

City of Stockton 2015 Fire Captain Written Exam

Candidate challenged:

Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer, Page 256, Chapter 11 (Page 47-48 in 5th Edition)

89. Which of the following is a common reason why fire departments enter into mutual aid agreements?

- a. to facilitate training of all employees
- b. to maximize their decreased budgets
- c. to decrease response time to emergencies
- * d. to allow sharing of limited or specialized resources

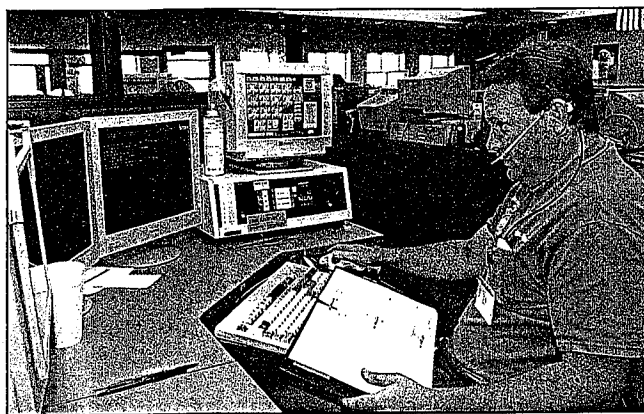


Figure 11.18 Requests for mutual aid are usually made by the incident commander at the scene and requested through the organization's telecommunications center. The center maintains a list of agencies and the types of resources that they can provide under mutual aid agreements. *Courtesy of Paul Ramirez.*

The most common reasons why fire and emergency services organizations enter into mutual aid agreements besides to receive federal or state funding are as follows:

- ***Allows sharing of limited or specialized resources between neighboring jurisdictions*** — For example, adjoining fire and emergency services organizations sometimes work together to acquire selected apparatus, equipment, or personnel resources that are required to support their overall missions but whose utilization is limited to the point that none of the individual cooperating organizations could justify the expenditure.
- ***Addresses the need for neighboring jurisdictions to assist each other when a response requirement exceeds the primary jurisdiction's capabilities*** — For example, an organization may also require assistance from another because of the size or nature of an emergency. Some fires may involve such a large area or structure that they exceed the response capabilities of the responsible jurisdiction or an emergency may result in more casualties than the primary jurisdiction can evacuate and treat.
- ***Addresses occupancies within a jurisdiction that may be considered target hazards or high-risk facilities*** — For example, a facility may store and use substances that could pose a serious health risk to the public. If the facility is located near the boundary of another jurisdiction or prevailing winds or waterways are likely to transport contaminants into an adjoining jurisdiction, the affected organizations may choose to establish mutual aid agreements.
- ***Addresses the situation where an organization may require assistance when its resources are deployed at an incident and a second, simultaneous emergency occurs*** — In effect, a second organization may provide backup response for subsequent emergencies in the event that the primary jurisdiction's resources are already committed.
- ***Allows organizations to meet NFPA, Insurance Services Office (ISO), and other requirements for staffing, apparatus availability, response times, etc. through shared resources*** — For example, an agreement between a municipality protected by a volunteer organization and an adjacent career-protected municipality could provide greater constant protection for the first community and supplemental protection for the second one.
- ***Provides a quicker response when other fire and emergency services organizations are closer to the emergency site than are the primary jurisdiction's resources*** — For example, the agreement between two bordering municipalities could establish response areas that overlap the actual city limits of each. This agreement would establish responses based on travel time rather than jurisdiction.
- ***Defines responses for areas on the boundaries between adjacent jurisdictions*** — For example, a mutual aid agreement between two neighboring municipalities can establish which jurisdiction will respond to certain types of emergencies that occur in the unincorporated areas between them.
- ***Defines response methods for fire and emergency services organizations within a jurisdiction such as a military base or corporate fire protection agency (fire brigade) within a city's limits*** — For instance, the agreement between a municipality and a large refinery within its boundaries could establish the municipal response in support of a fire at the refinery. At