

DATE SUBMITTED 11/12/2024
 SUBMITTED BY David Lantzer
 DATE ACTION REQUIRED 11/20/24

COUNCIL ACTION
 PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED
 RESOLUTION
 ORDINANCE 1ST READING
 ORDINANCE 2ND READING
 CITY CLERK'S INITIALS

**IMPERIAL CITY COUNCIL
 AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT:	DISCUSSION/ACTION: 1. Approve automatic aid agreement between El Centro Fire Department, Imperial County Fire Department, City of Imperial, and American Medical Response and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.		
DEPARTMENT INVOLVED: Fire			
BACKGROUND/SUMMARY: On behalf of the City of Imperial, the Imperial County Fire Department (ICFD) is requesting council approval to enter into an automatic aid agreement with El Centro Fire Department (ECFD), Imperial County Fire Department (ICFD), and American Medical Response (AMR). The proposed automatic aid agreement is attached. This agreement will be in effect for automatic assistance in extraordinary emergencies such as suppression of fires, provision of emergency medical care, hazardous materials response, technical rescue capabilities, and the stabilization and containment of other emergencies. The parties agree to render aid to the public as necessary and appropriate when the utilization of said personnel and equipment is a direct benefit to the public, either due to response times and/or the need for augmentation of responding resources.			
FISCAL IMPACT: NOT TO EXCEED	The only fiscal impact that would be generated is the expenses accrued during the incidents when automatic aid is provided. However, this is offset when automatic aid is received.		FINANCE INITIALS <u>JMS</u>
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	Approve Automatic Aid Agreement between the City of Imperial, El Centro Fire Department, Imperial County Fire Department, and American Medical Response and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.		DEPT. INITIALS <u>DL</u>
MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: <u>approve</u>			CITY MANAGER'S INITIALS <u>JLM</u>
MOTION:			
SECONDED:	APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/>	REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/>	
AYES:	DISAPPROVED <input type="checkbox"/>	DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/>	
NAYES:	REFERRED TO:		
ABSENT:			

ADMINISTRATION / TRAINING

1078 Dogwood Road
Heber, CA 92249

Administration

Phone: (442) 265-6000

Fax: (760) 482-2427

Training

Phone: (442) 265-6011



OPERATIONS/PREVENTION

2514 La Brucherie Road
Imperial, CA 92251

Operations

Phone: (442) 265-3000

Fax: (760) 355-1482

Prevention

Phone: (442) 265-3020

November 20, 2024

Mayor and City Council
City of Imperial
420 S Imperial Avenue
Imperial, CA 92251

SUBJECT: Automatic Aid Agreement

Requested City Council Action:

1. Approve automatic aid agreement between the City of Imperial, El Centro Fire Department, Imperial County Fire Department, and American Medical Response.
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign the automatic aid agreement.

Background:

On behalf of the City of Imperial, the Imperial County Fire Department (ICFD) is requesting council approval to enter into an automatic aid agreement with El Centro Fire Department (ECFD), Imperial County Fire Department (ICFD), and American Medical Response (AMR). The proposed automatic aid agreement is attached. This agreement will be in effect for automatic assistance in extraordinary emergencies such as suppression of fires, provision of emergency medical care, hazardous materials response, technical rescue capabilities, and the stabilization and containment of other emergencies. The parties agree to render aid to the public as necessary and appropriate when the utilization of said personnel and equipment is a direct benefit to the public, either due to response times and/or the need for augmentation of responding resources.

This automatic aid agreement represents an attempt by Imperial County and El Centro Fire Departments in partnership with the City of Imperial and American Medical Response to address the chronic issues of under-deploying resources to significant incidents, such as building fires, by combining efforts and resources to respond

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simultaneously. Fire departments identify an effective response force (ERF), which is the number of personnel and equipment necessary to effectively mitigate a given emergency. In the case of building fires, ICFD and ECFD calculate the need for 16 to 17 personnel (this number will be fully determined once each department concludes its respective critical tasking studies). The two departments have defined a geographic area that encompasses from north to south the City of Imperial to the community of Heber, and east to west Highway 111 to the community of Seeley.

