

OTHER AGENCY CONTACTS

0657

(September 1991)

Information center personnel may need to deal with other agencies. These contacts assist the cooperative firefighting effort and reinforce routine operations. The following lists other agencies and the services they perform:

Other fire agencies offer information on fire conditions and emergency measures as well as additional staffing.

Sheriff's office provides evacuation plans and action, safety of people and property, and fire investigation assistance.

California Highway Patrol handles traffic movement and safety, road blocks, detours and alternate routes of travel.

Local police departments provide law enforcement, fire investigation, and other aid.

Department of Transportation, and the County and City Road Departments handle road blocks and road damage.

State, county, and city health departments handle fire camp sanitation, health conditions, and water quality in the fire area.

Red Cross, Salvation Army, Goodwill offer first aid, and provide for the welfare of firefighters and local affected citizens.

Public utilities (power, gas, water, phone) deal with the fire line proximity to the utility facility.

Weather Bureau give current fire conditions, as well as weather, temperature, and wind forecasts.

County or local Office of Emergency Services coordinates operations during times of disasters.

CCC handles caretaking and operations of California Conservation Corps crews and camps.

CDC provides custody, caretaking, and welfare for inmates from adult conservation camps.

CYA offers custody, caretaking, and welfare for wards from youth conservation camps.

Military (National Guard) directs the locations of and use of equipment and personnel.

INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS

(September 1991)

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Information personnel must work closely with cooperating agency representatives and should see that they receive proper public recognition for their services. When responding to requests for help other fire agencies, CAL FIRE information personnel will work under those agencies' information officers and guidelines. Generally, their methods and procedures will be similar to CAL FIRE practices, especially as the use of ICS becomes more widespread.

Every major incident is of direct interest and concern to adjacent protection agencies. Major incidents seldom occur without the direct involvement of adjacent agencies in the control action. The department encourages the use of interagency information personnel because of their ability for rapid response, familiarity with the area, field unit radio monitoring capability, and in-service fire progress reports. Wherever possible, CAL FIRE information personnel should make advance arrangements for mutual interagency response.

CAL FIRE will initially dispatch an information officer with a sizable contingent of CAL FIRE personnel, firefighting equipment, or units committed to assist other cooperative agencies on any emergency. This information officer, of rank commensurate with the situation, will accompany the agency representative in charge of the CAL FIRE forces on the emergency. The information officer will:

- Serve as the main contact for internal information.
- Be aware of the information function of the other agencies.
- Keep abreast of changing information and conditions.
- Be current on all activities involving the emergency.
- Become familiar with the operations, methods, and organization of the local news media.
- Make direct contact with the other agencies' information officers and advise them that a CAL FIRE information officer is present.
- Be aware of the overall public relations effort of all concerned.

Often fire information operations are set up for fires burning in areas protected by more than one agency. CAL FIRE will jointly organize and operate the information effort from a single center.

When dispatched, officially requested CAL FIRE information personnel should obtain the order number. Upon arrival at the scene, they should report to the timekeeper and then proceed immediately to the Incident Information Officer for job assignment. Information personnel should determine how to pay bills and conform to that agency's policies and rules covering eating, sleeping, and miscellaneous purchases.

Basically, in a joint center operation, the information officers of all firefighting agencies serve together as a team under an interagency information officer operating from a single center.

The Incident Information Officer should be a representative of the agency having principal fire protection jurisdiction or a specially qualified individual designated jointly by the agencies' incident commanders.

An interagency information center has special staffing needs. Each participating agency should expect to support the information function in proportion to the agency's involvement in the emergency.

At least one representative of each of the principal fire agencies should be on duty or readily accessible to the center during all operating hours.

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