



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Greg,

This document will discuss the reasons we have worked towards developing an automatic aid agreement with the City of Manitowoc Fire Department.

TRFD operations depend on off duty staff to meet the necessary staffing needs to perform structural firefighting activities. According to the National Fire Protection Agency, crew size determines which tasks can be accomplished once a unit arrives on scene. For example, a first-in engine with three-person crew cannot engage in interior firefighting until a second unit arrives to accomplish the OSHA requirement for two-in and two-out.

Currently our minimum staff is 4 full-time firefighter/EMT-P, but when we have an ambulance call our current procedure is to call in OT to a staffing level of 3. If we were to receive a fire call during that time, our first-in engine will have staffing level of 3. The arrival time of the second engine is extremely important to our safe and effective firefighting operations.

Currently Manitowoc County operates with a Mutual Aid program called MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System). We utilize this system to have a second engine respond from the City of Manitowoc to our city during fire incidents. Manitowoc has also utilized this system to have our ambulance respond to Manitowoc to cover EMS calls while they are dealing with a fire incident.

The process of activating this system takes approximately 10 minutes. To expedite this process the City of Manitowoc and the City of Two Rivers fire departments collaborated on an automatic aid agreement which would initially bypass MABAS for fire calls with confirmed fire or smoke in a structure. Manitowoc County JDC (Joint Dispatch Center) will simultaneously notify both, City of Manitowoc and the City of Two Rivers fire departments when they receive these types of calls and will cut the response times by approximately 10 minutes.

From past fire incidents using MABAS, the City of Manitowoc engine response would take approximately 20 – 25 minutes to arrive at a fire scene in Two Rivers. By implementing this automatic aid agreement, we anticipate that this will decrease Manitowoc engine response times by 10 minutes. If you have further questions let me know.

Thank you,

Chad Kakes
Assistant Chief of Fire Operations



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