

OVERVIEW
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
FIRE SERVICES MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

This document establishes a **formal mutual aid agreement** between the Lee Arrendale State Prison Fire Department and the City of Cleveland Fire Department. In plain terms, here's what it does:

Core Purpose

- This proposal is presented with Chief Bryant's strongest recommendation
- Mirrors agreement that has been in place with White County Public Safety for decades
- Sets up an **automatic partnership** where both departments assist each other during fires or emergencies—especially for **first-alarm responses** within the City of Cleveland.
- Ensures access to **extra personnel, equipment, and resources** when needed.

Liability & Costs

- **No payment** is required between departments—services are exchanged as mutual benefit.
- Each department:
 - Covers **its own equipment damage**
 - Covers **injuries to its own personnel**
- Both parties agree to **hold each other harmless** from liability claims related to incidents.
- No penalty if a department is **unable to respond**.

Specific Responsibilities

- Lee Arrendale State Prison Fire Department agrees to:
 - Respond to **structure fires in Cleveland**
 - Assist with **other emergencies when requested**
- Additional resources are requested by the **Incident Commander** as needed.

Term & Termination

- The agreement stays in effect **until canceled**.

- Either party can end it with **30 days' written notice**.

How It Works

- The **local (on-scene) ranking officer** is always in charge as Incident Commander.
- Additional help beyond the initial response follows **standard mutual aid request procedures**.
- Departments coordinate through **shared radio communication** and may cancel unnecessary units to stay efficient.
- Requires **quarterly joint training** to maintain readiness.
- Assistance is provided only if the responding department is **not already committed elsewhere**.

Operational Standards

- All incidents must follow **NIMS/ICS (national emergency management standards)**.
- Emphasizes **structured command, accountability, communication, and coordination**.

Bottom line:

This agreement formalizes a **cooperative emergency response system** between the two fire departments—improving response capability, coordination, and safety while clearly defining command structure, responsibilities, and liability protections.