

# New Durham Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

SOG 409      Scene Evacuation or Withdrawal

PURPOSE:    To provide for a standardized process for withdrawing or evacuating from a situation poses danger to emergency personnel.

SCOPE:        To all personnel operating at any emergency or training scene.

SPECIFICS:

- I. The order to evacuate a scene is given where there is an emergency situation which requires immediate egress from the IDLH Zone (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health).
  - **If** an evacuation is ordered, the following steps shall be taken:
    - **The** incident commander (IC) shall notify all fire ground companies of the need to evacuate (however, any member has the authority to issue the evacuation order when it is felt that a significant and notable danger to personnel is apparent and they are unable to immediately report to their company officer or incident commander).
    - **In** addition to the radio notification the air horns of the nearest apparatus to the building/area will be used to notify personnel and the following sequence of air horn blasts will be used (*three 3-second blasts; repeated 3 times*).
    - **All** personnel exiting the building/area shall report to an area designated by the IC where an accountability check will be conducted.
  
- II. The order to withdraw a scene is given when there is a situation that requires all personnel to leave the IDLH Zone.
  - **In** the event a withdrawal is ordered, the following steps shall be taken:
    - **IC** will notify all fire ground personnel to withdraw from the building/area.
    - **All** personnel exiting the building/area shall report to an area designated by the IC where an accountability check will be conducted.

DATE: 2013-03-13