

# ANNEX B

## Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Operations



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## Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan SEPTEMBER 2022

Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization And County Of San Diego

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

#### Staff and Principal Planners

Office of the Operational Area Fire and  
Rescue Coordinator

San Diego County Fire Chiefs

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Annex B is devoted to Fire and Rescue Operations. Any fire department can request assistance from other fire departments throughout the county simply by requesting those assets through existing agreements or from the Operational Area (OA) Fire and Rescue Coordinator dispatch center.

The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator is responsible for coordinating and tracking Mutual Aid requests and assignments. The OA Coordination Center is able to request strike teams and other resources from the four geographic zones within the OA and through the Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC). The GACC is able to access State and National resources.

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## GENERAL

### INTRODUCTION

This annex is created and intended to be an integral part of the San Diego County Operational Area (OA) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the current State of California Fire and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan. In addition, it identifies the implementation procedures for mutual aid and other support.

In keeping with the “all-hazards” capabilities expected of fire service agencies, an effective EOP must include provisions for, but not be limited to, fire and rescue operations, earthquake, floods, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, industrial accidents, hazardous material incidents, mass casualty incidents, and incidents that cause air and water pollution.

### INTENT

No single community or agency has sufficient resources to cope with all emergencies for which the potential exists. This annex is designed to meet the anticipated needs of local agencies within pre-designated response zones, to access resources of adjacent agencies within the OA, and to access the resources of other jurisdictions within Region VI, or beyond if necessary, to meet the needs during emergencies.

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## **PURPOSE**

- To minimize loss of life, subsequent disability, and human suffering by ensuring timely and coordinated firefighting and search and rescue efforts.
- To identify the resources necessary for locating and removing endangered, trapped, injured, or isolated persons and providing adequate care.
- To provide for the systematic mobilization, organization and operation of fire and rescue resources within each sub-regional response zone of the OA and to mitigate the effects of any disaster whether natural or human-caused.
- In accordance with the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA), the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement, and the CAL FIRE Master Mutual Aid Agreement, provide a comprehensive and compatible plan for expediting the mobilization and response of available fire and rescue resources on a local, OA, regional or statewide basis.
- Track and communicate all resource status in the OA on a daily basis. To provide a plan for the interchange and dissemination of fire and rescue-related data, directives, and information between fire and rescue officials of local, OA, region, State and Federal agencies.
- To promote annual training and/or exercises between plan participants.
- Ensure fire and rescue services are available to the whole community, including those with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

## **SCOPE**

The scope of Annex B is to represent all facets of local, tribal and metropolitan fire departments, districts, their interactions with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and federal fire agencies (United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), etc.). The stakeholders are primarily responsible for fire protection and urban search and rescue programs throughout the OA. Activities are conducted in all locations and settings including metropolitan, rural, wildland/urban interface, remote areas, airports, military bases, and private enterprise. Many of the county stakeholders also conduct activities such as Emergency Medical Services (EMS), hazardous material control, and other emergency services that require close coordination between the County organizations.

## **PLANNING BASIS**

- No community has resources sufficient to cope with all potential emergencies.
- Fire and rescue managers must preplan emergency operations to ensure efficient utilization of available resources.
- Basic to California's emergency planning is a statewide system of mutual aid in which each local jurisdiction relies first upon its own resources.

### **CALIFORNIA MASTER MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT (CMMA):**

An agreement made and entered into by and between the State of California, its various departments and agencies, and the various political subdivisions, municipal corporations, and other public agencies of the State of California to facilitate implementation of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code entitled "California Emergency Services Act."

- See current CMMA Agreement online [here](#).

### **CALIFORNIA FIRE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (CFAA)**

An agreement made and entered into by and between: California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES - Representing the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the five Federal Fire Agencies (USDA Forest Service, USDI National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Services, and Bureau of Indian Affairs) for the purpose of coordinating the use of and reimbursement for local government Fire and Rescue resources used at wildfire incidents. The first 12 hours of resource utilization at an incident is at no charge to the requesting agency.



- Reimbursement for mutual aid will be provided if the incident extends beyond 12 hours, if there is a Governor's disaster proclamation, when conditions warrant invoking the Fire Assistance Agreement, or there is no other existing provision for mutual aid reimbursement.
  - Cal OES shall be required to provide direction, ongoing guidance and monitoring throughout the process until reimbursement is received by local agencies.
  - Memorandums of understanding between federal, state and local agencies will not include a commitment of local resources without the express written consent of the local jurisdiction(s).
  - See current CFAA Agreement online [here](#).

### **ASSISTANCE BY HIRE (ABH)**

Assistance by hire is another method to order resources. Under ABH the requesting agency agrees to reimburse the sending agency from the time of request. ABH agreements are normally entered into between two government agencies. All Federal Wildland Resources (Ground and Air) are considered assistance by hire.