Efforts to assist one another will begin with building fire responses. However, all other incident types are eligible for inclusion as the respective departments identify needs and further develop the automatic aid system. AMR personnel will provide firefighter rehabilitation and emergency medical treatment of civilians and firefighters, as needed, at building fire incidents. AMR will provide medical treatment and transport at emergency medical and technical rescue incidents. The City of Imperial is identified as a distinct entity for the utilization of city-owned fire apparatus as part of this agreement. Additionally, the city would also be a recipient of ICFD, ECFD, and AMR automatic aid.

Fiscal Impact:

The only fiscal impact that would be generated is the expenses accrued during the incidents when automatic aid is provided. However, this is offset when automatic aid is received.

Recommendation:

Approve the automatic aid agreement between the City of Imperial, El Centro Fire Department, Imperial County Fire Department, and American Medical Response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'D. Lantzer'.

David Lantzer
Fire Chief/OES Coordinator



Central Zone Automatic Aid Pilot Program

Participating agencies:

El Centro Fire Department

Imperial County Fire Department

City of Imperial

American Medical Response (AMR)

September 24, 2024



AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT FOR EXCHANGE OF FIRE PROTECTION AND SPECIALIZED RESCUE BETWEEN THE CITY OF EL CENTRO AND THE IMPERIAL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The purpose of this Automatic Aid agreement is to outline the procedures for carrying out an Automatic Aid response between the City of El Centro Fire Department (ECFD), the Imperial County Fire Department (ICFD), the City of Imperial, and American Medical Response (AMR). Together, ECFD, ICFD, and AMR are the "parties" and each is a party.

WITNESETH

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement provide fire protection and rescue services within their respective jurisdictional limits; and

WHEREAS fire and rescue resources for the County of Imperial and City of Imperial are dispatched through Imperial County Sherriff Office dispatch center.

WHEREAS, fire and rescue resources for the City of El Centro are dispatched through the El Centro Police Department dispatch center.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the County of Imperial, City of Imperial, and City of El Centro to provide the most expeditious response to suppress fires and mitigate emergencies; and

WHEREAS, each party is desirous of providing to the other a reasonable and reciprocal exchange of fire protection services on a day-to-day basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of these mutual covenants, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Revisions

This Agreement may be revised or amended at any time by mutual agreement of the Fire Chiefs. All amendments to this Agreement shall be in writing and signed by the persons authorized to bind the parties thereto. Substantial reductions or modifications of services by any of the agencies shall be cause for reconsideration of the Agreement.

2. Term

The initial term of this automatic aid agreement shall be one (1) year commencing as of the date of execution hereof by all parties. Thereafter, the term of this automatic aid agreement shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year terms on the same terms and conditions. Any of the parties may terminate the agreement at any time with written notice to the other parties at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of intended withdrawal. Parties shall meet biannually to discuss revisions to the existing agreement.

3. Biannual Meetings

At such meetings, the Parties shall determine specific content for and application of performance evaluation methodology. Such methodology should include but not be limited to resource response times, identification of critical infrastructure, communication, and standards compliance.

4. Mutual Benefits

ICFD, City of Imperial, and ECFD intend that this Agreement will provide mutual benefits to each party. The Fire Chiefs of ICFD and ECFD are hereby authorized to identify and revise as they deem necessary any designated areas or types of response periodically as may be dictated by changing conditions and the requirements of mutual benefits to each party.

5. Incident Command

In those instances where the assisting Department arrives before the jurisdictional Department, the assisting Department will take the necessary action dictated by the situation. However, it is assumed that the jurisdictional Department will continue with a Chief Officer response after the arrival of the assisting Department. Overall command of the incident will be assumed by the jurisdictional Department upon its arrival at the scene. The assisting Department's personnel will remain under the command of the Incident Commander. The highest-ranking officer of the assisting Fire Department at the incident, will become the Agency Representative (AREP) or Safety Officer. The resources of the assisting Department will be released from the scene as soon as practical by the jurisdictional Fire Department.

