

Procedure	Effective Date	Rescinds
MUTUAL AID	June 11, 1996	New
Reference		Page 1 of 3
Ohio Revised Code 9.60, 505.44, 505.442, 717.02, 717.021		
Central Ohio Fire Chiefs Association		
Norwich Township Fire Department SOG # 12		

Purpose:

Define the parameters of mutual aid operations in its various forms.

It is the intent of this guideline to describe normal expectations of mutual aid agreements, but not to limit or prohibit other practices as authorized by Ohio law or by the legislatures of the various political subdivisions.

Responsibility:

- I. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to implement this operating guideline.
- II. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to train members in the application of this guideline.
- III. It shall be the responsibility of each member to know, understand and use this guideline as it applies to the situation at hand. Each member will use good judgment in the use of this guideline.

Guideline:

1. DEFINITIONS

Additional Response - Assistance sought by the on-scene Incident Commander.

Automatic Response - The mutual aid practice of automatically, upon receipt of an alarm or report of fire, dispatching the closest available response units, regardless of political jurisdiction. (May also be called automatic aid)

Fire Fighting Agency - Any entity regularly providing fire suppression services and/or emergency medical services, particularly any department, division, bureau, or office of a political subdivision. Such agency might also provide emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, fire investigations, code enforcement, public education, or other general public safety services.

Mutual Aid - A system of reciprocating services whereby firefighting agencies agree to provide fire protection, emergency medical services, or similar emergency response services to the other, the same as is provided to their own jurisdiction, in exchange for like consideration from the other party.

Political Subdivision - As described in the Ohio Administrative Code and Ohio Revised Code. In particular, a county, township, city, incorporated village, joint fire protection district, or joint ambulance district.

SOG's (Standard Operating Guidelines) - Guidelines or procedures published and endorsed by the Franklin County Fire Chiefs, the Central Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, or other common regional professional organizations.

2. **POLICY STATEMENT**

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the chief of each firefighting agency to conduct mutual aid operations as directed by the governing body, or appropriate official of its jurisdiction.
- B. Assistance sought from another jurisdiction, shall be activated in a manner determined by the Fire Chief.
- C. Written mutual aid contracts should be secured, when required by the jurisdiction between, each jurisdiction and/or agency with whom mutual aid is shared on a regular basis.
- D. A resolution or ordinance authorizing "extended service authority" to the fire fighting agency, as allowed under Section 9.60 (D) of the Ohio Revised Code, should be secured from the legislative body of the jurisdiction. This "extended service authority" should allow for responses to jurisdictions other than those with which the fire fighting agency commonly shares mutual aid operations.
- E. It is the intent of the Franklin County Fire Chiefs to utilize mutual aid in a manner that provides the most practical and effective delivery of service to the citizens of their respective jurisdictions.

3. **ADDITIONAL RESPONSE**

- A. Mutual aid assistance sought following size-up or evaluation of the incident by the incident commander, shall be referred to as "Additional Response".

- B. Authority to request "Additional Response" shall be extended to the incident commander during any phase of an incident.

- C. All Fire companies responding as "Additional Response" shall report to the Incident Commander, and shall operate according to known SOG's and accepted practices for the region.

4. AUTOMATIC RESPONSE

- A. Mutual aid assistance sought following receipt of an alarm or report of fire, from pre-determined response assignment, shall be referred to as "Automatic Response".

- B. Operating under a program of "Automatic Response" shall be done only between jurisdictions having Mutual Aid contracts.