



VOLUNTEER FIRE RESCUE INTERNAL MUTUAL AID POLICY

Applicability: CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Departments

Effective Date: February 22, 2017

PURPOSE:

To establish a policy for internal Mutual Aid Assistance for the CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Departments.

DEFINITIONS:

Area of Jurisdiction

The fire service area over which the CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Department has legal authority.

Assistance

The equipment and personnel provided by one Party to another Party.

Automatic Aid

The automatic dispatch of and the provision of assistance by, the CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Department of both parties to a structure fire or chimney fire in either party's area of jurisdiction.

Firecomm

The fire dispatch service provided to the CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Departments.

Officer in Charge

The most Senior Officer in attendance at an emergency incident that is representing a CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Department.

Incident Commander

The individual responsible for, and in charge of, an emergency incident response.

Mutual Aid

The receiving and providing of additional resources to emergency incidents on a case-by-case basis by way of agreement of policy.

Party

A Party to this policy.

Providing Party

A Party receiving a request for assistance.

Requesting Party

A Party requesting assistance.

POLICY:

Cooperative Assistance

An Officer in Charge or Incident Commander, as a matter of caution, may request mutual aid assistance from any of the CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Departments to assist in emergency operations in their area of jurisdiction.

Operational Management

1. The Incident Command System will be used at all emergencies involving the activation of Mutual Aid.
2. The Incident Commander of the Requesting Party is in command of all responding fire crews and will communicate in a manner to ensure coordinated operations.
3. The requesting party shall consider and use the closest fire departments to provide assistance.

Rights and Responsibilities

4. The Fire Chief (or Officer in Charge) of the Providing Party shall determine if they can fulfill the mutual aid request. If it is the opinion of the Providing Party, that a response would unduly jeopardize the response capability or safety of the department within its own Area of Jurisdiction, the Providing Party may not commit to providing assistance.
5. Each Party is responsible for advising of the service level capability on site. Service level capabilities are supported by appropriate resources and training.
6. Each CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Department will retain decision-making authority within their own area of jurisdiction.
7. Where the safety of firefighters and equipment is a concern, or where good firefighting practices are not applied, the Officer in Charge of the Providing Party shall have sole discretion on the application of directions given by the Incident Commander of the Requesting Party.
8. Emergency equipment and personnel may be recalled at any time if the Officer in Charge of the originating Area of Jurisdiction has determined that it is required in the originating Area of Jurisdiction.

Specific to Mesachie Lake Volunteer Fire Rescue and Honeymoon Bay Volunteer Fire Rescue Departments

For structure fire and chimney fire emergencies, Automatic Aid will be provided to each fire department.

9. FireComm will initiate a response from the CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Departments of

both Parties when a structure fire or chimney fire is reported within either of their areas of jurisdiction.

10. The first call for response will go to the fire department in whose Area of Jurisdiction the emergency occurs and the second call going immediately after to the other providing party.
11. Responses under this policy are limited to within the areas of jurisdiction of the parties.
12. Notwithstanding the provisions of Operational Management Section 2 of this policy, the first CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Department to arrive on scene will utilize the Incident Command System and assume the role of Incident Command.
13. The local jurisdiction receiving Automatic Aid will provide a complete response to the structure fire and chimney fire emergency and will make every effort to release the Providing Party in a timely manner.

Approved by: CVRD Board Approval date: February 22, 2017
