

## **MASTER MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

**8573**

(No. 49 February 2005)

This agreement is known as the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement.

The agreement provides that all resources and facilities of the state, its various departments and agencies, and all of its political subdivisions, be made available on a voluntary basis to provide assistance to each other in time of local disaster. Most cities and counties in the state are signatory to the agreement, as is CDF. This agreement facilitates legal means of exchanging assistance between the numerous jurisdictions without the need for separate agreements among them.

Note that aid is voluntary under a condition of local emergency, but it becomes obligatory under a State of Emergency or State of War. The Master Mutual Aid Agreement has no provisions for payment. For additional information, refer to the Mutual Aid chapter of this handbook.

## **AUTHORITIES**

**8573.1**

(No. 49 February 2005)

California has a wide spectrum of disaster possibilities. Because of the sheer number of private and political subdivisions which may be brought together in response to any disaster, actions by CDF employees will come under various sources and degrees of authority.

The previously discussed Emergency Services Act, the State Emergency Plan, and the mutual aid agreement are each pertinent, as is CDF policy and good citizenship.

## **RESPONSE APPROVAL -- LOCAL EMERGENCIES**

**8573.2**

(No. 49 February 2005)

This section shall apply only when emergency assistance is given under one of the following conditions:

- An official proclamation of local emergency has been issued, or,
- A local emergency exists, but an official proclamation has not been issued.

Area Chiefs may delegate authority to unit chiefs to respond to local emergencies without Sacramento or region office prior approval under the following conditions:

- Prompt action by CDF forces could more than likely result in saving of life, the prevention of serious personal injury, and/or the prevention of serious community property or resource damage.
- Commitment of CDF forces is limited to state-supported engines, bulldozers, support equipment, such as pickups and sedans, and personnel assigned to the unit responding to the emergency, when the commitment will not jeopardize CDF's mission of wildland fire protection. The unit chief shall make this determination.
- Good judgement must be used for each incident and all factors such as providing service to the public, the time of the year, type and magnitude of the incident, injury and damage potential, etc. must be considered.
- Units may dispatch two handcrews, one bulldozer or one engine strike team without prior region office approval.
- No obligation for more than a total of \$5,000 may be made for operating expenses and personnel overtime pay.

## **RESPONSE REPORTING**

**8573.3**

(No. 49 February 2005)

As soon as possible, and no more than 24 hours after the initial response to any nonfire incident where support funds are being expended or handcrews are being used, the unit must do the following:

- Advise region headquarters of the commitment and obtain approval for continuing CDF action, and
- Contact the appropriate local government official(s) and determine how monetary reimbursement will be made to the state for action taken by CDF forces; advise region headquarters. Refer to "Reimbursement" section for information pertinent to Schedules A and B.

It will be the unit's responsibility to appoint an appropriate officer as an Agency Representative to coordinate CDF forces involved in the incident and to document time, activity, and expenditures. There may also be a need to activate the finance section or other support positions.

Any action using locally funded equipment and/or personnel, including CDF engines under contract to local government, should be pursuant to state and local policies, laws, regulations, and mutual aid agreements.

NOTE: Any CDF response of state-supported resources for the primary purpose of restoration (recovery plans) of property after damage has occurred must be approved by the region chief or his/her authorized representative.

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