

TASK FORCE TALK



MODULE AS ONE

Category: *Operations - Safety*

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has established guidelines for first responders in the wildland setting, focusing on closely shared spaces such as traveling, and sleeping. US&R System personnel share similar working conditions and logistical barriers that create situations where CDC physical distancing guidelines cannot be performed. Adopted by the U.S. Forest Service, “Module as One” is a concept to reduce COVID-19 exposures and/or limit the spread of COVID-19 among response personnel. The size and number of Modules is dynamic and should be based on the resource composition and operational / tactical objectives. Module as 1 concept should be utilized in conjunction with wearing an N-95 face covering, washing your hands and daily medical checks.

Key Points:

The following key points are provided to reduce the probability of an exposure from occurring:

- A Module as One should be established when personnel are unable to meet CDC and US&R guidelines on physical distancing for extended periods of time
- The Module as One concept can minimize the spread of a COVID-19 exposure
- Module as One is maintaining a cohesive crew or team and does not mean as an individual
- Establish a Module as One based on tactical or functional responsibilities
- An established Module should NOT contain all members of a specific discipline (thus an exposure could require quarantine or demobilization of the entire Module)
- Module as One should travel in the same vehicle(s)
- Module as One should share the same lodging and eating areas
- Multiple Modules working together should follow CDC physical distancing and increased respiratory protection as outlined in the current GM – COVID-19 *Operational Guidelines*

This Task Force Talk is focusing on minimizing COVID-19 exposures. In addition to Module as One, personnel should:

- Wear a N-95 Mask
- Receive medical checks 2x daily
- Always remember to wash your hands and wear appropriate respiratory protection
- Perform frequent cleaning and disinfecting vehicles, eating, meeting, and sleeping areas

Please follow these key points and always put safety first!

References:

U.S. Forest Service – Dr. Jennifer Symonds “*What does a Module as One Mean?*” (2020)

Center for Disease Control: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/wildland-firefighters-faq.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/wildland-firefighters-faq.html) (2019)

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