

# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



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INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

July 3, 2014

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 14-081

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: James G. Featherstone, Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS/ DISASTER DECLARATIONS/ POTENTIAL  
FISCAL IMPACTS

FINAL ACTIONS:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdraw
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

## SUMMARY

This report is provided in response to a Board of Fire Commissioners request for information regarding Mutual Aid Agreements, disaster declarations, and potential fiscal impacts for this year due to wild land fires.

California communities have historically relied upon mutual aid resources in combating fire and other emergency situations exceeding the capability of a single jurisdiction. Since 1950, the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement and the Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan have provided the basis for development of the statewide Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System.

The Mutual Aid Plan is based on the concept of "self-help" and "mutual aid." The State of California, all 58 counties, and nearly all city governments are signatory to a Master Mutual Aid Agreement. Functionally, the State is divided into six mutual aid regions to facilitate the coordination of mutual aid and other emergency operations.

It is in the best interest of local government agencies to cooperate to achieve objectives of common interest. The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) has long recognized the concept of a functionally integrated fire protection system, involving Federal, State, and local government resources, as the most effective method of delivering fire protection where life, property, and natural resources values are at risk.

The LAFD participates in an array of agreements at various levels of governments and between agencies that allow for and provide assistance during times of emergencies. These agreements may provide assistance in the form of Mutual Aid, where assistance is rendered free of charge, non-reimbursable, and generally of a short term assignment. Metropolitan Fire Communications has the authority to dispatch a first alarm assignment

outside the City upon the request of an adjacent jurisdiction under Mutual Aid, or Mutual Aid may be in the form of an Automatic Aid Agreement. Automatic Aid is an automatic exchange of agreed upon resources in the event of an emergency.

An additional form of providing or receiving aid is referred to as Assistance by Hire (ABH) where the assistance will be paid for (reimbursed) by the user.

During times of emergency, there are several levels of disaster declarations and each level presents different possibilities of response, fiscal responsibilities and reimbursements, if any.

A local disaster can be declared by the local governing body. A local declaration will suspend the rules with respect to bidding of short-term contracts for services required to assist in mitigating the emergency. If this is the highest level of declaration, there is no reimbursement from the next level of government.

Prior to the Governor of the State declaring a disaster, the local government must show evidence that local resources are expended and that the capabilities of the resources will not provide timely relief. Declarations from the Governor may provide qualifying State funds to local governments and assisting agencies for overtime and other expenses attributable to the responses. At this level of declaration, the State may reimburse 75% of the eligible costs; the remaining 25% would be the responsibility of local government.

Prior to a Presidential Declaration of Disaster being issued the same basic criteria must be met by the State. A Presidential Declaration may provide qualifying Federal funds to State and local government. The funds may provide a wide variety of relief, the Federal Government may reimburse 75% of costs associated with expenses attributable to responses. Of the remaining 25%, the State would reimburse 18.75%, and the local government would be responsible for the remaining 6.25%.

The LAFD has entered into both Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreements with neighboring fire departments as shown on the attachment.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board:  
Receive and file.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Department has developed three separate thresholds for deployment of additional (augmented staffing) resources for days that present an increased risk of a large fire developing based upon the National Fire Danger Rating System criteria. During fiscal year 2013/14 these thresholds were met and subsequently the Department augmented staffing on 48 days at a total cost of \$4,407,863.85.

## **CONCLUSION**

California is in the third year of a drought described as the worst in recorded history. The grasses on our hillsides are completely cured, and the live fuel moisture of our native vegetation has been measured at levels normally seen in September. The Department anticipates a very active wild land fire season, and anticipates augmented staffing and associated costs at least at the levels seen this past year.

Board Report prepared by Chief Deputy M .D. Rueda, Emergency Operations.

