

WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Agreement

Participating Agencies

Higgins Fire Protection District
Nevada County Consolidated Fire District
North San Juan Fire Protection District
Ophir Hill Fire Protection District
Peardale-Chicago Park Fire Protection District
Penn Valley Fire Protection District
Rough and Ready Fire Protection District
Washington Fire Department
CAL FIRE NEU
Grass Valley City Fire Department
Nevada City Fire Department

Original Adoption Date –

Statement:

A Fire Districts/Departments primary responsibility is to prevent loss of life and damage or destruction to personnel property and to minimize impacts to cultural, historical, and economic resources and critical infrastructure. To fulfill the mission, each agency must maintain an adequate number of appropriately trained personnel, properly equipped response apparatus, effective communication systems and a strategic deployment plan that ensures a safe, effective, and efficient response.

Purpose:

The purpose of this agreement is to provide a coordinated effort that maximizes resource deployment throughout Western Nevada County based on a "***closest resource concept.***"

Administration:

The administration of this plan will be the duty of the Western Nevada County Fire Chiefs Association. By signing this agreement, each participating District/Department attests participation in the Western Nevada County Fire Chiefs Association Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Agreement.

Definitions:

- "**Agency Representative**" An Agency Representative (AREP) is an individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency who has delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident. Agency Representatives report to the Liaison Officer or to the Incident Commander in the absence of a Liaison Officer
- "**Duty Chief**" is defined as an agency appointed line or staff officer vested with the authority to make decisions on behalf of their agency and provided with a "code 3" capable command vehicle equipped with a multi-channel radio, portable radio, cellular phone, agency maps, and personal protective equipment.
- "**Emergency**" is defined as a potentially life threatening or property damaging event including, but not specifically limited to structure fires, vegetation fires, vehicle fires, medical aid, rescues, and hazardous materials incidents or other intentional acts.
- "**Fire Agency**" a participatory Fire District or Department that is signatory to this agreement.
- "**Initial Response**" are resources initially committed to an incident.

- **"Automatic Aid"** is an agreement between two agencies to dispatch the closest appropriate available resource to an incident without a formal request regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.
- **"Mutual Aid"** is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries by providing the closest appropriate resource. This may occur due to an emergency response that exceeds local resources, such as a disaster or a multiple-alarm fire.
- **"Move up and cover"** is defined as the practice of reallocating and/or posting response resources to cover emergencies in another agency's response area where resources have been depleted.
- **"Operational Period"** is the period scheduled for execution of a given set of tactical actions or objectives as specified in an Incident Action Plan.
- **"Single Point Ordering"** is when Incident Commander(s) establish single point ordering through a designated dispatch center for incident resources.
- **"Unified Command"** shall have the same definition as in the Fire Service Field Operations Guide (FOG), ICS 420-1, most current edition, as published by FIRESCOPE.

Participation:

All Western Nevada County Fire Chiefs Association Fire Agencies are eligible for participation in this Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan. Signatory Fire Chiefs agree to participation. Fire Agency Duty Chiefs will implement and coordinate mutual aid and move up and cover in conjunction with the respective dispatch centers.

No party to this agreement shall be exposed to a claim for damages due to its participation in this agreement. The parties reserve all their immunities under applicable law. Should one party believe another party is not fulfilling its obligations under this agreement, it may invite the party claimed to be in breach to mediate the dispute. In the absence of voluntary resolution, the party claiming breach may terminate this agreement as between itself and the party claimed to be in breach by a writing provided with 30 days' notice.

Incident Command:

Each participating Fire Agency is responsible for providing qualified Incident Command. The Incident Commander is responsible for the overall management of the incident. On most incidents, a single Incident Commander carries out the command activity. However, Unified Command may be appropriate during multi-jurisdictional incidents. Unified Incident Commanders have the authority to commit resources from their Fire Agency and expend Fire Agency Funds if necessary. When Unified Command is established single point ordering and a single Operations Section Chief shall be utilized.

Operations:

Each participating Fire Agency may request assistance from another Fire Agency. The request shall be from a Fire Chief, Duty Chief, Officer in Charge, or dispatch communication center based on pre-established procedures.

The Fire Agency requesting Mutual Aid shall order the number, type and kind of resources needed resources through the respective dispatch center.

Each Fire Agency shall provide appropriately trained firefighters and equipment in accordance with accepted standards, best practices and approved procedures when requested for the mitigation of an emergency at no cost to the requesting agency.

Minimum staffing for an engine will be two (2) and one (1) for water tender or support unit.

A Fire Agency providing Mutual Aid may send an AREP at their discretion based on incident complexity.

Appropriate resources shall be identified and assigned based on proximity via a "closest resource concept". According to established procedures, the dispatch center requesting the Mutual Aid resources shall place resource orders through the neighboring districts/departments. The Incident Command System shall be utilized for incident operations and organization.

