

Osage Township Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines	Revised Date: N/A	Effective Date: 2/01/06
Emergency Withdrawal Signal	Page 1 of 1	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this SOG is to establish a universal signal to be used in the event of an emergency at either an actual incident or at a training exercise.

COMMENTARY:

The fact that firefighting is a hazardous occupation and that we often work in unsafe environments creates the possibility that an incident will become too unstable to work in. In the event that an incident becomes so hazardous that the firefighters are in extreme imminent danger a withdrawal from the incident must occur in order to maintain personnel safety. A universal emergency withdrawal signal must be established in order ensure that personnel safety. A safe and timely withdrawal facilitates the need for a universal emergency withdrawal signal.

PROCEDURES:

Safety is the job of every firefighter. In the event that a scene poses extreme imminent danger, anyone is authorized to sound the emergency withdrawal signal.

Three consecutive wails of a siren and/or three consecutive blasts from the air horn will be used for the emergency withdrawal signal.

When the emergency withdrawal signal is sounded, all firefighters will withdraw from the scene and report to the staging area.

At this time, a check of firefighters will be made to ascertain that everyone is accounted for. In the event that a firefighter is not accounted for, an immediate attempt will be made to determine his/her location.

Once all the firefighters have been accounted for the Incident Commander will determine how to proceed with the incident.