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## **CALIFORNIA FIRE AND RESCUE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**



The State of California is not a signatory to the Master Mutual Aid Agreement. However, State Resources are assigned to Local Agencies when an incident has exceeded their capabilities and presents a danger to life or property. CAL FIRE resources are assigned at no cost until the threat has been mitigated. In San Diego County, CAL FIRE is an active participant in the provision of mutual aid.

### The Agreement:

- Creates a formal structure for provision of mutual aid.
- Provides for systematic mobilization, organization, and operation of necessary fire and rescue resources of the state and its political subdivisions in mitigating the effects of disasters, whether natural or human-caused.
- Provides comprehensive and compatible plans for the expedient mobilization and response of available fire and rescue resources on a local, area, regional, and statewide basis.
- Establishes guidelines for recruiting and training auxiliary personnel to augment regularly organized fire and rescue personnel during disaster operations.
- Provides an annually-updated fire and rescue inventory of all personnel, apparatus, and equipment in California.
- Provides a plan and communication facilities for the interchange and dissemination of fire and rescue-related data, directives, and information between fire and rescue officials of local, state, and federal agencies.
- Promotes annual training and/or exercises between plan participants.
- Provides that no party shall be required to unreasonably deplete its own resources in furnishing mutual aid.
- Provides that the responsible local official in whose jurisdiction(s) an incident occurs which require mutual aid shall remain in charge at such incident, including the direction of such personnel and equipment provided through mutual aid plans pursuant to the agreement.
- Current version of the California Fire Rescue Mutual Aid Plan can be found online here.

## **AUTOMATIC AID/BOUNDARY DROP**

- Automatic aid is provided between participating departments in the OA to combat fire, mitigate the effects of traffic collisions and other hazards, and render medical assistance to the public. Jurisdictional boundary lines are dropped when automatic aid is enacted. The closest resource is dispatched to the incident regardless of agency.

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## POLICY STATEMENTS

OA and Regional Plans are required to be consistent with the statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement and the California Fire Assistance Agreement. The following policy statements are applicable to this annex:

- The basic tenets of emergency planning are self-help and mutual aid.
- Emergency planning and preparation is a task, which must be shared by all political subdivisions and industries as well as every individual.
- San Diego County is located in Cal OES Mutual Aid Region VI along with the Counties of Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono. In addition to fire and rescue resources, this plan includes both public and private agencies with support capability and/or emergency responsibilities.
- The California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System provides a practical and flexible pattern for the orderly development and operation of mutual aid on a voluntary basis between cities, cities and counties, fire districts, special districts, county fire department, and applicable state agencies. Normal fire department operating procedures are utilized, including day-to-day mutual aid agreements and plans, which have been developed by fire and rescue officials.
- Reimbursement for mutual aid may be provided pursuant to a Governor's disaster proclamation or when conditions warrant invoking the California Fire Assistance Agreement. Provision for reimbursement may also be provided in local mutual aid agreements between local governments; in local agreements between federal agencies such as USFS and BLM with local government entities; or through other agreements that may, from time to time, be created and agreed to by responsible agencies. See Appendix 4 for details on the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAGP).
- In developing emergency plans, provisions should be made for integrating fire and rescue resources into mutual aid organizations for both fire and non-fire related disaster; i.e., earthquake, flood, radiological defense, hazardous materials incidents, war/terrorism related sheltering and or relocation of significant portions of the population. In planning for war/terrorism related emergencies, provisions for pre and post attack activities should be included (i.e., shelter improvement, radiological monitoring and decontamination.)



- In developing local mutual aid and emergency preparedness plans, provisions must be made for liability and property damage insurance coverage on apparatus and equipment used beyond the territorial limits of the political subdivision. Consideration must be given to the rights, privileges, and immunities of paid, volunteer, and auxiliary personnel in order that they may be fully protected while performing their duties under a mutual aid agreement or an emergency preparedness plan. Provision is made in state law to deal with these matters, and the procedure outlined therein should be followed to ensure maximum protection.



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- Certain specialized types of fire and rescue resources (hand crews, bulldozers, bomb squads, etc.) may be considered outside of the mutual aid agreement by the responding agency and therefore may be subject to a pre-established agreement, which may be available only on a reimbursement basis.
- This annex, as part of the OA EOP, should be distributed to and discussed with management, command, operational, and support level personnel within each jurisdiction.

## WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH

The San Diego Operational Area is committed to achieving and fostering an emergency management system that uses a Whole Community Approach and is fully inclusive of individual needs and circumstances. For further details on the Whole Community Approach to emergency management and the integration of inclusive emergency management practices, refer to the Basic Plan.

## CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Under normal conditions, fire rescue mutual aid plans are activated in ascending order starting with local, OA, region, and inter-region. In certain circumstances mobilization of significant fire and rescue forces from within the operational area or region of the disaster may be impractical and imprudent. Inter-regional mutual aid is, therefore, not contingent upon mobilization of uncommitted resources within the region of the disaster.

### LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE RESOURCES:

Local fire and rescue resources include resources available through automatic and/or day-to-day mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions. When substantial resources are committed, the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall be notified of those committed resources in order to determine resource availability for subsequent response.

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## OPERATIONAL AREA FIRE AND RESCUE RESOURCES:

Mobilization of OA resources is activated by the San Diego OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator, or their representative, in response to a request for assistance from an authorized fire and rescue official of the participating agency in need or through the use of automatic aid. The San Diego OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator must notify the Region VI Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Coordinator of area resources committed. Regional fire and rescue resources include all resources available to a participating agency through the approved and adopted Regional Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan. OA plans such as the OA Fire Concept of Operations (ConOps), Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TIC-P), the regional Hazard Mitigation (HAZMIT) plan, and the Evacuation Annex are significant elements of the regional plans.



In response to a request for assistance from an OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator, the mobilization of regional fire and rescue resources are directed by the Region VI Fire and Rescue Coordinator.

## FIRE AND RESCUE DISPATCH CENTERS

Fire and rescue dispatch centers must be adequately equipped for emergency operations. They must be located in a facility which conducts a 24-hour a day operation, and must be equipped to permit direct communications with all fire and rescue service agencies within their area of operations. They must be staffed with competent personnel and equipped with such technologies, maps, records and operational data as are necessary to perform emergency operations. Alternate fire and rescue dispatch centers should have the same capability as primary centers, thus ensuring continued operations in the event of failure of the primary centers.

## EVACUATIONS

The decision whether to evacuate or shelter-in-place must be carefully considered with the timing and nature of the incident. Evacuation decisions are likely to be made under dynamic and uncertain conditions. Information may be incomplete, ambiguous, or changing. A lesson from the 2017-2018 California Wildfires is that the decision to evacuate should be made early.

This decision is generally made by first responders in the field at the Incident Command Post, with input from both fire and law enforcement personnel. The decision to evacuate an area may be influenced by the Policy Group members, EOC Director, Director of Emergency Services, or their designees. When time permits, this decision should be coordinated.



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An evacuation effort involves an organized and supervised effort to relocate people from an area of danger to a safe location. An evacuation is an effective means of moving people out of a dangerous area. Due to its complexity and the stress it causes to systems and people, it should be considered as an early proactive approach in protecting lives; especially for considerations for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs as well as those who may need to evacuate large animals.

Response decisions, including the decision to evacuate, will be based on maximizing the preservation of life first, then protecting the environment, property, and the economy. Several factors will be considered: the capacity to safely move or shelter all population groups, roadway conditions, health and safety issues, and the duration of sheltering will be instrumental in making the decision to evacuate or to shelter-in-place.

The evacuation decision should be made with the awareness of impacted schools, congregate care facilities, and others with Access and Functional Needs. These populations may need more time to evacuate. If shelter-in-place is selected in lieu of an evacuation, the deciding agency assumes protection responsibility of the shelter-in-place location/area and should provide protection resources.

The State of California, San Diego County and the jurisdictions within, through the Unified Disaster Council (the governing body of the Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization), have agreed to use the language below, as described in FIRESCOPE, to communicate evacuations:

**Evacuation Warning:** The alerting of people in an affected area(s) of potential threat to life and property. An Evacuation Warning considers the probability that an area will be affected within a given time frame and prepares people for a potential evacuation order. Evacuation Warnings are particularly necessary when dealing with a variety of issues such as special needs populations and large animals.

**Evacuation Order:** Requires the immediate movement of people out of an affected area due to an imminent threat to life.

**Shelter-In-Place:** Advises people to stay secure at their current location. This tactic shall only be used if an evacuation will cause a higher potential for loss of life. Consideration should be given to assigning incident personnel to monitor the safety of the public remaining in place. The concept of shelter-in-place is an available option in those instances where physical evacuation is impractical. This procedure may be effective for residential dwellings in the immediately impacted areas, or for large facilities that house a high percentage of non-ambulatory persons (i.e., hospitals and convalescent homes). Sheltering-in-place attempts to provide a safe haven within the impacted area.

The San Diego Sheriff's Department (SDSD) is the lead agency for evacuations of the unincorporated areas of San Diego County. In the incorporated cities, local law enforcement (or the Sheriff in contracted cities) will be the lead agency for evacuations. Local law enforcement (or the Sheriff in contracted cities and the unincorporated areas) will advise neighboring jurisdictions that may be affected of evacuation plans. The SDSD, as part of Unified Command, assesses and evaluates the need for evacuations with cooperating agencies, and orders evacuations according to established procedures, which are outlined in Annex Q.

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## ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The organization and assignment of responsibilities section establishes the organizations and agencies that will be relied upon to respond to a disaster or emergency. This section also includes tasks that these organizations and agencies are expected to perform.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR**

The Fire and Rescue Agency Administrator is the Fire Chief, or senior fire and rescue official by other designated title, of each local entity providing public fire protection. The administrator will serve as fire and rescue representative to their respective zone fire and rescue coordinator.

