



Effective Date: 10/01/2014

Revised Date:

Mutual/Automatic aid

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure assistance from one district to another in the event of a large scale incident, high call volume etc. Fire and/or Rescue districts may render assistance to or from other districts for the use of personnel and equipment. The use must be authorized by an incident commander, County/District Fire Chief or Fire Marshall or the first responding unit after considering information provided by Valencia County Dispatch. Freelancing or “call jumping” will not be tolerated.

Policy:

- I. Automatic Aid – Assistance dispatched automatically by contractual agreement between Municipal, County and/or neighboring Fire Districts. This differs from mutual aid by assistance arranged on a case by case basis. The assistance maybe specific to and consist of a request for specialty equipment such as; Ladder truck, air truck, heavy rescue, high angle rescue etc.
 - a. All calls for structure fires shall result in an automatic, simultaneous response from all departments within the Auto Aid agreement area.
 - i. Agreements are dependent on the location of the affected district.
 - b. The Automatic dispatch of emergency responders shall include the specific location and type of emergency.
 - c. The requested equipment and personnel shall be used for the specific purpose of mitigating the incident, such as supporting fire suppression activities, transport etc.
 - d. All requested personnel will adhere to the rules as set forth by the incident commander while working within the Incident command structure.



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- e. The first arriving unit at any emergency incident will establish incident command and all other arriving personnel will operate accordingly under the incident command structure and will work at all times in their assigned sectors.
 - f. Specific apparatus may be requested by the incident commander or Chief Officer after considering the nature of the incident, equipment availability, units responding etc.
- II. Mutual Aid – Organization theory used to signify a voluntary reciprocal exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit. **Mutual aid** agreement is a written agreement between agencies, organizations, or jurisdictions to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries outside of the Automatic Aid sector. The assistance maybe specific to and consist of a request for specialty equipment such as; Ladder truck, air truck, heavy rescue, high angle rescue etc.
- a. Make effort to use the primary fire departments equipment first. This will leave Mutual Aid apparatus that is on scene available to respond to other incidents that may occur.
 - b. Upon arrival, the incident commander will determine whether additional units and/or agencies will be needed.
 - c. Mutual aid companies will be directed to report to, and will be under the direction of the incident commander.
 - d. Outside Agencies including Law Enforcement, Red Cross etc., will also be sent to the Incident Commander for direction.
 - e. When giving aid never send more than 50% of equipment or personnel. Always leave backup to respond to incidents in secondary or primary department’s service area. (See department SOP/SOG)



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III. Release of units

- a. The incident commander will be the only officer to release any unit from an incident. Units will be released as the incident requires.
- b. The 'home' district will be the last units to be released with the exception of the medical unit on stand- by.
- c. The Incident Commander and/or the Commanding officer will determine what units, if any, can be released from an incident in the event services of the responding department are needed within their own fire district(s). Including the 'home' districts area of responsibility.

_____/____/____
Signature of approval

Printed name