When it is deemed appropriate, the AREP may enter into Unified Command with the jurisdictional Department's Incident Commander. A common and agreed upon communications plan shall be established and utilized by all resources and Incident Commanders.

6. Commitment of Resources

It is mutually understood and agreed that this agreement does not relieve a party from the necessity and obligation of using its own resources for furnishing fire and rescue service within any part of its own jurisdiction, and that the assisting party's response to a request for aid will be dependent upon the existing emergency conditions within its own jurisdiction and the status of its resources.

7. Methods of Requesting Aid

All requests for aid shall be via the respective dispatch center. Persons assigned to the dispatch center for all Departments are authorized to send and receive such requests as per their respective operational procedures. Communication amongst respective command staff will dictate availability of resource types to insure the most appropriate apparatus type is staffed and available for automatic-aid service.

8. Intent of Agreement

The intent of this Agreement is to provide the agency in need with a more efficient and/or effective initial response to an emergency incident. As defined within [National Fire Protection Association](#) Standard 1710 (*Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operation by Career Fire Departments*, (NFPA 1710)) automatic aid refers to a developed plan between two or more fire departments for an immediate joint response on first alarms. The intent of this agreement shall be to provide the respective parties the capacity to realize the goal of meeting NFPA 1710 recommended response for a single-family dwelling initial full alarm assignment and to other emergencies as defined by the respective Fire Chiefs. The agreed upon resources should only be utilized until the agency having responsibility is able to relieve the assisting agency with their own resources and/or obtain the appropriate emergency resources. If the agreed upon resources are not available, the assisting agency need not respond.

9. Fire Incident Reporting

Each agency is responsible for their own National Fire Incident Report (NFIRS). In the event both agencies arrive on scene, the jurisdictional department shall complete the "Fire Section" of the NFIRS report. In the event an assisting agency handles an incident in the jurisdictional department's area of responsibility, the assisting agency shall complete the "Fire Section" of the NFIRS report, and the jurisdictional department will complete the NFIRS as "Aid Received", if needed. If the jurisdictional department is not dispatched, then a NFIRS report is not necessary by the jurisdictional department.

Each agency shall be responsible for obtaining needed information to complete fire reports for incidents within their respective jurisdiction. Assisting units shall contact jurisdictional units to provide appropriate information for completion of fire reports.

10. Training

Joint training exercises will be conducted upon agreement by the parties (minimum of one per quarter). These training exercises shall be coordinated with ECFD and ICFD Command Staff. Prior to initiating the automatic-aid agreement, ICFD and ECFD will participate in a minimum of three training exercises with the objective of terminology standardization as well as apparatus and equipment familiarization. Training exercises should include the involvement of dispatch centers to assure cohesive communication.

11. Services by Imperial County Fire Department and City of Imperial

ICFD and City of Imperial agree to provide a designated fire and rescue response, as jointly agreed upon by the Fire Chiefs of ICFD and ECFD, upon notification by ECFD to designated areas located within the jurisdiction of the City of El Centro.

12. Dispatch and Notification by El Centro Fire Department

Upon receipt by ECFD of an alarm within a designated area located within the jurisdiction of the City of El Centro. ECFD, (as the jurisdictional Department) will dispatch its nearest available and appropriately designated fire or rescue response to that alarm, also notify AMR dispatch, as well as an ICFD fire dispatcher who will, in turn, dispatch the agreed-upon automatic-aid ICFD response.

13. Services by El Centro Fire Department

ECFD agrees to provide a designated fire and rescue response, as jointly agreed upon by the Fire Chiefs of ECFD and ICFD, upon notification by ICFD to designated areas located within the jurisdiction of Imperial County.

14. Dispatch and Notification by Imperial County Fire Department

Upon receipt by ICFD of an alarm within a designated area located within the agreed upon automatic-aid geographic boundaries of Imperial County and in the City of Imperial, ICFD, (as the jurisdictional Department) will dispatch its nearest available and appropriately designated fire or rescue response to that alarm and notify an ECFD fire dispatcher who will, in turn, dispatch the agreed-upon automatic-aid ECFD response as well as AMR dispatch.