The Fire Chief in whose jurisdiction the incident occurs shall request their dispatch center to contact the Zone Coordinator to respond with mutual aid assistance. Resources should be designated by kind and type and include any necessary specific capabilities. When there is a need for specialized equipment, the procedural request should still be made through the Zone Coordinator. The responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Agency Administrator are as follows:

- Reasonably exhaust local resources before calling for outside assistance.
- Keep a current inventory of all fire department qualified personnel, apparatus and equipment that is available to the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator.
- Conduct mutual aid activities in accordance with established operational procedures.
- Maintain appropriate records, data, and other pertinent information of mutual aid resources committed.
- Provide mutual aid resources when requested by the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator to the extent of their availability without unreasonably depleting local resources.
- Manage all staffing and apparatus received as part of a mutual aid request. Requests for mutual aid will be directed to the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator via the Zone Coordinator.
- If receiving mutual aid, maintain responsibility for all logistical support of mutual aid personnel and equipment consistent with the State Master Mutual Aid Plan and any other local agreements.
- Coordinate and conduct necessary training to adequately perform functions and responsibilities during emergencies.
- Provide resources consistent with standards identified in the FIRESCOPE Field Operations Guide (ICS 420-1) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Direct all action toward stabilizing and mitigating the emergency including saving lives, controlling fires, safeguarding property, and assisting other emergency services in restoring normal conditions.

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- Develop an effective emergency plan for use of the resources under its control and ensure that such a plan is integrated into the emergency plan of the OA. This plan should include provisions for, but not be limited to, fire and rescue operations, earthquake, floods, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, industrial accidents, hazardous material incidents, mass casualty incidents, air and water pollution.
  - Make maximum use of existing facilities and services within each community prior to requesting assistance from neighboring jurisdictions.
  - During emergency operations, keep the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator informed on all matters via the Zone Coordinator.
  - Maintain an up-to-date schedule for alerting fire and rescue personnel in emergencies and a checklist of timely actions to be taken to put emergency operations plans into effect.
  - Establish and maintain emergency communication capabilities with the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator via the Zone Coordinator.
  - Anticipate emergency needs for items such as emergency fire equipment, commonly used spare parts and expendable supplies and accessories, and ensures functional availability of these items in locations convenient for ready use.
  - Provide approximate time commitment and justification of mutual aid needs in request for resources to the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator via the Zone Coordinator. Periodically evaluates the need for mutual aid committed and notifies the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator via the Zone Coordinator.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ZONE COORDINATOR/CRITERIA TO FORM ZONES**

The San Diego County Op Area is divided into 4 mutual aid zones: Metro, East, North, and Central. The purpose for dividing the region is to increase daily efficiency of operations. Each zone has its own zone coordinator whose responsibilities are listed.

The Zone Coordinator and Alternate Zone Coordinators are elected by the fire chiefs within a designated zone following the guidelines in the Cal OES Fire Rescue Division Election Process. Zones were established by the Fire Advisory Committee.

Local agencies requesting assistance from outside their jurisdiction, beyond existing Automatic Aid Agreements, will request their dispatch centers to contact their Zone Coordinator. The Zone Coordinator will then contact the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator. The Zone Coordinator should keep the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator apprised of any significant changes in resource status.



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When notified by a local jurisdiction that their resources are inadequate to cope with the emergency at hand, the Zone Coordinator will:

- Notify the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator and dispatch center when an incident is going to exceed a zone's capabilities.
- Request needed resources.
- Prepare to receive and utilize mutual aid requested/provided.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OPERATIONAL AREA FIRE AND RESCUE COORDINATOR**

The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator is elected by the San Diego County Fire Chiefs. If alternates are needed, they are filled by the Zone Coordinators. The process for the election of the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator can be found in [The California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System – Election Process \(Regional and OA Fire and Rescue Coordinators\)](#).

Zone coordinators report directly to the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator.

The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator:

- Organizes and acts as chairperson of an OA Fire and Rescue Coordinating Committee composed of the Zone Coordinators. Zone Coordinators may fill in as alternate OA Coordinators as needed. The committee may include others as deemed necessary by the chairperson. This committee shall meet at least once each year and may hold additional meetings as deemed necessary by the chairperson.
- The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator, in cooperation with the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinating Committee, will:
  - Organize staff and equip area fire and rescue dispatch centers in accordance with the principles enumerated in the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan.
  - Aid and encourage the development of uniform fire and rescue operational plans within the area.
  - Aid and encourage the development of countywide fire and rescue communication networks operating on the approved fire frequencies for the county.
  - Develop a dispatching procedure for all fire apparatus, communication vehicles, rescue trucks, and other specialized resources assigned within the area.
  - Responsible to aid and assist local, region and state officials in planning, requesting, and utilizing mobilization centers as needed for staging strike teams and personnel where appropriate.
  - Will be responsible for coordination of all local fire and rescue resources within the San Diego OA on major mutual aid operations.
  - If the emergency is within the jurisdiction of the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator and the emergency overloads the communication facilities, the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator may assign dispatching of mutual aid equipment to an alternate fire and rescue dispatch center.

