


Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

FCGO: 17-16

December 21, 2017

Page 1 of 2

TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein 
SUBJECT: Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Responses

This FCGO rescinds and replaces FCGO 06-07, *Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Responses*, dated 08/29/2006 and FCGO 07-27, *Automatic Aid Responses*, dated 11/01/2007.

Automatic and Mutual Agreements are both important aspects in delivering quality service to the community. **Automatic Aid** refers to agreements that set automatic response assignments for neighboring jurisdictions, based on the *geographic proximity* to an event. **Mutual Aid** refers to aid that is requested by neighboring jurisdictions based on a *specific need or service requirement*. The benefits of both Automatic and Mutual Aid have far-reaching implications that serve Montgomery County and neighboring jurisdictions.

Effective immediately:

1. ECC will continue to make every effort to dispatch Montgomery County units to Automatic Aid incidents as soon as the need for that aid is recognized or requested. These requests can be made by telephone, Mutual Aid radio, or by monitoring neighboring jurisdictions' dispatch frequencies.
2. ECC will prioritize the dispatch of all incidents in the pending queue, including Automatic or Mutual Aid events.
3. When field personnel receive a request for Automatic Aid by monitoring the neighboring dispatch frequency, they may initiate their response based on that dispatch.
 - a. **As soon as the response is initiated, the Unit Officer MUST notify the 7 Alpha Dispatcher of the response.**
 - b. The 7 Alpha Dispatcher will determine if another unrelated incident is in the pending queue for that unit, and if not, acknowledge the response. ECC will then create the incident in CAD for the Automatic Aid event, and make the appropriate status changes.
 - c. Once acknowledged by the 7 Alpha Dispatcher, the Unit Officer may switch to the appropriate talk group for the Mutual Aid jurisdiction, and continue with normal operations.

FCGO: 17-16

Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Responses

December 21, 2017

Page 2 of 2

4. If an incident is already pending in the queue for that unit, the 7 Alpha Dispatcher will advise the Unit Officer to stand by for another event. ***A Unit Officer receiving this message MUST IMMEDIATELY disengage the unit's response, remain on the 7 Alpha Talk Group, and remain in service for the event in queue.***
 - a. ***Once the unit is advised to remain in service, no further discussion will be permitted between the Unit Officer and ECC personnel.***

If additional information is needed, please contact the MCFRS Communications Chief

