“Wildland firefighting is an inherently dangerous profession. While safety is the primary concern during all operations, unintended incidents do occur which result in injury or illness to firefighters. It is the intent of the Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) to provide firefighters who are unable to egress under their own power, a safe and secure transport off the fireline while simultaneously receiving the appropriate medical attention.”

From the January 2015 Rapid Extraction Module Support ICS Position Manual


Rapid Extraction Module Assigned to Rough Fire

A six-person REM has been assigned to the Rough Fire. (On Sept. 5, this 86,000 acre fire—with 2,038 assigned personnel—is the largest fire in California.)

To best support this incident, the REM was split into two three-person units assigned to the fire’s north and south ends. On the southern half, all Mod 1 members are qualified as Rescue Specialists (TESP), EMTs and FFT1 with the ability to do both low and high angle rescues.

The main objective and purpose for these pre-staged rescue teams is to provide firefighters emergency extraction and reduce the time needed for individuals to receive medical attention who are unable to egress under their own power in difficult terrain.

Having the ability to be flexible within the fire environment and being available 24-hours a day in dynamic situations makes the REM an invaluable resource.