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- The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator shall keep the Regional Fire and Rescue Coordinator informed of all operations.



- The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator determines approximate time commitment and justification of resources issued to local agency, and length of time it will utilize these resources. Periodically evaluates the justification and commitment to the local agency of these resources and notifies the region.
- The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator will advise the requesting jurisdiction of the origin of resources responding to the request for assistance.
- The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator Shall notify and advise the Regional Fire and Rescue Coordinator, in a timely manner, of the need to establish mobilization centers and/or staging areas.
- The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator is not responsible for any direct fire or other emergency operations except those which occur with the jurisdiction of its own department or agency. The local official in whose jurisdiction the emergency exists shall remain in full charge of all fire and rescue resources, staffing, and equipment furnished for mutual aid operations.
- The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator keeps the Zone Coordinators informed of resource status within the OA.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE COORDINATOR**

The San Diego Operational Area is located within California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System Region VI. OA Fire and Rescue Coordinators located throughout each of the six Mutual Aid Regions, elect a fire chief from within their respective region to serve as Regional Fire and Rescue Coordinator. Operational Area and Regional Fire and Rescue Coordinators have very similar responsibilities. Essentially the size or scope of the area served is the primary difference between the two organizational levels. Regional Fire and Rescue Coordinators are responsible for maintaining regional fire and rescue resource inventories, regional mutual aid plan, and for the coordination of intra-regional mutual aid. They are also responsible for the annual submission of fire and rescue resource inventories to the State Fire and Rescue Coordinator.

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## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE FIRE AND RESCUE COORDINATOR (CHIEF, FIRE AND RESCUE DIVISION)**

The Chief, Fire and Rescue Division, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, is the State Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Coordinator. Their responsibilities include:

- Prepare, maintain, and distribute the basic California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan.
- Develop and maintain a "Fire and Rescue Emergency Operations Plan" and "Standard Operating Procedure" for the use and dispatch of Cal OES Fire and Rescue personnel, apparatus, and other fire and rescue resources.

### **INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION**

Each of the zones will provide their available resource status each morning to the OA Dispatch Center via the Google Form on the Op Area website (<https://sdoparea.org>). The OA Communications Center maintains resource status once collected from each of the zones developing a report indicating resource availability and commitments, the completed report is available on the [Op Area website](#).

When significant resources are being committed or perceived as likely to be committed, the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator will communicate via email, text or by conference call to the Zone Coordinators.

### **OPERATIONAL AREA NOTIFICATIONS TO THE ZONES:**

It is understood that all agencies within the San Diego OA need accurate and timely information to ensure well informed decisions are made. To support this, the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator or their alternate will strive to keep the zones updated on resource commitments occurring due to in or out of county incidents. Further, it is recognized that most agencies need this information before or by 0700 to ensure they have time to react before shift changes occur at 0800.

When strike teams are committed out of county, the Op Area Communications Center will create a report on the [Op Area website](#) detailing all committed resources, including the incident name, number, possible crew rotations, etc. Overhead will include the total number committed; each Zone dispatch center is responsible for tracking individual overhead personnel assigned.

Conference calls will also be conducted on an as-needed basis. The OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator will try to provide at least two hours advance notice of a pending conference call whenever possible.



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There are two categories of notifications that will be addressed:

## 1. Notifications and Updates:

### Notifications:

- Significant impact to the OA: Assignments of Strike Teams (engines - local government (LG), OES, Cal Fire and Cal Fire Crews). This may include Initial Attack (IA) assignments but is focused upon extended commitments.
- Real time communications to the Zone Coordinators: These notifications will be made as soon as the information can be shared. Discretion will be exercised for late night notifications.

### Updates:

- Advise Zone Coordinators of significant resource commitments. This should be done by 0700 on a daily basis until all resources have returned.

## 2. Conference calls.

Conference calls are intended to allow each of the zones to communicate directly with the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator when significant resource activity is expected or occurring.

### WEBEOC:

In order to establish a common operating picture throughout the region, information is shared from the County's EOC and other agencies involved in a disaster via WebEOC, a web-based emergency management software, so that all incident response personnel maintain situational awareness and information is used by intended recipients to take appropriate response actions.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Communications at emergency incidents are managed using a common communications plan and an incident-based communication center established solely for the use of command, tactical, and support resources assigned to the incident. This includes incident-established radio networks, on-site telephone, public address, and off-site incident telephone/microwave/radio systems. See Appendix 2 for a listing of dispatch centers.



