

3.1.3.7 Mutual Aid Communication



YOUR ORGANIZATION
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

TITLE: Mutual Aid Communication

SECTION/TOPIC: Communications

NUMBER: 3.1.3.7

ISSUE DATE:

REVISED DATE:

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

X

Preparer

X

Approver

These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 POLICY REFERENCE

CFR

NFPA

NIMS

2.0 PURPOSE

This standard operating procedure/guideline addresses procedures for communicating with units and personnel from other jurisdictions on mutual aid responses.

This procedure describes the dispatch, response, and on-site operations of fire companies and personnel to mutual aid requests outside the metro-area automatic aid CAD dispatch system.

3.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

These definitions are pertinent to this SOP/SOG.

5.0 PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

5.1 Procedures for communicating with units and personnel from other jurisdictions on mutual aid responses:

Minimum dispatch to a mutual aid request will be a 3-1 assignment, plus a rescue. The assignment will include a battalion chief and one utility company, shift commander, safety officer, and a rehab company.

Fire companies will operate only within a recognized Incident Management System. If a Command System does not exist with the on-scene mutual aid companies, the first arriving company or Command officer will implement the incident management system.

Command will implement appropriate sectors, branches, and sections as needed. Fire companies will operate with intact crews, and preferably with 2-1 attack teams. Crews, and personnel will not be separated or fragmented about the incident scene.

A direct communication link must be established between the on-site incident commander and the mutual aid companies. Mutual aid units will use every effort to support the on-site commander in a positive manner while adhering to recognized safety requirements and the Incident Management System.

Command shall maintain a communications link with the Dispatch Center. Dispatch or the Command vans emergency traffic notification will be made available for use for Phoenix companies. Dispatch will maintain the elapsed time notification if appropriate.

Command and company officers will use the risk management profile to determine the safety of the building or situation, and the mutual aid commander's plan of attack, and will proceed only if it is determined safe to do so. If it is unsafe to proceed, fire companies will advise the incident commander of their concerns while adopting and maintaining a safe operating position or strategy.

SCBAs will be refilled by utility companies from automatic aid cities only. Injured or ill fire fighters will be transported by fire department rescues whenever possible.

The Command officer in charge will update Dispatch with radio progress reports upon arrival and at appropriate points during the incident. As soon as a cellular phone is available, Dispatch should be provided more detailed reports on the fire operation. Dispatch will provide appropriate follow up progress reports to the Fire Chief and other appropriate Command officers.