

Operating Guidelines

Section: Personnel Safety

Subject: Rehabilitation

Number: 203

Date Issued: August 3, 2010

Date Revised: October 3, 2017

Guidelines

203.1

Physical Condition: Supervisors shall frequently assess the physical condition of their assigned personnel during prolonged or rigorous physical activity. When crew members exhibit signs of physical or mental fatigue, the entire crew shall be rotated with stand-by crews, if possible, given adequate staffing.

203.2

Crew Rotation: Where possible, crews working under rigorous conditions in SCBA should be rotated to less arduous activities, not involving SCBA after having used two air cylinders. When required, supervisors shall request a rotation of their crew from Incident Command. The rotation request shall indicate the crews position/condition, the priority need for a replacement crew and the request shall be accommodated as soon as possible by Incident Command.

203.3

Rehabilitation: The rehabilitation area shall be located as far away as possible from the working/emergency area. Crew members shall rest and replace body fluids and cool off or get warm as efficiently as possible in the rehabilitation area. Firefighters should replace body fluids in the rehabilitation area at the rate of one bottle of water per air cylinder used at the emergency. All personnel in the rehabilitation area shall not perform any fireground work unless required under extreme emergency conditions.

203.4

Observation/Treatment: When deemed necessary by a supervisor, a firefighter or officer shall report to the on scene medical staff or rehabilitation officer for observation and/or first aid treatment.