

# Rapid Lesson Sharing

**Event Type:** Doctor and Rapid Extraction Module Assigned to Fire

**Date:** June 2016

**Location:** Dog Head Fire; Estancia, New Mexico



The Rapid Extraction Module (REM) assigned to the Dog Head Fire.

*The Dog Head fire was reported on June 14. The fire's complexity quickly escalated. On June 15 a Type 2 IMT took control of the fire and transitioned with a Type 1 IMT on June 19.*

## NARRATIVE

This incident was just like all the others happening in the area at this time except for two distinct resources committed to this fire: a **Rapid Extraction Module** and a **Medical Doctor**.

### **Rapid Extraction Module**

The Rapid Extraction Module (REM) is a new resource in this area provided by the Santa Fe Fire Department. "The intent of the SFFD Rapid Extraction Module (REM) is to provide Incident Management Teams with a highly specialized resource capable

of responding anywhere on an incident to provide technical rescue and lifesaving medical interventions," informs the Chief of the Santa Fe Fire Department.

### **This Rapid Extraction Module is Staffed with a Minimum of:**

- ❖ Two Rope Rescue qualified personnel that are at least EMT Basic trained and Red Carded as FFT2,
- ❖ One Paramedic Red Carded as FFT2, and
- ❖ One EMT Basic Red Carded as FFT2.

### **The REM Comes With an Array of Medical Gear and Rescue Equipment**

This REM's medical equipment consists of one ALS (Advanced Life Support) medical bag and one BLS (Basic Life Support) medical bag.

- ❖ The ALS bag is capable of managing medical events requiring ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support), advanced airway oxygen therapy, IV therapy, and drug therapy to include narcotics.
- ❖ The BLS bag is capable of managing medical and traumatic injury emergencies.

Other REM equipment includes: a SKED (brand name for a deluxe patient rescue stretcher—name is a fusion of "sled" and "skid"), backboard, and a compliment of splints, including traction splint.



The REM supports the incident with an array of medical gear and rescue equipment.

Technical rescue equipment includes two packs each housing a 200-foot section of rope and compliment of hardware to build one rescue line with pulleys to allow for raising and lowering, and one safety line; a compliment of pick offs, webbing, Prusiks and harnesses; and a Stokes Basket with wheel.

An E-Hydraulic tool is also carried with a minimal compliment of hand tools available as needed to expand capability. In addition to a 4-wheel drive capable truck; the REM team is also equipped with a UTV.

### **REM Assigned to Most Remote Section of Fire**

While other areas have had REM resources for some time, they are new to the southwest area. This REM module was assigned to the most remote section of the Dog Head Fire.

They were able to interact with multiple crews and discuss their capabilities and how an actual rescue would play out.

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***“We had a little trouble getting the contract approved for the doctor, but I pushed because it just felt like the right thing to do.”***

### **Incident Commander**

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**Dr. Linda Stogner, assigned to the Dog Head Fire, is a former wildland firefighter.**

#### **Doctor Treats Injured Firefighters and Advises Medical Unit Leader**

In an effort to provide the best care for firefighters, the Incident Management Team was able to utilize a contract to secure the services of a local medical doctor.

Dr. Linda Stogner is the medical director of several local clinics and is a former wildland firefighter. Dr. Stogner was available to treat injured firefighters and advise the Medical Unit Leader on patient transport decisions.

In one instance, the doctor was able to quickly stitch-up a cut on the arm of one individual, resulting in timely treatment and return to work, as well as a cost savings. Dr. Stogner also treated multiple heat-related injuries.

Having a doctor assigned to the incident alleviated any possible dilemma in determining the appropriate level of care for a given injury or illness. Firefighters had immediate access to a physician and the IMT had piece of mind.

The IC commented, “We had a little trouble getting the contract approved for the doctor, but I pushed because it just felt like the right thing to do.”

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## **LESSONS**

- ✓ IMTs need to acknowledge the regularity with which firefighters are injured and the exposure required to do this work. Do whatever it takes to care for firefighters—whether minor illness or catastrophic trauma.
- ✓ Research your area. Is there a fire department that has an existing Rapid Extraction Module or the capability to create one for wildland use? Is there a doctor willing to serve in fire camp?

**This RLS was submitted by:  
Region 3 RLS Team**

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