

## TYPES OF MUTUAL AID

8513

(No. 49 February 2005)

The prearranged, automatic response by mutual aid fire companies is known as automatic aid. Automatic aid is most commonly used in metropolitan, urban, and suburban areas.

Of prime importance to CDF is day-to-day mutual aid, normally used in the initial attack stage of an incident. This aid is provided by individual fire agencies within or directly adjacent to the CDF unit at no additional cost to either agency. Upon request, the responding agency may send resources to the extent it is capable.

A third type of mutual aid is that provided on a county or area-wide basis. This mutual aid may be used on an initial attack basis but is also designed to support extended attack or complex incidents over longer periods. By pooling the resources of a county or area, pre-established mutual aid responses, including task forces and strike teams, can be developed. This mutual aid is normally provided at no additional cost but may provide for payment for the use of specialized equipment or for incidents of long duration.

Mutual aid may also be provided to areas determined to be within a mutual threat zone, wherein any fire is judged to be a threat to agencies having a common boundary. Mutual threat zones will be delineated on maps maintained by both agencies. Mutual threat zones will exist primarily along SRA-LRA boundaries. Normally, a negotiated automatic response is made into a mutual threat zone, thereby reducing duplication.

A fifth type of assistance, most appropriately called outside aid, is that provided by the State Master Mutual Aid Agreement or other similar agreements. The State Master Mutual Aid has been signed by most political subdivisions of the state. The Interstate Compact is signed by California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada and Utah. CDF use of this aid is primarily during major emergency situations. Intrastate aid is requested through the statewide fire and rescue mutual aid system and is normally rendered by agencies some distance from the incident. Aid requested by CDF for wildland fires is without cost for the first 12 hours. After that, mutual aid resources may be billed to CDF at the rates established in the [California Fire Assistance Agreement](#).

Out-of-state aid is requested through the Sacramento ECC.

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