

TO: James L. App, City Manager

FROM: Ken Johnson, ES Chief 

SUBJECT: Atascadero Automatic Aid Agreement

DATE: January 20, 2003

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider an automatic aid agreement with the City of Atascadero.

FACTS:

1. The City has a mutual aid agreement in place with Atascadero and other city and county emergency response agencies.
2. Mutual aid requests between communities provide for the ability of each participating community to request people and equipment for fire and rescue purposes, but require additional call processing time. By way of contrast, automatic aid provides for the immediate dispatching of these resources for emergencies where their use can be reasonably anticipated.
3. An automatic aid agreement for specific resources, such as another fire engine and crew to Paso Robles during a structure fire, is appropriate in cases where their use can reasonably be anticipated.
4. Resource sharing between communities reduces funding needs for the participants by minimizing the need for all parties to individually maintain the people and equipment necessary for infrequent events (e.g., large commercial fires).

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: The City of Atascadero Fire Department has expressed an interest in a faster response of the ladder truck for fires in commercial and multi family buildings. While an automatic aid agreement would speed the ladder truck's dispatch, it is not projected to significantly increase the number of responses (estimated at six and twelve per year).

In exchange for this, Paso Robles would receive a similarly expedited dispatch of an Atascadero fire engine for commercial/multi-family building and wildland fires in the City of Paso Robles. Atascadero would additionally make available one radio channel for Paso Robles' use. A quicker response of an Atascadero fire engine and availability of an additional radio frequency would be operationally beneficial to Paso Robles.

The ladder truck's use in Atascadero obviously creates a void within the City of Paso Robles, although this situation exists today through its availability under the current mutual aid agreement. Under that same mutual aid agreement, Paso Robles has the ability to request a ladder truck from San Luis Obispo. The change to an automatic aid agreement with Atascadero does not exacerbate the situation, but rather provides a faster response of Atascadero people and equipment for certain types of Paso Robles emergencies.

POLICY

REFERENCE: None

FISCAL

IMPACT: None. Any indirect costs associated with response would be covered with existing budget allocations.

OPTIONS:

- a. Authorize the Emergency Services chief to enter into an automatic aid agreement with the Atascadero City Fire Department.
- b. Amend, modify or reject above option.

**Operational Plan of
Automatic Response and Use Agreement Between
Atascadero City Fire Department and
Paso Robles Department of Emergency Services**

Purpose

This document is to serve as the operational plan to facilitate the Automatic Response agreement between Atascadero City Fire Department and Paso Robles Department of Emergency Services. This plan will include the following items:

- Jurisdictional Responsibility
- Areas of Response
- Communications/Dispatch
- Joint Training

Jurisdictional Responsibility

The Incident Commander in whose jurisdiction the incident occurs is in charge, providing direction to personnel and equipment provided through this agreement. The Incident Command Organization will be established by the first arriving unit and transitioned to the responsible jurisdiction as early as possible.

Area of Response

Paso Robles Department of Emergency Services will automatically respond a ladder truck to all commercial and multi-family residence structure fires within the city of Atascadero.

Atascadero City Fire Department will automatically respond one paramedic engine to all commercial and multi-family residence structure fires as well as a Type 3 engine to any wildland fire within the City of Paso Robles. Additionally, Paso Robles is granted the use of and recorded with the FCC as a licensed user of Atascadero Repeated Tactical Radio Channel Tx 151.100 and Rx 156.150 with pl Tone 82.5.

Communications/Dispatch

Command net for Atascadero incidents will be Atascadero Fire Net, with the TAC channel being White 2 or as advised.

Command net for Paso Robles incidents will be Paso Robles Fire Net, with the TAC channel being White 2 or as advised.

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Primary Command</i>	<i>Tone</i>	<i>Primary Tactical</i>
ATA	154.370 Rx 154.070 Tx	82.5 Tx	154.265 Rx 154.265 Tx
AFD Tac	151.100 Tx		156.150 Rx
PRF	155.115 Rx 153.815 Tx	82.5 Tx	154.265 Rx 154.265 Tx

Joint Training

Both parties to this agreement shall schedule and participate in joint training exercises at mutually agreed upon times and locations in order to ensure that optimum performance levels are maintained. It is expected that at least two joint training sessions be held annually. One session shall be held in the City of Paso Robles and one shall be held in the City of Atascadero.

Agreement Signatures

Kurt Stone, Fire Chief
Atascadero City Fire Department

Date: _____

Ken Johnson, Chief
Paso Robles Department of Emergency Services

Date: _____