

# OPERATING PLAN

## OCSD / OCFA Air Support Unit and Air Operations

It is the intent of the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) and the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) leadership to quickly and effectively resolve the air operations issues between our agencies. The challenges faced over the last few years are unacceptable and require significant refocus to find a timely solution. We each are premier public safety agencies, and we can further enhance services if we communicate, collaborate, and reinforce our trusted relationship.

### Sheriff/Fire Chief Vision

- Air operations is a multi-agency collaborative effort where both agencies function as a unified team
- Provide exceptional public service, regardless of mission type or agency
- Efficient use and application of resources to deliver superior service
- Safety is never compromised
- Patient-center care and service delivery
- Full cooperation and coordination at all levels are imperatives
- Guiding principles of safety, teamwork, communication, leadership, trust, and accountability

### Goals/Objectives

**Phase I: Short-term goal to implement the following (within 30 days):**

#### Command and Control

- a. Utilize Incident Command System (ICS) as prescribed by Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).
- b. The initial arriving law or fire unit (ground or air) will establish Incident Command.
- c. OCSD Dispatch, a primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), shall notify secondary PSAP's (OCFA, MetroNet, etc.) of all Air Rescue EMS calls received without delay. If OCFA receives an Air Rescue EMS call from an alternative PSAP (CHP, Irvine, etc.), OCFA will notify OCSD without delay.
- d. Develop and implement a collaborative plan ensuring communication on every incident, sharing information between 9-1-1 centers, and providing resource capabilities on a daily basis.

#### Primary Responsibilities

- e. California Government Code Section 26614 requires that authorization for search and rescue (SAR) be consistent with guidelines and operating plans contained in the SAR Model Operating Plan, as developed and adopted by the State of California's Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES). The Sheriff is authorized to search for and rescue persons who are lost or are in danger of their lives within or in the immediate vicinity of the County of Orange. Emergency medical calls for service that do not occur on a paved highway or paved road suitable for vehicular traffic will be handled by the OCSD. The Sheriff maintains authority to request assistance from any public safety organization for any SAR activity under specific authority of California Government Code Section 26614 and Cal-OES Model Operating Plan.
- f. OCFA is primary for fire missions and ground-based EMS emergency medical calls for service that occur on a paved highway or paved road suitable for vehicular traffic.
- g. OCSD is primary for rescues requiring further investigation due to possible criminal activity.

**Response/Transportation**

- h. All Air Rescue emergency medical calls will include a ground and air response.
- i. Ground transport will be used for non-critical patients when appropriate.

**Incident Review**

- j. Develop a process for routinely debriefing Air Rescue incidents and where inconsistencies in procedure or communication was identified by either agency.

**Phase II: Mid-term goal to implement the following (within 90 days):**


- k. Formalized incident review process to routinely review incidents and address challenges and successes.
- l. Establish a joint all-risk training plan that includes key stakeholders.
- m. Establish protocols to meet compliance with each agency's crew endurance as recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), defined by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and by the Public Safety Aviation Accreditation Commission (PSAAC).
- n. Comply with all Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) criteria for an ALS Air Rescue Service Provider.

**Phase III: Long-term sustained goal to implement the following (within 1 year):**

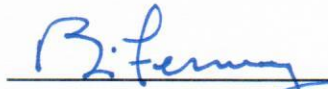
- o. Develop a Concept of Operations for co-location of resources, equipment, and personnel.
- p. Develop a Concept of Operations for shared helicopters, personnel, inspection, maintenance, and repair of helicopters and equipment.
- q. Develop a Concept of Operations for firefighters and paramedics on OCSD helicopters for fire, search and rescue, and EMS missions.
- r. Develop a plan to integrate business systems (e.g. CAD) to improve information exchange and timely exchange of resources to include the sharing of paging devices.

This Operating Plan will become effective immediately upon the document being fully executed and will continue in full force and effect indefinitely until either party provides notice to terminate. Either party may at any time and for any reason terminate this Operating Plan upon providing the other party with 60 days advance written notice.

The Operating Plan will be updated annually, or more frequently as needed, to provide operational guidelines to Air Operations and Support Unit personnel, Incident Commanders and rescue personnel.

  
Sandra Hutchens, Sheriff-Coroner  
Orange County Sheriff's Department

Date: 8/7/2018

  
Brian Fennessy, Fire Chief  
Orange County Fire Authority

Date: 8/3/18