

# **MUTUAL AID POLICY**

## GUIDELINES FOR MUTUAL AID RESPONSES

### I. Policies for WRJFD to Mutual Aid Requests for Structure Fires

A. **Introduction.** The Western Reserve Joint Fire District (WRJFD) is a member of the Mahoning County Mutual Aid Agreement of Fire Services. (A copy of that agreement is attached to this policy.) As such, the District will respond, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 9.60 to other political subdivisions as requested. Absent express request for a specific equipment or apparatus, the District will respond to mutual aid requests utilizing the following standard protocol.

B. **Standard Response.** Unless otherwise requested by the recipient community or requested by the District's officer in charge (OIC) at the scene, the District will respond to mutual aid structure fire calls as follows:

Pulaski	E93, T93
Coitsville	E93, T93
Campbell	T93, L91
Struthers	L91, E93 (North of the River)
Struthers	L91, E92 (South of the River)
Lowellville	L91, E93, T93, E92
Mahoning Twp.	E93, T93 (North of the River)
Mahoning Twp.	T93, E92 (South of the River)
Boardman	L91, E92
Springfield	E92, L91
New Middletown	L91, E92
Beaver	L91, E92
Neshannock	L91, T93

C. **Personnel Response and Standby.**

1. If an apparatus is scheduled to respond, all firefighters from that station should respond to the station in an emergency (Code 3) mode. Firefighters should announce that the station is "manned" pursuant to the District's radio use policy. Those firefighters who arrive at the station and do not respond in the assigned apparatus should remain in station for 1-hour unless released sooner by the Poland OIC at the mutual aid scene.
2. Personnel at stations not assigned to the mutual aid call are not expected to respond to the station. However, if a firefighter wishes to respond to a station in a non-emergency (Code 2) mode and remain in station during a District mutual aid response, he or she may do so. No compensation will be paid for voluntary standby, unless the firefighter responds to a separate emergency call or a response is eventually requested by the OIC.
3. If personnel are not available to sufficiently staff an engine to permit the

apparatus to respond to a mutual aid request, the apparatus shall not respond. The requesting department shall be notified that the District is unable to comply with the mutual aid request. However, the District officer may initiate a response from another station if sufficient personnel remain in the District to protect Poland resident lives and property, and/or additional arrangements are made with other surrounding communities to provide additional fire protection to the District at or before the time the District makes arrangements to respond to a mutual aid request.

4. WRJFD personnel will respond only on District apparatus. No firefighter should respond to a neighboring community in a personal vehicle unless expressly ordered to do so by a Chief Officer or Poland's OIC at the scene. If a personal vehicle is utilized for any reason, the responding firefighter must report to the Poland OIC upon arrival and ensure that he has been accounted for in the personal accountability system utilized by the District.
5. All WRJFD apparatus will respond with a minimum of three firefighters (exception is for the tanker or command vehicles). All firefighters will remain in groups of two or more while operating on the scene, and will remain under the direct supervision of the District Officer or senior firefighter.
6. No cadet or probationary firefighters shall respond on a mutual aid call, unless under the direct supervision of an officer or senior firefighter.
7. No cadet or probationary firefighter shall respond on a mutual aid call, in place of an active firefighter of the District.
8. The WRJFD responds only to those departments that have in place, and utilize, Rapid Intervention Teams and Accountability Procedures. In the event that upon arrival at a mutual aid community, District personnel determine that Rapid Intervention Team or accountability procedures are not in place, the District shall, to the extent possible, make arrangements to establish a rapid intervention team and shall make arrangements to ensure accountability for District personnel at the scene.

#### **I. Policies for Departments Responding to the Western Reserve Joint Fire District on Mutual Aid Requests**

- A. Mutual aid departments will be requested via M.A.B.A.S. system.
- B. All mutual aid departments called to Poland should respond with the requested apparatus only.
- C. All firefighters responding with mutual aid departments should respond on apparatus. Each apparatus should respond with a minimum of three firefighters. (Exception: Tankers and Chief Officers in cars.)
- D. All responding apparatus will notify the WRFJD dispatch when they are enroute and are on the scene, via the WRJFD dispatcher channel (154.205). Special information regarding placement and staging areas may be given via the State Mutual Aid Frequency. (154.28)
- E. All fire ground radio communications will generally occur on the State

Fire Ground Channel. (153.83)

- F.** All firefighters must report to the staging area. If a staging area has not been announced via radio, the Incident Commander should be requested to provide the location of the staging area. Firefighters who do not respond to, or remain in, the staging area until assigned will be returned to their jurisdiction.
- G.** All firefighters should remain in groups of 2 to 4. One Company Officer, or Senior Firefighter, will remain responsible for the group.
- H.** All firefighters should provide an accountability tag to an accountability officer.
- I.** All firefighters who respond on apparatus must have SCBA, and shall be prepared for interior structural fire fighting. All firefighters must have full protective clothing. All firefighters should have appropriate tools based upon assignment (irons, pike poles, roof saw, etc.).
- J.** When an assignment has been completed, all firefighters may be returned to rehab and/or the staging area for further assignment.

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