

**AGREEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC  
AID BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF STEPHENVILLE AND ERATH COUNTY VOLUNTEER  
FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

**EXHIBIT B**

**1. AUTOMATIC AID:**

- a) The Parties agree to establish a mutually beneficial response district within and up to certain feasible boundary limits as designated and agreed upon by the Erath County Volunteer Fire/Rescue Fire Chief, the Stephenville Fire Department Fire Chief, the Erath County Volunteer Fire/Rescue Board of Commissioners and the Stephenville Fire Department City Council
- b) In the event a fire, rescue, disturbance, or other fire rescue related emergency occurs within the specific boundary limits established by the Parties, Stephenville Fire Department shall furnish such fire suppression, protection, prevention rescue and emergency medical assistance and response to other local emergencies as may be reasonably required to combat such emergency as part of the first automatic aid response assignment, subject to the limitations set forth in this Agreement. The initial limits of the "Response District" are outlined below:

**DUAL RESPONSE AREA:**

1. Dual Response Area - Geographic Limits:
  - a. This Agreement shall apply to all incidents structure fires in residential, commercial, recreational and rural properties, reported hazardous materials incidents where the first response is provided by a local fire department. This Agreement applies to Emergency Incidents in each parties response area located within the boundaries defined by:
  - b. Exhibit A.

Note: For purposes of this Agreement, the boundary will include both sides of the road way and any property contiguous to either side of the roadway.

2. Situations Where Aid is provided: All calls for structural fires within the defined automatic aid agreement area shall result in an automatic, response from both the Erath County Volunteer Fire/Rescue and Stephenville Fire Department. To accomplish this, each Communications Center shall dispatch their department's units and then notify the other department's communications center. This automatic aid Agreement shall be in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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**DISPATCH PROTOCOLS:**

Stephenville Fire Department

Upon receipt of a structure fire located within the predefined areas within the City of Stephenville, the dispatcher shall dispatch the appropriate response according to Stephenville Communications Division guidelines. The dispatcher will simultaneously notify the Erath County Volunteer Fire/Rescue and request an automatic aid response.

Erath County Volunteer Fire/Rescue

Upon receipt of a structure fire located within the predefined areas within Erath County Volunteer Fire/Rescue's response area, the dispatcher shall dispatch the appropriate response according to ECVFR guidelines. The dispatcher will simultaneously notify the Stephenville Dispatch and request an automatic aid response.

**RESPONSE PROTOCOLS:**

Stephenville Fire Department Fire Rescue

Upon request from ECVFR for an automatic aid response, Stephenville Dispatch will dispatch 1 engine and a chief officer (if available) to respond to assist ECVFR units.

Erath County Volunteer Fire/Rescue County Fire Services

Upon request from Stephenville Dispatch for an automatic aid response, ECVFR will dispatch 1 engine and a tanker/tender (if available) to respond to assist Stephenville Fire Department units. Any request above the automatic response guideline will be considered a mutual aid request.

**COMMAND PROTOCOLS:**

The AHJ (authority having jurisdiction) will be in-charge of all incident command activities, and have the ability to make any other requests.

Should a unit from a neighboring jurisdiction arrive prior to the AHJ, command will be established and transferred to the AHJ as soon as possible. The first arriving unit should initiate procedures for incident mitigation regardless of the area.

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COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS:

When the incident is located in Stephenville Fire Department response area, units shall operate on the appropriate SFD fire channel as specified by the IC.

When the incident is located in Erath County Volunteer Fire/Rescue response area, units shall operate on the appropriate fire channel as specified by the IC.

**2. SUPERVISION:**

- a. The Parties shall create an agreed-upon Incident Command System ("ICS"), which shall direct the handling of all incidents. Each Party shall designate and dispatch a Chief Officer. The Chief Officer of the furnishing Party shall coordinate resources of the furnishing Party and shall report to the Chief Officer of the receiving Party.
- b. When the furnishing Party's Chief Officer arrives before the Chief Officer of the receiving Party, that officer shall coordinate and give general directions as to the work to be done. This Chief Officer of the furnishing Party will be in command until properly relieved by the Chief Officer of the receiving Party.
- c. Personnel from the furnishing Party will work under their own supervisors and with their own equipment except as provided in Paragraph 1(a) above.
- d. The appropriate officers of the receiving Party will give direction regarding work to the Chief Officer of the furnishing Party except as provided in Paragraph 3(a) above.
- e. Each Party agrees that it will be responsible to provide any backup coverage necessary for its own operations.

**3. POLICIES:**

Due to the dangerous nature of fire service delivery, certain life-safety policies shall be consistent between the participating agencies. The following policies/procedures have been reviewed and agreed upon by both Fire Chiefs.

1. Accountability
2. Incident Command System
3. MayDay

Date – 4-2023