

City of Stockton 2015 Fire Captain Written Exam

Candidate challenged:

Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer, Chapter 24, Page 569 (Page 47 in 5th Edition)

98. Which of the following forms of AID includes a formal written agreement between jurisdictions that share a common boundary, and common dispatching through a communications center as needed when certain conditions exist?

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 - a. automatic aid
 - b. mutual aid
 - c. outside aid
 - d. allied aid

- Comply with the guidelines of the organization for requests for assistance.
- Follow the Golden Rule, and it will provide positive benefits.

External Aid Agreements

Agreements with other neighboring jurisdictions are generally created to provide additional resources, provide coverage in adjacent areas, or reduce the cost of providing specialized services within a region. These external agreements are normally formal, written plans that define the roles of the participants and can be categorized as *automatic aid*, *mutual aid*, or *outside aid* agreements.

Automatic Aid

Automatic aid is a formal, written agreement between jurisdictions that share a common boundary. The authority to request automatic aid is understood and the communication center alerts the correct unit or jurisdiction. Automatic aid occurs whenever certain predetermined conditions occur. Examples of predetermined conditions include the following:

- Whenever an emergency is reported along a mutual jurisdictional boundary; closest unit is dispatched regardless of jurisdiction
- Any fire or emergency involving or exceeding a given number of alarms
- At specific facilities such as airports, oil refineries, or chemical manufacturing plants

- When an incident is likely to require the commitment of the majority of the jurisdiction's resources, and units are required to protect uncovered areas
- When jurisdictions share a unique resource like a heavy rescue unit or hazardous materials team (Figure 24.2)

Company officers who respond to automatic aid incidents operate in the same manner as when they respond to any emergency incident. If the incident involves activities that place them under the operational control of another jurisdiction, the company officer should perform the following:

- Determine the proper operational radio frequency.
- Determine the location of the command post.
- Report to the IC at the command post or by radio.
- Adhere to the personnel accountability system that is used by the other agency.

If the company officer is in charge of an incident that will involve automatic aid units from other jurisdictions, the officer is responsible for the following:

- Requesting that all responding units acknowledge that they are on the assigned radio frequency
- Assigning units based on arrival time and capabilities



Figure 24.2 Automatic aid response may involve the response of a heavy rescue unit. Courtesy of Bob Esposito.

- Establishing and communicating the location of staging areas

All company officers should have a list of the resources that will automatically respond to various target hazards or facilities and the circumstances under which automatic aid will be activated. It is a good idea to list these resources in the preplan for a particular building or hazard.

Mutual Aid

Mutual aid is a reciprocal agreement between two or more fire and emergency services organizations (**Figure 24.3**). The agreements may be local, regional, statewide, or interstate so the organizations may or may not have contiguous boundaries. The agreement defines how the organizations will provide resources in various situations and how the actions of the shared resources will be monitored and controlled. Responses under a mutual aid agreement are usually on an on-request basis. Response is not, however, guaranteed. If the jurisdiction that receives the request has also been affected by the disaster, such as a tornado or hurricane, then the request can be denied.

Company officers should have a list of all external mutual aid resources available to them. Availability information can be accessed by radio communication with the communication center, a hard copy list, or a computer terminal in the apparatus. During the size-up process, the company officer makes the decision about the type of aid required and where it should be sent. Company

officers requesting or responding to mutual aid requests should follow the procedures listed under automatic aid.

Outside Aid

Outside aid is similar to mutual aid except that payment rather than reciprocal aid is made by one agency to the other. Outside aid is normally addressed through a signed contract under which one agency agrees to provide aid to another in return for an established payment, which is normally an annual fee but which may be on a per-response basis. Otherwise, the outside agreement differs little from the mutual aid agreement.

An outside aid agreement may be with a jurisdiction or with a commercial vendor. Emergency management officials may determine that large quantities of materials may be required in the event of an emergency incident (**Figure 24.4**). A contract would be executed with a vendor to provide a specified amount of materials within a specified length of time. For instance, the fire and emergency services organization responsible for protecting a flammable liquids storage facility may arrange for a specific quantity of Class B foam extinguishing agent to be provided within one hour of request. During hurricane season, the local emergency management agency may request that drinking water, tents, and blankets be prepositioned in the event they are needed to supply displaced persons. Another example of outside aid might be translators or sign language specialists.

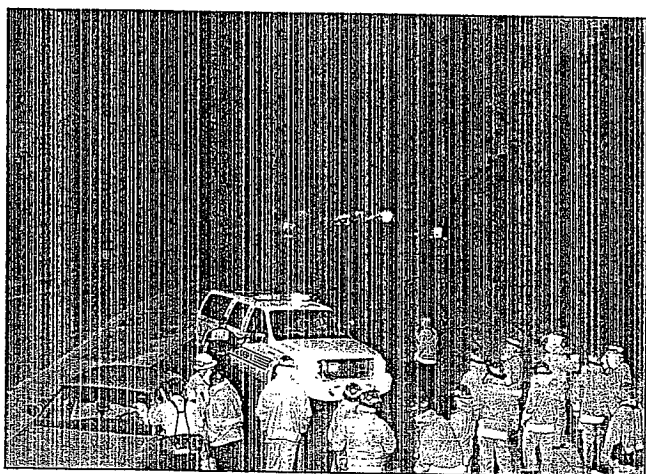


Figure 24.3 This incident involves a mutual aid response.

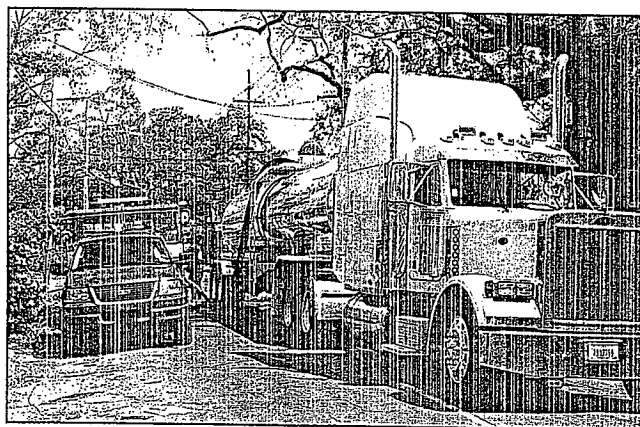


Figure 24.4 Outside agreements arrange for necessities such as fresh water during hurricane season. A fresh water tanker responds after Hurricane Katrina. *Courtesy of Chris E. Mickal.*