Battalion Chief Mutual Aid will be provided upon request. If a Battalion Chief is unavailable to respond to an incident within their jurisdiction or will be delayed, the Duty Chief having jurisdiction may request Mutual Aid through the respective dispatch centers. Mutual Aid will be requested/provided utilizing the "closest resource concept."

At no time will a Fire Agency be required to exceed maximum draw down levels.

The Incident Command System shall be used for incident operations and organization.

Initial response mutual aid resources are to be released by the end of the first operational period or as soon as the incident is contained or adequately stabilized.

Adequate logistical support, rehabilitation, decontamination, and equipment replacement shall be provided by the requesting Fire Agency prior to the release from an incident.

Communications:

Incident communications will utilize the designated command channel of the Fire Agency with jurisdictional authority. Responding resources shall switch to the requesting Fire Agency's command frequency once responding or as soon as geographically possible.

Automatic Aid:

Fire Agencies may enter into Automatic Aid agreements. Automatic Aid must be based on a closest resource concept. Through Automatic Aid a Fire Agency has the ability to dispatch another Fire Agency's resource from a single dispatch center or through CAD to CAD. It is incumbent on Fire Agencies to enter into Automatic Aid Agreements to fulfill specific response needs. Automatic Aid must be based on closest available resources.

Mutual Aid:

Under this agreement, each participating Fire Agency may request Mutual Aid from other Fire Agencies across jurisdictional boundaries. At no time is a Fire Agency expected to deplete their resources below maximum draw down levels or inhibit their operations to provide Mutual Aid. Fire Agencies signatory to this operating plan agree to provide Mutual Aid as resource availability allows.

Move Up and Cover:

Under this agreement, each participating Fire Agency may request station coverage from another Fire Agency. The Fire Agency providing cover will provide a resource of the same type, kind, staffing, and EMS level to the best of their ability.

Coverage should be of similar type to those resources that are covered behind unless no other options exist. Type 1 or Type 2 Engines should be provided for coverage in areas of dense residential or commercial area.

Coverage will occur if expected resource commitment is more than 20 minutes for the primary and secondary Stations within a zone and be based on resource availability.

A minimum of one engine will be staffed and available in each zone when operationally possible. No zone should remain uncovered for greater than twenty (20) minutes. Duty officers have the discretion to request engines to cover as needed. Cover engines will inform ECC when enroute to the cover station or area.

ECC shall tone out North San Juan at point of extreme drawdown to determine their coverage availability.

The last remaining Battalion Chief will oversee coverage in accordance with this plan, adjusting as necessary to ensure sufficient resources based on the duration and complexity of the incident.

Western Nevada County will be divided into six (6) zones:

- (North)** – NCC Station 84, GV Station 5, NCC Station 86
- (Central)** – GV Station 2 and 1
- (South Central)** – NCC Station 88 and 89
- (South)** – Higgins Station 21, 22, 23
- (East)** – OPH Station 52, PCP Station 57
- (West)** – PNV Station 43, 44, and 59

Station 89, Station 59, Station 86 and Station 21 resources should be the first resources assigned to cover when available.

Non jurisdictional resources should be relieved from cover assignment as jurisdictional resources come available.

Where possible and practical jurisdictional resources should cover jurisdictional stations.

Coverage will occur based on the coverage flow chart and lower priority stations should move and cover higher priority stations.

Recognizing the regional response needs to staff expanding incidents or incidents with significant augmentation of firefighting resources, this agreement shall provide the framework for a "move up and cover" plan. This plan will identify maximum draw down by Agency and stations to be covered during times of regional, system-wide draw down and must be based on a "closest resource concept" identified in

Appendix A.

It is the responsibility of Fire Agency Duty Chiefs to coordinate and implement this plan in conjunction with the respective dispatch centers.

Exhibits:

Appendix A - Maximum Drawdown Plan/Priority Station Cover Plan. The following is a list that illustrated the progressive sequence of “Must Cover” stations within XNE.

- 1) 2
- 2) 2, 88 (McKnight/Hwy 49)
- 3) 2, 88, 43
- 4) 2, 88, 43, 21
- 5) 2, 88, 43, 21, 84
- 6) 2, 88, 43, 21, 84, 52
- 7) 2, 88, 43, 21, 84, 52, 1

Approvals:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this agreement on February 6, 2025;

Joel Tam, Fire Chief
Higgins Fire Protection District

Jim Bierwagen, Fire Chief
Peardale-Chicago Park Fire Protection
District

Mark Buttron, Fire Chief
Nevada City Fire Department
Grass Valley Fire Department

Don Wagner, Fire Chief
Penn Valley Fire Protection District
Rough & Ready Fire Protection District