Attachment

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST	
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST	PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
Brush incidents adjacent to Angeles National Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 (Type 3) Engines</li> <li>- 2 Water Tenders</li> <li>- 1 (Type 1) Dozer (if available and staffed)</li> <li>- 2 (2,000 gallon each) Air Tankers (upon request)</li> <li>- 1 Air Attack Supervisor – 1 Patrol/Investigator</li> <li>- 2 Long Hand Crews (20-person crews w/3 Supervisors)</li> <li>- 2 Helicopters (Type 1 or 2)</li> <li>- 2 Chief Officers</li> </ul>	Brush incidents in Angeles National Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 Engines</li> <li>- 1 Task Force</li> <li>- 2 Battalion Chiefs</li> <li>- 2 Helicopters (Type 2)</li> <li>- 1 (Type 1) Dozer (if available and staffed)</li> </ul> Structure fires along Big Tujunga & Little Tujunga Cyn Roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Task Force</li> <li>- 1 Engine Company</li> <li>- 1 Battalion Chief</li> </ul>
*For up to 12 hours, then reverts to “assistance by hire” from initial dispatch	*For up to 12 hours, then reverts to “assistance by hire” from initial dispatch

BEVERLY HILLS	
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY BEVERLY HILLS	PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO BEVERLY HILLS
Fire and EMS Incidents in Lower Franklin Canyon = Engine	Incidents Exceeding capabilities of BHFD = 5 companies – Not more than 2 trucks and 1 B/C Smoke Showing (“Brush”) = 4 Engines, 1 TF, Helicopters, and 1 B/C

BURBANK	
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY BURBANK	PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO BURBANK
<p><b><u>Equestrian Center</u></b></p> <p>EMS = 1 Engine and 1 P/M Squad Capable of Transport</p> <p>Fire = Up to 1 TF, 1 Squad, and 1 B/C</p> <p><b><u>Swift Water</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 B/C</li> <li>- 1 Engine Company</li> <li>- 1 Truck Company</li> </ul> <p>The following will be the initial dispatch to the following designated points along the Burbank Western Channel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Los Angeles River at the confluence of the Burbank Western Channel Flood Control Channel</li> <li>- Burbank Western Flood Control Channel at Cohasset</li> </ul>	<p>Working High-Rise Fire = 5 Companies: Not &gt; 2 trucks, 1 B/C, 1 helicopter</p> <p>Working Brush Fire = 5 Companies: Not &gt; 2 trucks, 1 B/C, 1 helicopter</p> <p>Unusual Medical Transports = 1 helicopter (helicopter support upon request of LA B/C or Pilot)</p> <p><b><u>Swift Water</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 B/C</li> <li>- 1 Engine Company</li> <li>- 1 Swift Water Rescue Team (if deployed and available)</li> <li>- 1 Truck Company</li> </ul> <p>The following will be the initial dispatch along the Los Angeles River:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Downstream between the Sepulveda Basin and the Victory Blvd/Riverside Bridge</li> <li>- Burbank/Western Flood Control Channel</li> <li>- Tujunga Wash below Hansen Dam and La Tuna</li> <li>- Flood Control Channel to Burbank Western Flood Control Channel</li> </ul>

CULVER CITY			
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY CULVER CITY		PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO CULVER CITY	
<b><u>E.M.S</u></b>		<b><u>E.M.S</u></b>	
Area 1	405 Freeway, Ballona Creek, San Nicholas Avenue, Culver City/LA City Boundary = EMS Resource	1. North Portal NORS Project	= EMS Resource
Area 2	405 Freeway, Marina Freeway, Culver City/LA City Boundary East and South = EMS Resource	2. Backup EMS to entire City when totally committed or private resource delayed 20 minutes	= EMS Resource
<b><u>FIRE</u></b>		<b><u>FIRE</u></b>	
NORS Tunnel in Culver City	= 1 B/C, 2 Task Forces, 1 Engine, 1 Haz Mat Squad, 1 R/A, 1 P/M Engine, 1 Heavy Utility, and any specialized resources upon request of LAFD B/C	1. North Portal NORS Project 10100 West Jefferson	= 2 Engines, 1 Truck, 1 R/A, 1 B/C
Area 1	= 2 Engines, 1 R/A, 1 Ladder Truck, 1 B/C	2. Full haz mat response if beyond their ability	
Area 2	= 2 Engines, 1 R/A, 1 Ladder Truck, 1 B/C	3. Helicopter support at brush and high-rise fires	
<b><u>SWIFT WATER</u></b>		<b><u>SWIFT WATER</u></b>	
1 B/C	1 Truck Company	1 A/C	1 B/C
2 Engine Companies	1 R/A	2 Task Forces	3 Engine Companies
		1 R/A	2 Helicopters
Will be the initial dispatch to the following designated points along Ballona Creek:		2 Swift Water Rescue Teams (if deployed and available)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ballona Creek from Fairfax Ave. to Washington Blvd. on the north side (river right), or</li> <li>- Ballona Creek from Sepulveda Blvd. to Centinela Ave. on the south side (river left).</li> </ul>		Will be the initial dispatch along Ballona Creek from Washington Blvd. to Sepulveda Blvd.	

