Tie a trash bag to the drivers side door. This will allow the passengers side door to be opened for access, then the drivers door with the trash.
- ◆ If you are distributing meals, then you can have a box on sack lunches in the same area, or at the side door if you are driving from location to location. If you are serving meals at a fixed sit then follow the instructions in the "Meal Setup".
- ◆ At night, keep the interior loading lights on. Use the amber light bar to warn traffic if necessary.



Serving out the back - Part 2

Another way to setup the back serving area is to use the back step and floor area.

- ◆ Place the first two coolers on the ground or on the floor like in Part 1. Firefighters come up and grab a drink from the cooler with out crowding the back area.
- ◆ Tie a trash bag to the drivers side door.
- ◆ You may want to move the ice coolers to the side of the rig so you can easily access them.
- ◆ You can place airpots on the rear step or on the floor of the SU. Have the coffee condiment tray next to it along with cups.
- ◆ If you are distributing meals, then you can have a box on sack lunches in the same area, or at the side door if you are driving from location to location. If you are serving meals at a fixed sit then follow the instructions in the "Meal Setup".
- ◆ At night, keep the interior loading lights on. Use the amber light bar to warn traffic if necessary.



Serve on the Side

In some situations such as when you need to keep the rear clear in order to off load equipment and supplies the side of the Support Utility can be used to setup a rehab area.

- ◆ Remove any equipment you may need from the compartments that may be blocked with rehab equipment.(EZup, Traffic control, tables, etc.)
- ◆ Remove a folding from Compartment 3 and set it up. Place coffee and coffee condiments on the table. If you are not serving coffee you can setup coolers for hydration on the tables. If the tables are being used place the coolers on the ground facing away from the Support Utility.

Grab and Run

Grab and run is a term that I thought up for a hot rehab situation. Captain Frarrie, the Staff Adjutant for Command 22 started to using this technique for handling a serious dehydration situation. After a hot firefight the firefighters start dehydrating and need rapid rehab. We have firefighters on the ground resting and anything they can lean up agents trying to recover. This is one of the most serious situations in firefighting rehab.

In this situation you need to grab a cooler with water and gatorade and run to the down firefighters and get them hydrated as quickly as possible. Don't wait for the firefighters to come to the rehab area, bring it to them. Start handing them bottles of water (I start with two bottles each) then give them a bottle of gatorade. Send someone to the Support Utility, and grab the bag of towels kept on the left hand side bench next to the side door. Quickly soak the towels in the ice water from the cooler and place it directly on the back of their neck helping to cool the body down. If they start to resist have the Paramedics handle it

This is one of the most important things that you may do in firefighter rehab.

Freeway Operations



Box Drop

Drop Bag and Back Packs



Changing Locations

May times you will arrive on scene and setup in one location, then find another location that will work better. If it's a large location you can move around and just let the IC know where your new location is located.

Sometimes you need to need to setup in the rear of an incident because you are blocked by apparatus and fire hose lines. As resources are released you can start moving closer to the affected building.



Side Night Lighting

Do you need lighting at night for the work area (Serve on the Roadside or Curbside) There is a quick answer for this problem. Turn on the sidelights and flood light for the side you are working on.

- ◆ Setup the rehab equipment under these lights and you should be good.
- ◆ Take advantage of street lights, parking lot lights and building lights. They can add a lot of light to the area, although sometimes they are on timers and may go off when you need them.
- ◆ If you are going to be there for a long time you may want to pull the razor light or the light kit and connect them to the generator.



Long Incident Set-Up

The incident is going to be over two hours. You will be sitting on scene as the rehab area or working with a RAT. So you need to determine what equipment you may need to setup.

