

# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION**

## **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

### **PURPOSE**

This guideline identifies a system of designating (or delineating) collapse zones, other dangerous areas or areas of restricted access at the scene of a fire or emergency situation that is standardized across Montgomery County and is easily identified by emergency responders.

This guideline shall serve to eliminate the confusion on the scene of an emergency as to what areas are considered accessible to emergency responders and what areas considered off limits to all personnel.

### **SCOPE**

All emergency responders including but not limited to;

Fire Departments, including  
Fire Police, Auxiliaries, Explorer posts

EMS Units

Law Enforcement Agencies, including

Police Departments, Sheriff Departments, State and Federal agencies

Emergency Management Personnel

HazMat Personnel

All Incident Support Teams

Municipal/County Public Works Departments

All other Municipal/County Departments and personnel that could be called to Emergency Scenes

### **POLICY & RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Areas that have been designated as collapse zones, dangerous areas or areas of restricted access where emergency responders should not operate shall be marked with RED caution tape.
2. Incident Command shall be notified when zones are set up and shall notify all personnel working on the scene, through safety officers, operations officers or other means, of the location of the zones.
3. Emergency responders shall not cross, go under or otherwise circumvent a RED tape line without explicit approval of the Incident Commander, a designated Safety Officer or appointed access officer.
4. Safety Officer(s) or designated assistant(s) and fire officers assigned to the effected areas shall monitor the areas to insure compliance.
5. Areas marked with RED tape shall remain until such time as the area has been determined to be safe for emergency responders to operate in, or when the restricted access has been lifted by the Incident Commander or his designated Safety Officer.
6. Crowd control and areas that are designated as off limits to the public and other unauthorized personnel shall continue to be marked with YELLOW caution tape.
7. All personnel or units operating at emergency scenes where yellow tape is erected shall not enter these areas without first reviewing the scene for safety or security issues. When responders are confident that no restriction exists for their safety, they may enter under caution.