EL SEGUNDO			
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY EL SEGUNDO		PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO EL SEGUNDO	
Area 1	Imperial Blvd. on the north 116 <sup>th</sup> St. on the south Aviation Blvd. on the west Inglewood Blvd. on the east	- Up to 1 Task Force	Incidents Exceeding El Segundo Capabilities = 5 Companies – Not more than 2 trucks and 1 B/C
Area 2	All portions of the City of Los Angeles south of Imperial Blvd. bordering the ocean	- Up to 1 Task Force and/or 1 P/M Squad capable of transport	

GLENDALE			
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY GLENDALE		PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO GLENDALE	
1.	Minimum of 2 Engines, 1 Truck, and 1 B/C to structure fires on San Fernando Road west between Doran Street and Chevy Chase Drive (automatic aid).	Incidents exceeding GFD capabilities:	
2.	Minimum of 5 Engines and 1 B/C for brush fires when requested by LAFD.	1. 5 Companies – Not more than 2 Trucks and 1 B/C	
3.	1 Engine Company on other fire-related incidents that do not call for a structure response. GFD response shall be limited to freeways as outlined in the Agreement.	2. Helicopter support when requested by a GFD Chief Officer	
<b><u>Swift Water</u></b>		<b><u>Swift Water</u></b>	
The following will be the initial dispatch along the north bank (river left) of the Los Angeles River from Victory Boulevard./Riverside Drive intersection, downstream to Los Feliz Drive:		The following will be the initial dispatch along the entire length of the Verdugo Channel within the City of Glendale:	
1 B/C		1 B/C	
1 Swift Water Rescue Team (if deployed and available)		1 Engine Company	
1 Truck Company		1 Swift Water Rescue Team (if deployed and available)	
		1 Truck Company	

LOS ANGELES COUNTY			
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY		PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY	
Harbor Area (Batt 6)	= 1 Haz Mat TF & Squad	Baldwin Hills	= 1 Task Force
Harbor Gateway	= 1 Engine, 1 P/M Squad, 1 Haz Mat, TF and Squad	Chatsworth Area	= 1 Engine, 1 RA
Harbor Gateway-Central	= 1 Truck (2 add'l Eng. on Greater Alarms)	Franklin Canyon	= 1 Engine
Hyde Park	= 1 Engine	Franklin Canyon (EMS)	= 1 BLS Unit or Resource Per Existing Dispatch Policy
Intermodal Terminal	= 1 Engine, 1 P/M Squad	Kagel Canyon	= 1 Engine
Ladera Heights	= 1 Engine	Lennox	= 1 LF
Lake View Terrace	= 1 Engine	Marina del Rey	= 1 Engine - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm add 1 LF - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Alarm add 1 more LF
Laurel Canyon/Fairfax Area	= 1 Engine	Pedro Hospital Area	= 1 Engine
Manchester/Western Area	= 1 Engine	Sawtelle	= 1 R/A*
Marina del Rey Area	= 1 Engine	Sylmar/Newhall/Hwys 5 & 14	= 1 Engine, 1 RA
Sunland/Tujunga Area	= 1 Engine	Universal City	= 1 Engine, 1 P/M RA
Sylmar/Newhall/Hwys 5 & 14	= 1 Engine, 1 P/M Squad, 1 BLS Unit to EMS	West Hollywood	= 1 Engine - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm add 1 LF - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Alarm add 1 more LF
Topanga Wedge	= 1 Engine	Topanga Beach/Sunset Mesa	= 1 Engine (Structure, Brush, EMS)
Universal Complex	= 1 Engine	Calabasas Area	= 1 Engine (Structure, Brush)
West Hills/Chatsworth Area	= 1 Engine		
Westchester/LAX	= 2 Engines (Greater Alarms Only)		
Watts/Willowbrook	= 1 Engine		
Woodland Hills	= 1 Engine		
Wilmington Edge	= 1 Engine, 1 P/M Squad		
Cal State LA	= 1 Engine (Structure EMS)		
Baldwin Hills	= 1 Engine (E58 or E38)		
Initial Action Zones	= Full Brush/Struct. Assignment	Initial Action Zones	= Full Brush Structure Assignment
Incidents Exceeding LA City Capabilities	= Resources Per Request of MOU	Unincorporated Areas	= Resources Upon Request of MOU
1 BLS Unit or Resource Consistent with Existing Dispatch Policy to EMS Incident in the following areas:	- Harbor Gateway - Sylmar/Newhall/Hwys 5 & 14 - Topanga Wedge	Fire Protection Districts	= Resources Upon Request of MOU
		Incidents Exceeding County Capabilities	= Resources Upon Request of MOU
		*We handle all incidents in Sawtelle, i.e., RA, P/M RA, or resources consistent with Existing Dispatch Policy	



