


CAL FIRE Butte Unit
Policies and Procedures



Approved By:


Darren Read, Unit Chief

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Subject: **8100 Command & Control**
Specific Subject: **8130.020 Automatic & Mutual Aid**

Original Policy Date: **January 2010**
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POLICY:

All fire departments in Butte County will follow standard command and control operating procedures at all automatic & mutual aid incidents.

PROCEDURE:

When automatic/mutual aid is given or received, the requesting ECC/dispatch center (protecting agency) will advise the other ECC/dispatch center(s) (supporting agency) of the following:

1. The jurisdictional agency dispatch center to which all support communications and orders (Central Ordering Point) will be placed.
2. The requesting agency IC designator or contact resource, if available.
3. The command, support, and tactical frequencies as appropriate.
4. The location to respond to (Command Post, incident location or staging area).
5. What resource(s) is/are to respond.

Resources that are dispatched to an incident within another jurisdiction will first respond with their ECC/dispatch center (support agency), and then change frequencies to the requesting (protecting agency) agencies primary/command, support and/or tactical frequencies where they will remain throughout the duration of their assignment. The resource will remain under the control of the protecting agency unit they are released.

Request for outside agency resources such as P.G.& E., law enforcement, water company, ambulances, etc. will be made to the protecting agency ECC/dispatch center.

When the units are released by the IC, they will advise the protecting agency ECC/dispatch that they are "available" and the protecting agency dispatch will direct the unit's reassignment or release to the supporting agency. The unit will then make themselves "available" to their ECC/dispatch center and receive an assignment.

If the jurisdictional agency is not known at the time of dispatch, as soon as it is determined, the agency or dispatch center of jurisdiction will handle all support communications and orders (unified ordering point), unless otherwise specified in an automatic aid agreement.

Typically automatic aid agreements between CAL FIRE and other local departments specify that wildland incidents in other jurisdictions within a Mutual Threat Zone (MTZ) or that threaten to burn on to SRA will require "unified command". These agreements further state that if a significant augmentation of resources are requested the CAL FIRE incident commander or agency representative will approve the allocation of resources through the ECC, and the ECC will become the central ordering point and the command and control point for the incident. Agreements effected by MTZ's are the Chico Fire Department and Oroville Fire Department.

A Command Post (CP) will be established at the scene as soon as possible. Where a unified command is appropriate, it will be established; otherwise, the providing agency may have an Agency Representative at the CP.

Requests for additional resources beyond that authorized in automatic aid agreements will be requested by the protecting agency to the OES Operational Area Coordinator (Oroville ECC) and filled through the mutual aid system by support agencies.

ICS clear text will be used for all radio communication.

APPENDIX A - Emergency Response – Automatic Aid Agreements

POLICY:

Butte County Fire Department and the CAL FIRE Butte Unit maintain a number of automatic aid agreements with cooperating fire agencies within and surrounding Butte County. Accordingly CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire resources will respond under the guidelines established within each agreement; reference the specific agreement for details.

PROCEDURE:

Automatic Aid Agreements exist between a number of cooperating agencies within and surrounding Butte County. The ECC will dispatch CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire and other agency resources accordingly under the auspices of each agreement.

Automatic Aid Agreements with Departments within Butte County

1. Chico Fire Department – Chico Urban Area Fire & Rescue Agreement
2. El Medio Fire Protection District – El Medio Automatic Aid Agreement
3. Oroville City Fire Department – Oroville Automatic Aid Agreement
4. Lassen National Forest – LNF/BTU Automatic Aid Agreement
5. Plumas National Forest – PNF/BTU Automatic Aid Agreement

Note: The local government agreements include automatic response between the local fire department, Butte County Fire and CAL FIRE. For wildland incidents or incidents that threaten and spread to the wildland which require substantial augmentation of resources in the MTZ (CAL FIRE - SRA) the central ordering point will be the Oroville ECC.

The CALFIRE Butte Unit maintains a cooperative agreement for automatic aid resources with both the Lassen & Plumas National Forest, and consequently will dispatch the appropriate CAL FIRE resources to **wildland** fires or fires that threaten wildland within the jurisdiction of the Lassen & Plumas National Forest in Butte, Tehama and Plumas Counties commensurate with the agreement. The requests for assistance to the Forest Service will be considered assistance by hire as outlined in the Cooperative Fire Protection Operating Agreement and California Fire Management Agreement (CFMA).

Automatic Aid Agreements with neighboring Departments

6. Tehama County Fire Department
7. Hamilton City Fire Department
8. Sutter County Fire Department
9. Marysville Fire Department
10. Loma Rica Brown Valley Fire District
11. Foothill Fire Protection District

APPENDIX B - Emergency Response to Plumas County – Mutual Aid

POLICY:

Butte County Fire Department will not normally respond to emergency incidents under the jurisdiction of Plumas County.

PROCEDURE:

An automatic aid agreement does not exist between the Butte County Fire Department and local government fire departments/districts in Plumas County. This is generally due to the lack of an organized fire department responsible for emergency response within most areas of western Plumas County. The Plumas National Forest maintains responsibility for wildland incidents only within their DPA; all other incidents are the responsibility of local government.

Call received by the Oroville ECC:

When it is not clear at the time of dispatch whether the incident is in Plumas or Butte County, the ECC will dispatch the Butte Unit standard response. Responding equipment may continue to the incident if it is within 3 miles of the County line. Once the incident location is known, the ECC will contact the Plumas County Sheriff and notify them of the incident location and request a response accordingly.

Requests for Mutual Aid to Plumas Co (from the Plumas Co Sheriffs Office):

In addition to a response from Plumas County resources, Butte County Fire resources may respond/continue response to emergency incidents "mutual aid" at the request of Plumas County in areas adjacent to Plumas County where it is clear Butte County resources will be the first to arrive.

Note: CAL FIRE Butte maintains an automatic aid agreement with the Plumas National Forest as described in the local operating plan under the California Fire Management Agreement (CFMA). See Appendix A

APPENDIX C - Operational Area Fire & Rescue Coordinator – Mutual Aid

POLICY:

The CAL FIRE Emergency Command Center is the designated Operational Area Fire & Rescue Coordinator for Butte County and accordingly will fill requests between fire agencies within Butte County under the auspices of the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement.

PROCEDURE:

As the Operational Area Fire & Rescue Coordinator for Butte County, the ECC will receive and process request for mutual aid resources within Butte County and statewide as directed under the CAL OES Master Mutual Aid System.

To the extent resources are available under Master Mutual Aid the closest resource will be dispatched using the CAD system and ROSS.