

# **AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT**

Between

Escambia County Fire Rescue and Pace Fire Rescue District

## **Automatic Assistance Agreement**

We, the undersigned authorized representatives of the Escambia County Fire Rescue and the Pace Fire Rescue District, do hereby agree to cooperate at the scene of any fire or emergency wherein the lives and/or property are threatened. We further agree to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth below:

1. Departments, herein named, agree to provide mutual aid, both upon specific request or automatic alarm assignment, to any emergency, with available personnel and equipment. Mutual aid or automatic aid will not be provided if a department feels that rendering such aid will place its own jurisdiction or operations in jeopardy.
2. The request for assistance should be made by an officer or the incident commander of the department needing such aid. Such requests are to be made through each department's Emergency Communications Center (ECC) .
3. All departments agree that assistance in the form of manpower and/or specialized equipment will only be rendered unless specifically requested, except as follows:
  - A. Preplanned automatic alarm assignments (run orders) as established by agreement of the Chiefs of the departments involved, and on file with the ECC.
  - B. Run orders shall be established indicating the locations, incident types, and type(s) and kind(s) of resources required. Modifications to established run orders resulting in increased response area or frequency shall only be made upon agreement of the involved parties.
  - C. In the event that unit(s) from either agency should discover or happen upon an incident within the jurisdiction of the other, or should be in the immediate vicinity of an incident upon dispatch, such unit(s) shall render such aid as is appropriate, and provide such information to the ECC until relieved by the department having jurisdiction.

- D. This agreement shall not supersede any other mutual aid agreements that a participating department may have in effect now or in the future.
4. In the event that an incident occurs wherein the exact location is not known, or the department having jurisdiction cannot be immediately determined, the department which is originally dispatched shall respond to and manage the incidents, subject to the following provisions:
- A. Upon arrival, should the incident be determined to be in another jurisdiction, the first unit on the scene will immediately notify the ECC dispatcher, requesting that they notify the appropriate department. The on-scene unit(s) from the responding department will continue to handle the incident as though it were within their jurisdiction until the appropriate department arrives.
  - B. Should the incident be of a minor or insignificant nature, and no further response is required, the on-scene unit(s) from the responding department will notify the ECC dispatcher, who will notify the department having jurisdiction.
    - 1. The chief or senior officer of the department having jurisdiction will decide whether their response is warranted, and notify the ECC dispatcher of their decision.
    - 2. Notwithstanding, if on-scene unit(s) from the responding department determines that a representative of the department having jurisdiction is needed at the scene, the incident commander will notify the ECC dispatcher that responding units can slow their response but continue.
5. If an incident is assigned to a department, and, prior to arrival of any unit(s), is determined to actually be located within another department's jurisdiction, the ECC dispatcher will immediately alert the correct department. The original responding department shall not be cancelled unless it is determined that units from the department having jurisdiction will arrive on scene prior to units from the original responding department, and that such response will not be needed.
6. When mutual aid has been requested and is subsequently determined to be unnecessary, the incident commander will cancel the responding mutual aid department(s).

7. Whenever a department is unable to respond to a request for aid, that department shall immediately notify their ECC who shall advise the requesting department so that alternative arrangements can be made.
8. The department requesting mutual aid will make every attempt to accurately describe the location, the equipment needed, number of personnel requested, and the condition of the emergency. The responding department(s) will follow all instructions as completely as possible.
9. Unless directed otherwise, upon arrival at the incident scene responding apparatus will assume level I staging, the officer in charge (OIC) of the mutual aid resources will await direction from the incident commander (IC) for assignment. The OIC will deploy his personnel and equipment as directed by the IC. The first department on scene will establish incident command and direct on-scene operations until relieved by an authorized representative of the department having jurisdiction.
10. Once on scene of any incident, mutual aid units shall not secure their operations (leave the scene) until the IC has released such units from the scene. In the event that the personnel, equipment, or jurisdiction of the department providing mutual aid is in jeopardy, the on-scene OIC of such department shall immediately notify the IC of the need to secure their operations and return to district. In this event, the IC shall make arrangements to release such units as quickly and safely as possible.
11. The department providing mutual aid shall be responsible for maintaining appropriate certification and insurance for all personnel providing mutual aid. During the first twelve (12) hours of an incident, the personnel costs, and the costs of repairs and maintenance of equipment used while rendering assistance under this agreement will be borne by the department owning the equipment. After the first twelve (12) hours of operations, costs for personnel and equipment may be billed in accordance with the terms of the prevailing Florida Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. Consumable resources (foam, etc.) shall be reimbursed or replaced at the request of the providing department.
12. This agreement shall remain in full force and effect until terminated at the request of either party and upon notification of such request to the other party and the ECC.

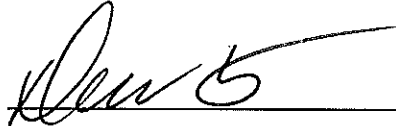
Notwithstanding any of the above, both departments hereby agree to work in harmony for the good of the fire service and for the protection of life and property throughout Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties. It is further agreed that any changes, alterations, amendments to this document will be made by agreement of the parties involved.

We hereby execute this agreement on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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Patrick T. Grace, Fire Chief

Escambia County Fire Rescue



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Donnie Wadkins, Fire Chief

Pace Fire Rescue District

This document approved as to form and legal sufficiency.

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Title: ASST COUNTY ATTORNEY

Date: APRIL 4, 2013