

ORGANIZED FIRE DEPARTMENTS

7762

(No. 21 March 1999)

The capability of individual departments to lend assistance to the CAL FIRE in controlling wildland fires varies. The types of equipment as well as the type of department will largely determine the degree of assistance that can be rendered.

Normally CAL FIRE will access these resources through 1) interagency agreements with individual local agencies, or 2) the OES Fire and Mutual aid System (for both Mutual aid and 5-Party Agreement requests).

CAL FIRE should not enter into interagency agreements with non-profit organizations, since they do not have the same legal protections as public agencies. Services provided by non-profit organizations (such as volunteer firefighter associations) and their members should be secured through the Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA) process, in the same manner as if dealing with a private sector vendor. All private sector vendor requirements will apply to non-profit organizations, including rotational dispatch.

When requesting or using organized fire departments, the following items should be considered:

PROCEDURES FOR USE OF ORGANIZED FIRE DEPARTMENTS

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- Municipal fire equipment must be used only in cases of serious fire threat and where municipal-type equipment will be of definite value.
- Equipment will be ordered as specified in ICS 420-1, Chapter 11.
- A minimum of three firefighters per engine should be requested. Arrangements should be made for relief at the time of ordering.
- A common point of assembly, staging area, should be specified. A qualified CAL FIRE employee should be at this location to brief and organize the incoming personnel. It is important that those personnel fully comprehend the objectives and operating problems they might encounter.
- Units should be grouped as much as possible by individual agency. An officer of that agency should be used to coordinate their actions according to directions of CAL FIRE personnel.

- Units with a common radio frequency should be assigned to work together.
- Whenever possible, radios on the same frequencies as the units working on the fire should be located at fire headquarters or ICP, and staffed with operators.
- A Communication Unit should be established whenever multiple departments and multiple radio frequencies are in use or contemplated.

[\(see next section\)](#)

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)