- ◆ Do the normal and setup a table for one or two coolers, snacks and coffee (if needed)
- ◆ Is it hot and sunny? Use the two EZ-Ups to create shade. When setting up the EZ-Ups remember that they need to be out of the way of traffic and set them high enough so firefighters can walk under them with their helmets on. Also remember that we have solid sides to block the sun.
- ◆ Put out some of the metal signs to identify the rehab area. You can put them on the delineator post or on a flip chart.
- ◆ Night Operation? Setup on a Curb or Roadside for apparatus lighting and pull you the generator for extra lighting if needed.
- ◆ Trash. If you are there for a long time you may need to have a spot to start putting bags of trash. You may also want to start a bag for recycling the plastic bottles.



Meal Serving

Are you going to serve meals? (Meal Storage and Serving). You should find out the number of meals that have been order, estimated time of delivery and if they are hot or cold meals. Will they also sent as individual sandwiches or burgers or a complete meal or sack lunch? Plan your serving area and start setting it up early.

- ◆ Set up a table outside the Support Utility for meals. You may want to place the shipping box on top of the table with the lid open. This will leave the meals in a cooler environment and keep them out of the dust, as well as keeping them organized. If hot meals are being served put the thermal container on top of the table.
- ◆ Put out eating utensils if needed. Check to see if drinks are provided in the meals. You may want to have a cooler with extra water and Gatorade setup next to the meal station.
- ◆ Plan for a lot of trash. Setup at least two trash stations and have a place away from the serving area. You can setup extra trash boxes from SU if needed.
- ◆ Order extra coolers (4 to 6) from S&M to storage meals in if you are going to be serving multiple meal periods.
- ◆ Check other chapters for more details about serving meals and dining areas.



Meal Serving (Hot & Cold Meals)

Meals need to be kept cool so you need to store them in a refrigerated truck or

setup the SU cargo area to get as cool as possible. Turn on the rear compartment AC and set it to as cold as possible. Place the boxes of meals starting at the side door and work back to the rear. Restrict going in and out of the cargo area reduce the doors opening and the cold air escaping. If we know that we are going to have a large feeding operation we may send isolated containers to transfer meals into.

TIP - COLD

If you are going to be serving meals for a long period of time. Take the disposable blanket or roll of plastic and make a tent in the cargo area that goes from the side door to the back seat covering the pass throw. This is the main air conditioning area and will give you an cooler area to keep boxes of meals.

TIP - HOT

If you want to keep meals hot place them in un-used coolers. The heat from the meals will be trapped in the cooler and keep the meals warm for hours. If you have time you can make hot water and carefully wet down towels, place them in the bottom of the cooler prior to the meals, close the lid and temper the plastic, making the plastic warm. Do not pour hot water directly into the coolers. You can damage or melt the thinner interior plastic.

1



2



3



Dining & Rest Area

A rest area can be setup under large EZ-Up's, awning off a RAT, Hazmat, USAR Rig or inside a building parking garage or lobby. An area out of the elements is what you are looking for. Some place that workers can take off there PPE's kick back and relax a little. Tables and chairs can be pulled from the Support Utility, Rehab Air Tender, or brought in from Supply and Maintenance if needed. This area should be near coffee, coolers with water and drinks, and have a place for trash and to wash your hands.

Canopies such as EZ-up's come in 10x10 and 10x20 sizes, long with the 20x30 canopy that can be dispatched as part of the incident base, but will take 6 people to assemble.

1. This is a parking garage across from a burned out building. This fire was so hot that it scorched the building signs and melted delineators. The sand bags were placed in front of the drive to prevent rain from flooding the feeding area and break area inside the doorway.
2. The feeding area for arson and ATF investigators setup inside a parking garage. The Support Utility and RAT are setup outside the door of the garage.
3. Outside Feeding and Briefing area setup with two 10x20 EZ-ups along a dock front at the Port of LA.

Setting up for mobile feeding

Strong Food

Pizza Bags

Block Ice



Support Fueling Operations (Fuel Pod Support)

The Support Utility is setup to assist with diesel fueling. If the Shops deliver a 350 gallon fuel pod, the Support Utility has a 12-volt battery, generator, and charger that can be hooked up to make it work. In Compartment Number 5 you will find everything you need.