SAN FERNANDO	
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY SAN FERNANDO	PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO SAN FERNANDO
Cash compensation	Full Fire and EMS Service

SANTA MONICA	
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY SANTA MONICA	PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO SANTA MONICA
Santa Monica Canyon = 1 Engine or 1 P/M Engine	To Fill 1 Fire Station Vacated by SMFD Dispatched into L.A. = 1 Engine
Venice = 1 Engine	Incidents exceeding SMFD capabilities = 5 Companies – Not more than 2 Trucks and 1 B/C
Bristol Avenue (Brentwood) = 1 Engine	
101 Ocean Avenue = 1 TF and 1 B/C	
Area South of Sunset from Adelaide to Sunset at PCH = 1 P/M Engine	

SOUTH PASADENA	
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY SOUTH PASADENA	PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO SOUTH PASADENA
<b>Structure or Brush:</b> Highland Park 1. 1 Engine (if available)	<b>Structure or Brush:</b> 1. 2 companies (no more than 1 truck) 2. 1 B/C  <b>Emergency Medical:</b> Northwest and Southeast Sections 1. 1 Engine Company for ALS support

VENTURA COUNTY		VENTURA COUNTY	
PROVIDED TO LOS ANGELES CITY BY VENTURA COUNTY		PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES CITY TO VENTURA COUNTY	
<b><u>BELL CANYON</u></b>  Cash Compensation Based Upon Established Formula		<b><u>BELL CANYON</u></b>  Fire Incidents – 1 Engine or 1 Task Force and 1 B/C (dependent upon incident type)  EMS Incidents – 1 Engine (no R/A dispatch) Exception: LAFD has contracted with Bell Canyon Homeowners' Association providing 1 ALS resource anywhere within Bell Canyon.	
<b><u>VENTURA COUNTY</u></b>  <b><u>Fire Incidents On:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 118 Freeway eastbound to Topanga Canyon Boulevard</li> <li>- Santa Susana Pass Road to Topanga Canyon Boulevard</li> <li>- Southern Pacific Railroad Tunnel No. 26</li> <li>- Lilac Lane</li> <li>- Northwest Los Angeles City</li> </ul>		<b><u>VENTURA COUNTY</u></b>  <b><u>Fire Incidents On:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 118 Freeway westbound to Kuehner Drive</li> <li>- Santa Susana Pass Road to Rocky Road</li> <li>- Southern Pacific Railroad Tunnel No. 26</li> <li>- East Ventura County</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Structure</u></b> 3 Engines 1 Truck 1 B/C	<b><u>Brush</u></b> Up to 5 Engines 2 B/C's 1 Dozer 1 Hand Crew 1 Helicopter	<b><u>Structure</u></b> 1 Task Force 1 Engine 1 B/C	<b><u>Brush</u></b> 1 Task Force 4 Engines 2 B/C's 2 Helicopters
<b><u>EMS Incidents On:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 118 Freeway eastbound to Topanga Canyon Boulevard</li> <li>- Santa Susana Pass Road to Topanga Canyon Boulevard</li> <li>- Lilac Lane</li> <li>- Southern Pacific Railroad Tunnel No. 26</li> </ul> Provide resources consistent with existing dispatch policy.		<b><u>EMS Incidents On:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 118 Freeway westbound to Kuehner Drive</li> <li>- Santa Susana Pass Road to Rocky Road</li> <li>- Southern Pacific Railroad Tunnel No. 26</li> </ul> Provide resources consistent with existing dispatch policy.	