

# Lapeer County Fire Association

**POLICY: LCFA-03-01**

**DATE ADOPTED: 09/10/03**

**LAST REVIEWED: 2011**

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**REVISION #: 2**

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## EMERGENCY EVACUATION

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to insure that all personnel are aware of what justifies an emergency evacuation from a structure or incident area, and are familiar with the emergency evacuation signals used by all Lapeer County Fire Departments.

### DEFINITIONS

**Evacuation Signal:** Three, five (5) second blasts on air horns with repeated simultaneous announcements over the fire ground radio frequency (“Withdraw from the building”). Sounding of air horns and radio announcements should continue until all personnel are safely out of the hazardous areas and are accounted for.

**Incident Commander (IC):** Person in overall charge at the scene of an incident.

**Incident Safety Officer (ISO):** Person assigned responsibilities of all safety-related issues at the scene of an incident.

**Personnel Accountability Report (PAR):** A systematic method used to confirm that all personnel assigned to a group, division, unit, or incident have been identified and accounted for (i.e.; “Engine 321 to Command, I have a PAR”, indicating that all personnel assigned to E-321 are accounted for; or “Division B to Command, I do not have a PAR from the crew operating on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Division B”, indicating that personnel have not been accounted for and may be in trouble).

**Rapid Intervention Team (RIT):** A team of at least two (2) firefighters who are equipped with appropriate tools and assigned to perform rescue of a firefighter or crew if the need arises.

### POLICY

#### EVACUATION SIGNAL/ALERT TONE

Direction to use the evacuation signal may be given by the IC, ISO or a Line Officer under the following conditions:

- a. The IC feels there is immediate danger to personnel on scene.
- b. The ISO or a Line Officer sees immediate danger to personnel.

The individual initiating the evacuation signal will announce over the assigned incident channel that all personnel on scene are to evacuate immediately and order the air horn(s) to be sounded.

Upon hearing the evacuation signal and/or alert tone, ***all*** personnel involved in the offensive interior attack or in the incident hazard area ***shall*** immediately retreat from the structure or hazard area to be accounted for. The objective is the personal safety of the firefighter, equipment should only be withdrawn if it is required to assist the firefighter in his/her evacuation.

Division Officers and/or the Staging Officer will immediately conduct a PAR and will advise the IC of personnel accountability as soon as possible. Central Dispatch and remaining on scene personnel will cease all radio traffic with the IC until he/she has announced that all personnel have been accounted for.