### SYSTEM CAPABILITY

The current radio systems in place throughout the OA are designed to provide fire agencies with a Local Communications Net, Command and Tactical Frequencies and a County-wide Mutual Aid Command Net.

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Incident Communication Unit personnel are responsible for developing plans to make the most effective use of incident-assigned communications equipment and facilities; the installation and testing of all communications equipment; supervision and operation of the Incident Communications Center; distribution and recovery of equipment assigned to incident personnel; and the maintenance and on-site repair of communications equipment.

The Incident Communications Unit has a major responsibility for effective communications planning, due to the potential multi-agency use of ICS. This is especially important in determining required radio nets, establishing interagency frequency assignments and ensuring that maximum use is made of all assigned communications capability.

The OA Communication Center associated with the Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator is the Primary Command and Control Center for the fire mutual aid radio system within the OA.

## **ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEMS**

Multiple systems are regionally available to authorized public safety officials to disseminate alert and warning notifications to the public. Emergency information, advice, and action instructions are given to the public by various types of media. Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), AlertSanDiego/Accessible AlertSanDiego, and door-to-door communications are the primary mechanisms. The County also utilizes social media to distribute emergency information to the public. Other available platforms used to distribute public alert and warning include 211, Partner Relay Network of non-profit organizations, houses of worship and community leaders, and distribution of bulletins in standard and accessible formats. OES maintains pre-scripted, hazard-specific warning messages for high impact events that require time sensitive warnings. Additional information on these various modalities is available in Annex L – Emergency Public Information.

## **ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, AND LOGISTICS**

Under the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), special districts are considered local governments. As such, they are included in the emergency planning efforts throughout the OA. The OA Emergency Organization, in accordance with SEMS, supports and is supported by:

- Cities within the OA
- The County of San Diego
- Special Districts
- Other Counties
- The State of California
- The Federal Government

NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private-sector and non-governmental organizations to work together effectively. NIMS also enables these entities to efficiently prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity, including acts of catastrophic terrorism.



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Mutual aid, including personnel, supplies, and equipment, is provided in accordance with the California Fire Master Mutual Aid System, and other Agreements.

San Diego County OES works with the private sector through the ReadySanDiego Business Alliance, as well as Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to provide valuable resources before, during, and after a disaster.

There are some City and County personnel who do not have specific task assignments. They are automatically designated by State Law as Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) during a disaster, and serve in the response effort.

- "All public employees and all registered volunteers of a jurisdiction having an accredited disaster council are Disaster Service Workers," per the Government Code, Title I, Division 4, Chapter 8, and Labor Code, Part I, Division 4, Chapters 1 and 10.
- The term 'public employee' includes all persons employed by the State, or any County, City or public district.
- Other personnel including volunteers can be registered by OES as Disaster Service Workers, which provides Workers Compensation and liability coverage.

OES maintains a list of pre-registered volunteers affiliated with volunteer organizations that are registered as DSWs.

It is imperative that local government maintain duplicate records of all information necessary for restoration of normal operations. This process of record retention involves offsite storage of vital computerized and paper-based data that can be readily accessible.

## **ANNEX DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

This annex is a product of the OA EOP. As such, the policies, procedures, and practices outlined in the OA EOP govern this annex. OES is subject to coordinate the maintenance and update of this annex every four years in accordance with the maintenance schedule established for the OA EOP. Record of changes, approval, and dissemination of the OA EOP will also apply to this annex.

A committee made up of the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator and the Zone Coordinators or their delegates will be developed to revise and update this document. The Zones will work closely with those they represent to ensure that all considerations are made. Items that are likely to change or need updating before the next planned revision of the annex are contained in the appendices to this agreement. If items in the appendices need to be updated, the zones will work with the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator to update the appendices and share among all affected parties.

### **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERT)**

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in San Diego County are trained to be able to support fire personnel in the time of a disaster within their communities. Each program is community based and sponsored by a local public safety agency within their jurisdiction. Each CERT program will respond within the scope of their training at the direction of their sponsoring agency. CERT members are identified by green vests and are registered members of the Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Program. Visit the [County CERT webpage](#) for a listing of active programs.

### **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE RESOURCES**

The San Diego County OA Hazardous Materials Area Plan (Area Plan) describes the system currently in place in San Diego County for managing hazardous materials emergencies. The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health (DEH), Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) is the administering agency for the Area Plan.

The activities carried out by the HMD, the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team (HIRT), the Military Hazardous Materials Team (Camp Pendleton), and OES are intended to effectively manage hazardous materials.

The area plan is designed to integrate the operational activities of San Diego County's Unified Emergency Services Organization, Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) into the on-scene operational procedures for the local, State, or Federal agency who have primary responsibility for a hazardous chemical emergency in the jurisdiction.

### **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAMS**

Incident Management Teams may be requested by any agency experiencing an incident exceeding initial response, the management capability of the agency, or need for support personnel to assist in the management of an extended or complex incident.

