

AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID

Automatic mutual aid was a concept first implemented in Arizona in the 1980's when the Glendale and Tempe fire departments executed an agreement on dispatching with the Phoenix Fire Department.

Components of Automatic Aid

The closest, most appropriate, unit to an emergency responds regardless of the political jurisdiction of the incident or the responders.

All of the fire departments within automatic aid act as one large system.

The system is seamless. There are no requirements for formally requesting aid. The incident commander on the scene of the emergency calls for resources in a standard way and they are immediately dispatched.

Fire departments use the same dispatching, command, and tactical procedures.

The dispatch system is capable of accommodating the needs of individual jurisdictions.

Automatic aid is a two-way street. Aid is given and received without a regular accounting of who goes where. Joint long-term planning solves coverage issues at borders.

Ambulance response is governed by the Certificate of Need issued by the State of Arizona.

No reimbursement for expenses incurred during a response except where agreed to by the parties. Specific disaster reimbursements are permitted.

Automatic Aid Requirements

Membership by the department's fire chief or principle assistant in the Central Arizona Life Safety Response System Council.

All fire departments utilize the same tactical and command procedures. All battalion chiefs must attend a minimum of 9 monthly training sessions.

Radio coverage must be provided that allows portable radios to be heard by the dispatch center, including in-building coverage.

Fire companies, engines and ladders, must be staffed with a minimum of four firefighters on-duty.

Compatible equipment inventories and company functions. Apparatus numbering according to Valley-wide plan.

Mobile computers and automatic vehicle location equipment.

Standard dispatch assignments with the ability to tailor response to specific areas.