15. Amount and Type of Assistance

A. ECFD to ICFD and City of Imperial

Fire Response

Areas outside of the City of El Centro

Upon notification by ICFD, ECFD agrees to automatically dispatch the following resources to fire incidents within the areas defined below. Additional resources may be authorized by the ECFD Fire Chief or ICFD on-duty battalion Chief upon request.

Structure Fire Response

Initial Dispatch:

- Minimum of one (1) apparatus (Minimum crew of 3)

Fire Response (Non-Structure Fire)

Initial Dispatch:

- One (1) Engine (Minimum crew of 3)

Roadway incidents involving three (3) or more patients, fire, or technical rescue

Upon notification, ECFD agrees to automatically dispatch the following resources to reported fire and rescue incidents to supplement/assist ICFD engine companies responding to designated freeway locations.

Initial Dispatch:

- One (1) Engine (Minimum crew of 3)

B. ICFD and City of Imperial to ECFD

Fire Response

Upon notification by ECFD, ICFD and City of Imperial agree to automatically dispatch the following resources to structure fires within the area defined as the jurisdiction of the City of El Centro. Additional resources may be authorized by the ICFD Fire Chief or on-duty Chief upon request. Resources dispatched by Imperial County FD will be dictated by geographic location of the most appropriate apparatus with direction from ICFD command staff and may include an apparatus with crew contracted for service within the City of Imperial. In this case, ICFD apparatus will move-up from another ICFD station to provide dedicated City of Imperial coverage.

Structure Fire Responses

Initial Dispatch:

- Minimum of one (1) apparatus (Minimum crew of 3)

Fire Response (Non-Structure Fire)

Initial Dispatch

- One (1) Engine (Minimum crew of 3)

Roadway incidents involving three (3) or more patients, fire, or technical rescue

Upon notification, ICFD agrees to automatically dispatch the following resources to reported fire and rescue incidents to supplement/assist ECFD engine companies responding to freeway incidents within the jurisdiction of the City of El Centro.

Initial Dispatch:

- One (1) Engine (Minimum crew of 3)

C. AMR to ECFD, ICFD, and City of Imperial

EMS Response

Upon notification of an incident defined by the aforementioned criteria, AMR agrees to automatically dispatch resources to assist responding fire agencies. Upon assignment from the IC, AMR responsibilities may include assignments such as the establishment of a rehabilitation station designated for incident personnel as well as provide emergency medical services and patient transport as needed within the incident. The AMR supervisor may assume the role of agency representative (AREP) and receive the assignment as medical group supervisor upon arrival. Additional resources may be authorized by the AMR supervisor or Operations Director upon request.

Initial Dispatch:

- One (1) ALS ambulance (crew of two)
- One (1) AMR supervisor

16. Communications System

The Parties agree to share the use of communication systems, radios, and radio frequencies for the execution of this Agreement. Sharing of the frequencies must be approved only by authorized personnel for each party and documented in the Incident Action Plan (IAP). The communications plan will be reviewed annually and included in the recurrent joint training exercise.

17. No Third-Party Benefit

This Agreement shall not be construed as, or deemed to be, an agreement for the benefit of anyone not a party hereto, and anyone who is not a party hereto shall not have a right of action hereunder for any cause whatsoever.

18. Hold Harmless

It is mutually understood and agreed that the party requesting assistance is not required to indemnify the party furnishing assistance as to liability or damage imposed by law upon the assisting party for any act or omission of the assisting party or its employees occurring in the performance of the services.

19. No Effect on Master Mutual Aid Agreement

It is mutually understood that this Agreement will in no way affect or have a bearing on the existing Master Mutual Aid Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Automatic Aid Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

EI Centro Fire Department:

Name: Joseph Bernal
Title: Fire Chief
Date:

Imperial County Fire Department:

Name: David Lantzer
Title: Fire Chief
Date:

City of Imperial:

Name: Robert Amparano
Title: Mayor
Date:

American Medical Response:

Name: Brandon Walls
Title: Director of Operations
Date:

This Agreement will facilitate coordinated emergency response efforts among the Parties, enhancing public safety and resource efficiency.