Incident Management Teams are requested through the OA Communications Center.

### **REGIONAL AND FEMA URBAN SEARCH& RESCUE (US&R) TASK FORCE**

US&R involves the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped. US&R is considered a "multi-hazard" discipline, as it may be needed for a variety of emergencies or disasters including earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, storms and tornadoes, floods, dam failures, technological accidents, terrorist activities, and hazardous materials releases. Additional resources can be ordered through the Mutual Aid Process. Go to the FEMA website for specific information on US&R resources. The local multi-agency US&R Team in the San Diego OA is USAR Team 8.

### **WATER RESCUE TEAMS**

Water Rescue Teams involve the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in swift moving and floodwater conditions. The teams are staffed, trained, and equipped following NIMS and FIRESCOPE standards.

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The teams in San Diego County can be mobilized for operations anywhere in the county. Each Zone Coordinator will maintain a current list of Water/Flood Rescue resources and will make the list available to the OA Fire and Rescue Coordinator.

### **SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIREFIGHTING AIR RESOURCES**

Within San Diego County aerial firefighting resources are provided by CAL FIRE fixed wing and tactical aircraft, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department helicopters in cooperation with CAL FIRE/County Fire, City of San Diego helicopters, United States Forest Service helicopters, and the SDG&E helicopters. Through existing agreements with other agencies, additional resources than the ones listed are available.

### **SAN DIEGO COUNTY RESCUE HELICOPTER RESOURCES**

Within San Diego County, aerial rescue helicopters are provided by the San Diego Sheriff in cooperation with CAL FIRE, San Diego City, and the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

### **TECHNICAL RESCUE RESOURCES**

The technical rescue resource list consists of Mass Casualty Units, Confined Space Units, Trench Rescue Units, Heavy Rescue Units, and Rope Rescue Units. These units are staffed by firefighters and stationed throughout the county. Resources should be requested through the local dispatch center.

**APPENDIX 2: FIRE MUTUAL AID ZONES AND DISPATCH FOR COUNTY WIDE  
FIRE RADIO NETWORK SYSTEM**

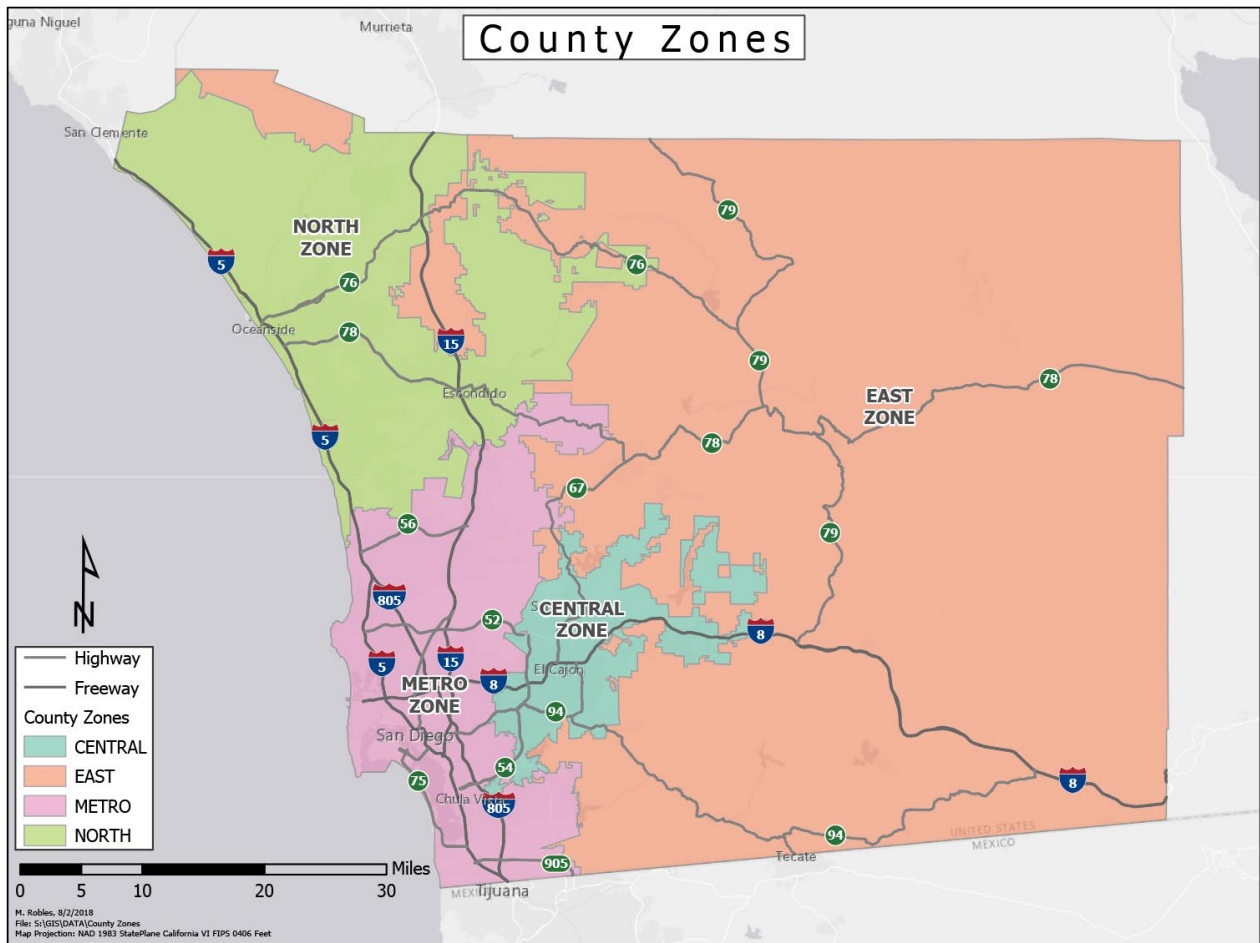
<b>NORTH ZONE</b>	<b>DISPATCHED BY</b>
Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District	North County JPA
Camp Pendleton Fire Department	Self
City of Carlsbad Fire Department	North County JPA
City of Del Mar Fire Department	North County JPA
City of Encinitas Fire Department	North County JPA
City of Escondido/Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District	Self
City of Oceanside Fire Department	North County JPA
City of San Marcos Fire Dept. /San Marcos Fire Protection District	North County JPA
City of Solana Beach Fire Department	North County JPA
City of Vista Fire Department/Vista Fire Protection District	North County JPA
North County Fire Protection District	North County JPA
San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department	North County JPA
Rincon Reservation Fire Department	North County JPA
Pala Indian Reservation Fire Department	North County JPA
Valley Center Fire Protection District	North County JPA
<b>METROPOLITAN ZONE</b>	<b>DISPATCHED BY</b>
City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department	Self
City of Poway Fire Department	SD Fire-Rescue
Miramar Fire Department	Self
Federal Fire Department	Self
City of Coronado Fire Department	SD Fire-Rescue
City of Imperial Beach Fire Department	SD Fire-Rescue
City of National City Fire Department	SD Fire-Rescue
City of Chula Vista Fire Department	SD Fire-Rescue

