

<b>UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD POLICY MANUAL</b>	
<b>Chapter 1</b> <i>Governance and Board Policies</i>	<b>Section 19</b> <i>Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreements</i>

**Relevant Information:** It is typical for neighboring fire departments or a large group of departments in a geographical area to enter into written mutual and automatic aid agreements. Mutual aid is a system in which any one fire agency may call for assistance from other agencies on an incident-by-incident basis. Automatic aid differs from mutual aid as fire equipment is automatically dispatched without an agency- to-agency request via pre-determined and programmed responses models adopted by each participating fire department. Each agency is responsible for its own resources and no agency is required to provide resources that may reduce the level of protection in its own jurisdiction. Mutual/automatic aid agreements also provides for the move-up or distribution of backup resources throughout the covered areas to maintain coverage or respond to multiple alarms. This system allows for the maximum utilization of available personnel and equipment by using area-wide resources.

**Policy Statement:** It is the policy of the Board to support the establishment of mutual and automatic aid agreements with neighboring fire agencies and those within a reasonable geographic distance for the UFA coverage area so long as UFA retains the responsibility for its own resources and any such agreement will not result in any systematic reduction in service for its own coverage area. The Board also directs that the Fire Chief monitor the use of aid with neighboring agencies and periodically study the balance of receiving or providing aid to neighboring agencies, generally in the amount of unit hours over a longer period of time.