

Standard Operating Guidelines

Guideline 205.0 Automatic Mutual Aid



Purpose:

In Conjunction with the Williams County Fire Chiefs Association, The City of Bryan Fire Department has implemented an Automatic Mutual Aid Response System for assistance in our fire district along with providing assistance to the fire departments in Williams County. The purpose of the Automatic Mutual Aid Response System is to send predetermined equipment and personnel to the incident scene.

Guideline:

The Automatic Mutual Aid Response System is designed for structural fires only, including reported structural fires, i.e.: houses, barns, buildings, sheds, businesses, etc.

Automatic Mutual Aid will not be activated unless directed by Fire Command for the following:

- A. Automated alarm calls.
- B. Smoke alarm calls.
- C. Chimney fires.
- D. Stove fires (contained to the stove/oven).
- E. Suspected electrical fires without flames showing.
- F. Smells of smoke.

If dispatch has sufficient information from the caller to indicate there is a working structure fire (flames showing or smoke showing) or a report of a working structure fire by the first arriving unit on the scene, the dispatcher will page the department with jurisdiction then dispatch Automatic Mutual Aid for the Zone the fire is located in.

The Automatic Mutual Aid Department's will be dispatched according to the mutual aid box alarm zone cards established by the individual fire departments as soon as the local fire department has been dispatched, without any additional request.

If the dispatcher is in doubt about Automatic Mutual Aid responding, ask the first responding Fire Officer if Automatic Mutual Aid is requested.

Only the dispatched equipment will respond. No additional personnel or equipment will respond unless called for. The only exception to this will be that the Chief Officers may decide to respond to assist Command.

All departments will have a Mutual Aid Box Alarm System notebook. Included in this notebook is a zone map of all mutual aid zones within Williams County, showing water

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supply locations. A box alarm Zone Card, showing what equipment responds within that particular zone and the water supply locations.

On all automatic mutual aid calls all responding equipment except for Tankers will use Fire 2 as the working fire ground channel or Fire 3 if Fire 2 is busy. Tankers and Water Supply will remain on Fire 1.

Due to the increased amount of radio traffic the dispatcher may not answer when fire departments announce on their radios that they are responding.

The responding automatic mutual aid departments will be responsible to look in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System notebook and determine if they are the First, Second, or Third due Engine.

The City of Bryan Fire Department will dispatch the duty crew for all automatic aid requests where one (1) piece of apparatus is required. For all other automatic aid requests a general alarm will be dispatched.

In the event that The City of Bryan Fire Department cannot fill the request for automatic aid, the Officer in charge shall notify the requesting department that we will not be able to fulfill their request for assistance.

Tactical Considerations:

First Due Automatic Aid Engine:

The first due Automatic Aid Engine is responsible for determining the nearest water supply location and to respond to that location and establish a water supply for the Tanker shuttle. The first due Engine will announce the water supply location over the radio:

Engine #___ is Water Supply Engine. Fill Site is established at _____.

The crew of the Water Supply engine should lay lines out to refill Tankers coming to the water supply point to be filled. The preferred method of filling Tankers is through a 5" line with stortz adapters. However an acceptable alternate is through a 2 ½" or 3" lines with stortz adapters.

Second Due Engine:

The second due Engine will respond to the scene for manpower or other assignment given them by Command.

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Third Due Engine:

The third due Engine will respond to the scene and function as RIT unless given another assignment by Command.

Tankers:

All Tankers will go to the scene. Tankers should also review the Zone Cards to determine water supply locations.

Upon arrival of the Tanker at a fire location, if necessary all personnel will dismount the apparatus and assist with setup of portable dump tanks. After this initial set up the driver will remain with the Tanker and the remaining firefighter(s) will remain at the fire scene and become part of the Water Supply Crew operating at that location. This Water Supply Crew will be under the direction of a Water Supply Officer and will be responsible for all Tanker and Water Supply Operations at the fire scene.

All Tankers will after dumping their water at the fire scene proceed to the rural water supply location (Fill Site) that has been established by the Water Supply Engine and crew, and be filled.

Canceling Calls:

The dispatcher will cancel the responding automatic mutual aid departments just as is currently done when canceling a call.