Jason Robitaille, Fire Chief
Nevada County Consolidated Fire District

Mike Stewart, Fire Chief
Washington Fire Department

Jason Flores, Fire Chief
North San Juan Fire Protection District

Brian Estes, Unit Chief
CAL FIRE NEU

Robb Rothenberger, Fire Chief
Ophir Hill Fire Protection District

Appendix: A

Nevada County Fire Agencies Cover Plan Draw Down/Priority Cover Plan – Not for Initial Attack

Fire Agency	Dispatch Center	Total Staffed Resources	Maximum Draw Down	Priority Cover Stations	ALS/BLS
Higgins Fire District	Grass Valley ECC	3 ENG	1	Station 21	BLS
Nevada County Consolidated District	Grass Valley ECC	4 ENG	1	Station 88, 84	BLS
North San Juan Fire Protection District	Grass Valley ECC	1 ENG	1	Station 3	BLS
Ophir Hill Fire Protection District	Grass Valley ECC	1 ENG	0	Station 52	BLS
Rough and Ready Fire Protection District	Grass Valley ECC	1 ENG	0	Station 59	BLS
Penn Valley Fire Protection District	Grass Valley ECC	2 ENG	1	Station 43	ALS
Peardale-Chicago Park Fire Protection District	Grass Valley ECC	1 ENG	0	Station 57	BLS
Washington Fire Department	Grass Valley ECC	1 ENG	1	Station 60	BLS
Grass Valley City/ Nevada City Fire Department	Grass Valley ECC	3 ENG/1 TRK	2	Stations 2	ALS
CAL FIRE NEU	Grass Valley ECC	2 ENG	0	Stations 20	BLS
	Total	19	7		

Appendix: B Nevada County - As of February 6, 2025 RESPONSE PLAN MATRIX

CALL TYPE		DUTY (AHJ)	ALL CALL	ENGINE	TRUCK	RESCUE	WT	AMB	CAL FIRE ENG	CAL FIRE OTHER
NEVADA COUNTY STANDARD PLANS	Public Assist			1						
	Medical			1				1		
	Medical – Violence / Staging Required			1				1		
	Medical – ECHO Response			2				1		
	Vehicle Accident / Rescue	1		2				1		
	Accident W / Extrication	1		2				1		
	Hazardous Condition	1		2						
	Electrical Hazard			1						
	Vehicle Fire	1		2					2-Summer	BC
	Alarm Sounding Residential	Notify		1						
	Alarm Sounding Commercial	1		2						
	Residential Structure Fire	1	X	4			2*	1	2-Summer	BC
		CAL FIRE responds in addition to if closest resource (minimum 4 local gov't resources)								
	Commercial Structure Fire	1	X	4	**		2*	1	2-Summer	BC
		CAL FIRE responds in addition to if closest resource (minimum 4 local gov't resources)								
	Smoke Check			1					1-Summer 1-Winter	BC
	Vegetation Fire, LOW	1	X	2					2-Summer 1-Winter	
	Vegetation Fire, MED	1	X	3			1		4-Summer	BC AA AT HEL DOZ CRW
Vegetation Fire, HIGH	1	X	3			1		6-Summer	BC AA 2xAT HEL DOZ 2xCRW	
Structure Fire – 2 ND ALARM	1	X	2 Closest From Any Agency							

CALL TYPE		DUTY (AHJ)	ALL CALL	ENGINE	TRUCK	RESCUE	WT	AMB	CAL FIRE ENG	CAL FIRE OTHER
CITY PLAN	Commercial Alarm Sounding	1		2	*					
	Residential Alarm Sounding	Notify		1						
	ECHO Response	Notify		2						
	Vegetation Fire, HIGH	2	X	3					6-Summer	BC AA 2xAT HEL DOZ 2xCRW
	Residential Structure Fire	2	X	4 (type I's)	*		2*	1	2-Summer	BC
		CAL FIRE and OPH will respond in addition to if closest resource (minimum 4 type I's of local gov't resources)								
	Commercial Structure Fire	2	X	4	**		2*	1	2-Summer	BC
CAL FIRE and OPH will respond in addition to if closest resource (minimum 4 type I's of local gov't resources)										
Accident w/ Extrication	1		3				1	If Closest Resource		
	CAL FIRE can fulfill the 3 rd engine requirement if closest resource									

Additional changes to County Standard Plans

Non-hydranted areas GIS information coming from NID for water tender response.

COLUMN AND RESPONSE PLAN NOTES

- **DUTY** = Agency duty officer (City or County)
 - Other agency duty officer if primary is Committed.
- **ENGINE** = Closest engine though boundary drop agreement
 - CAL FIRE will respond to City jurisdiction as closest for *Accidents w/ Extrication* and *Structure Fires*
 - CAL FIRE, ADDITION TO response criteria for *Structure Fire* and *Vegetation Fire* incidents
- **TRUCK** = If T2 is unavailable, an additional engine will recommend
 - * Indicates T2 in place of E2 if closest resource
 - ** Indicates T2 in addition to response if not closest resource