- ◆ Pull the 12-volt auto battery and connect it to the fuel pod power system.
- ◆ Place the 1k generator next to it.
- ◆ Connect the special battery charger to the generator and battery.
- ◆ Start the generator. Charge the battery and the fuel system should then ready to engage.
- ◆ You will also find an operations manual, fire extinguisher and some absorbent cloths that can be use for a small spills.





Logistics Support

All of these logistics support items are carried on the Support Utility and can be deployed to assist the Logistics Unit.

- ◆ Logistics Form Kit (a packet for each logistics unit function)
- ◆ Check In Kit (a complete check in function kit)
- ◆ Staging Area Manager (Staging Area layout and Manager)
- ◆ Office Supply Kit (Basic Function Office Supplies)

Plus tables, chairs, trash boxes and trash bags, salvage cover, plastic sheets, EZ-up shelters, traffic cones and delineators, flip chart easels, paper, along with signage marking paint and other logistics equipment.



Apparatus Placement For most Department incidents an un-formal Rehab Area is established utilizing one of the Rehab Air Tenders and a Support Utility. Firefighters are encouraged to come and leave as they please, without checking in and out. For most incident medical evaluations and vital signs are not taken as part of the Rehab Area. As the incident and the stress on firefighters increase, the types of services in the Rehab Area will also increase.

When an incident is large enough, that the fire suppression personnel are required to exchange SCBA air bottles with the Rehab Air Tender and return directly back to the fire fighting situation, it is time to start increasing the type of services provided in the Rehab Area. If bottle exchange without rest and rehab is required, those firefighters need to be evaluated by a medical personnel before returning to full duty. This will need to be worked out with the IC, Safety Officer, and EMS.

On incidents such as high-rise fires, when a large number of firefighters use multiple air bottles, a full service Rehab Area should be setup and maintained at both staging areas (below the fire floor and at apparatus staging) until the incident is under control.



Apparatus Placement The main rehab area should be located close enough to the incident to provide easy access, but far enough away from the affected area to provide a safe area to rehab in. This area should be away from smoke, clear of debris, falling objects and protected from being “run over” by cars, buses or fire engines.

The incident size and geographic barriers, it may be necessary to establish more than one Rehab Area or Rehab Group. When this is done each group/area will assume a geographic designation consistent with the location at the incident site, i.e. Rehab East, Rehab West or Rehab Rear, or Wilshire Rehab.

This area should have full rehydration and snack food available, and may also be the location for feeding when meals are provided at the incident. Depending upon the weather and time of day the rehab area should provide shade, or protection from the rain.



Setting up the Support Utility

When the Support Utility arrives on scene and has been positioned, the following procedure should be used to setup each area.

Rehab Area

Evaluate if the rehab area will be setup at the Support Utility or will be setup away from the Support Utility in a remote or drop location (see satellite rehab area).

If it is a small incident, use the rear and road side first, This will give you access to the interior from the curb side door without having to move around the firefighters in rehab. If you are projecting a long term incident, use the rear for rehydration and snacks, the curb side for serving meals (Set up the serving area under a Ez-Up away from the side door. This way you can keep the main supply of meals inside the cargo area with the doors closed and the AC on to help kept them cold) and the road side for rest and cooling operation. Using the other Ez-Up and chairs from the cargo area.



Setting Up Rehab

Providing hydration, shade and energy snacks.

1. Evaluate your setup.
2. Pull out the first two coolers. They should be iced down before you left the shops. One should have a mix of water and Gatorade and the other should have bottled water only.
3. Pull out ice chests from the rear cargo area.
4. Pull out a table and place it in the rehab area. Use this to hold the ice chests if they are not needed in other areas.
5. Remove the snack pack (green tub) from the cargo area and place it on the table. (Snack Food may not always be available depending on stock availability.)
6. Set out REHAB signs on front windshield and rear door.
7. Setup a trash bag near the beverage area.
8. Set out traffic cones around the Support Utility and Rehab Area.
9. Setup an Ez-Up over the rear serving area if needed.

Notes



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