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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** | | |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** | |
| **SOG Number:** | |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** | | |

**Designating Collapse/Restricted Area Zones**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Policy:**

It is the policy of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that standardized measures to be taken to provide safety of all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ responders to fires and other emergencies from collapses, evacuations, falling objects, etc.

**Purpose:**

To identify a system of designating (or delineating) areas that are determined to be extremely dangerous and unstable so that the area (zone) is clearly and easily identifiable by all emergency personnel of the scene of an incident.

**Scope**

All personnel from agencies that may be deployed or are operating at emergency including, but not limited to:

* Fire
* EMS
* Police
* Emergency management
* Hazmat
* Incident support teams
* Public Works
* Non-government contractors
* Press
* Other government officials

**Procedure:**

1. Areas that have been identified as collapse zones, dangerous areas or areas where access is restricted due to an immediate life safety hazard and where responders shall not operate, shall be cordoned off with RED caution tape.
2. The incident commander (IC) shall be notified when RED zones are established and all personnel shall be advised, through division, group or safety officers, or other means of the restrictions.
3. Emergency responders or others shall not cross into the RED zones (restricted area) without the explicit authorization of the IC, Safety Officer or appointed Access Officer.
4. The assigned Safety Officer(s) and other fire officers shall monitor the designated collapse zone to insure compliance.
5. Areas marked with RED tape shall remain in place until such time as the area has been discontinued by the IC.
6. Crowd control and areas designated as off limits to the public shall be marked with YELLOW tape.
7. All emergency personnel operating at emergency scenes where YELLOW tape is in place shall not enter these areas without first reviewing the scene for safety and authorization to enter area.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**