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<b>CENTRAL ZONE</b>	<b>DISPATCHED BY</b>
Alpine Fire Protection District	Heartland Fire JPA
Barona Fire Department	Heartland Fire JPA
Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District	Heartland Fire JPA
City of El Cajon Fire Department	Heartland Fire JPA
Lakeside Fire Protection District	Heartland Fire JPA
City of La Mesa Fire Department	Heartland Fire JPA
City of Lemon Grove Fire Department	Heartland Fire JPA
City of Santee Fire Department	Heartland Fire JPA
Viejas Reservation	Heartland Fire JPA
Sycuan Reservation Fire Department	Heartland Fire JPA
San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District	Heartland Fire JPA

<b>EAST ZONE</b>	<b>DISPATCHED BY</b>
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)	San Diego County Fire / CAL FIRE
United States Forest Service (USFS)	San Diego County Fire / CAL FIRE
Borrego Springs Fire Protection District	San Diego County Fire / CAL FIRE
Campo Indian Reservation Fire Department	San Diego County Fire / CAL FIRE
Deer Springs Fire Protection District	San Diego County Fire / CAL FIRE
Ramona Municipal Water District	San Diego County Fire / CAL FIRE
San Diego County Fire District	San Diego County Fire / CAL FIRE
Santa Ysabel Reservation Fire	San Diego County Fire / CAL FIRE

NOTE: Federal installations may be included in any of the above zones.  
All dispatch centers have capability for 800 MHz or VHF



For the sake of brevity and due to the large size of the guide, the FIRESCOPE Field Operations Guide will be referenced with images and a link:

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=PzEOBwAAQBAJ&pg=GBS.PP1.w.0.0.1&hl=en>



**FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE  
ICS 420-1**

**INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM PUBLICATION  
2017 EDITION**

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#### **APPENDIX 4 – FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (FMAGP)**

Fire Management Assistance is available to States, local and tribal governments, for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The Fire Management Assistance declaration process is initiated when a State submits a request for assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Director at the time a "threat of major disaster" exists. The entire process is accomplished on an expedited basis and a FEMA decision is rendered in a matter of hours.

The Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAGP) provides a 75 percent Federal cost share and the State pays the remaining 25 percent for actual costs. Before a grant can be awarded, a State must demonstrate that total eligible costs for the declared fire meet or exceed either the individual fire cost threshold - which is applies to single fires, or the cumulative fire cost threshold, which recognizes numerous smaller fires burning throughout a State.

Eligible firefighting costs may include expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities.