

February 14, 2005

To Our Area C Colleagues:

It is with a great deal of pride that I present our Unified Response Automatic Aid Plan. This plan has been several years in the making, with the active involvement and sweat equity of Chief Officers and staff members from all 11 of the participating fire departments.

The intention of an automatic aid plan is essentially “*neighbor helping neighbor*” in responding to incidents that exceed the current and immediate need of the affected jurisdiction. Parties to an automatic aid agreement lay out detailed response plans so that when an applicable situation arises, pre-determined personnel and equipment can be dispatched automatically, without delay or reaching through several layers of notification and approval. This cooperation will save lives and property while ultimately providing superior public safety to all of our residents and visitors. As we have witnessed over the years, a small fire can become a huge conflagration in very short order; the sooner the resources are there to put it out, the less property damage will result and the less likelihood of human casualties and damage to the environment. At the same time, an array of specialized emergencies can tax any one of us. Regional cooperation is the answer to best effect a favorable outcome.

As the following document explains, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services considers the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank, Glendale, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena to be members of Mutual Aid Region I, Area C. The 11 fire departments of Area C work together as a team, and at the Area level we collaborate and cooperate with other operational areas in Los Angeles County and beyond.

As the Area C Coordinator, I have had the privilege of working closely with the other 10 Fire Chiefs to create an automatic aid response plan that expands the pool of equipment and trained personnel a jurisdiction can depend on for help in an emergency by essentially dropping the borders between cities and unifying our tactics to address various emergency scenarios. Where before one of the smaller cities in Area C might have had two fire engines and a Battalion Chief to respond, under this automatic aid plan that city will theoretically have access to 40 engines, 11 trucks, 5 water tenders, 3 air utilities, and other specialized units, with trained personnel to staff them.

The benefits of such a plan are numerous, with the most obvious being response time, as mentioned earlier. The closest available resources will be dispatched to an incident automatically and immediately, without red tape or confusion, even if the nearest unit belongs to another city. There are also substantial financial benefits. For example, costly resources like hazardous materials units that are only used a few times each month can be shared by multiple cities instead of each city having to purchase their own. Such collaboration will also be helpful in justifying requests for federal and state grant monies that are currently available through homeland security initiatives because more citizens and a larger geographic area will stand to benefit from expenditures. This agreement will be the foundation for other joint opportunities, allowing us to leverage each other’s strengths, resources and experience for mutual benefit. We will, however, closely monitor all activity to avoid any potential imbalance. Reciprocity is the key to a successful automatic aid agreement.

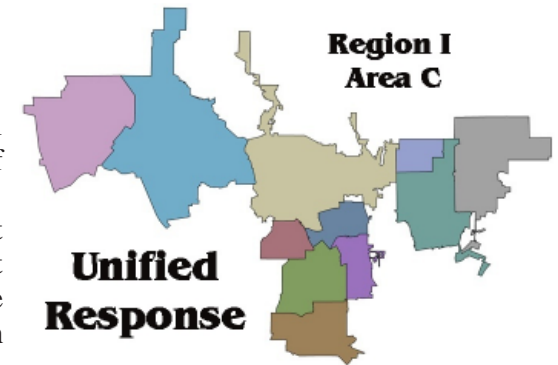
A six-month trial period commences today, February 14, 2005. The trial is necessary to further refine the details of this plan and, where necessary, tailor it to the needs of individual jurisdictions or districts. Chief Officers from the 11 fire departments participated in an orientation session earlier this month to pave the way for borderless collaboration between fire agencies and to assure that all understand the incident command standards that have been agreed upon by the Fire Chiefs. The final plan generated through the refinements made in the trial period will be formalized as an automatic aid agreement that will be circulated, reviewed and approved by the 11 cities involved.

We are looking forward to this new phase of working together to further enhance the protection of our neighboring communities from fire hazards and other major emergencies. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this plan; my door is always open.

Sincerely,



Christopher Gray, Fire Chief
City of Glendale
Area “C” Coordinator





Unified Response Automatic Aid Plan Covering 11 Jurisdictions in Region I, Area C

Background

A year ago, Southern California experienced an unprecedented fire siege that devastated nearly a million acres, destroyed thousands of structures and took human lives. It was a grave reminder that no municipality has sufficient resources to handle all types and severities of major emergencies on its own.

Fortunately, systems are in place at the state, region, county and local levels to provide assistance in the form of equipment and trained personnel when such major disasters occur.

At the state level, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities. California's 58 counties are grouped into three OES administrative regions which are further subdivided into six mutual aid regions, I through VI, as shown in Figure 1.

Each mutual aid region is comprised of several operational areas, which may include a number of local jurisdictions.

Region I covers five counties in Southern California, including Los Angeles

County, which is further subdivided into Areas A, B, C, E, F and G, as shown in Figure 2.

The following proposal involves Area C, covering approximately 126 square miles of Los Angeles County and including the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank, Glendale, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena (Figure 3).

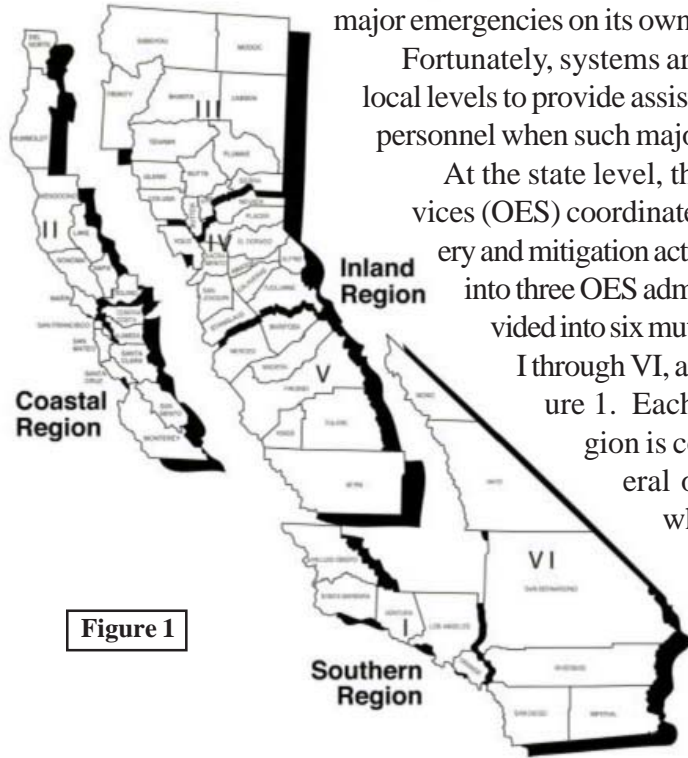


Figure 1

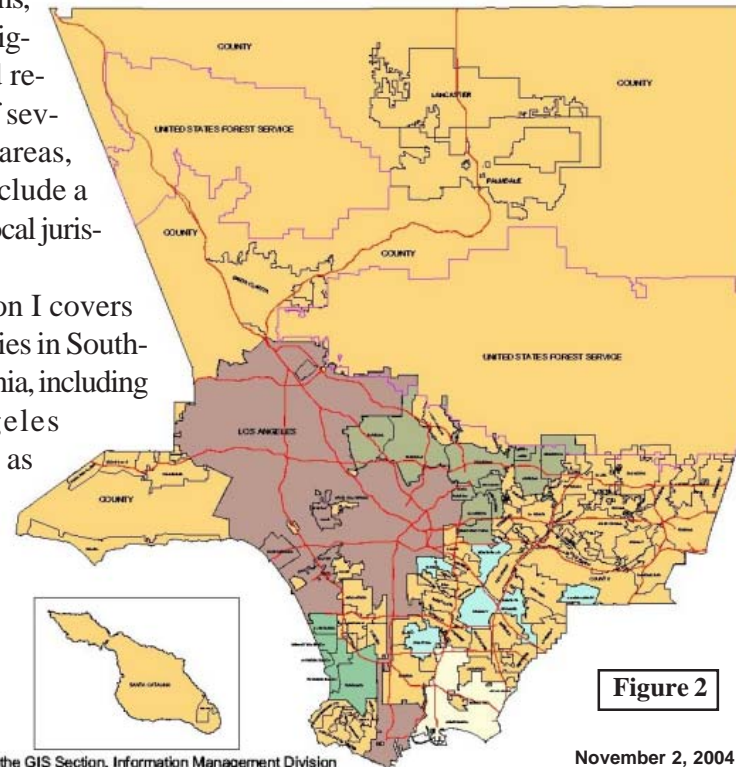


Figure 2

- Freeways
- Forest
- City Limits
- Area A
- Area B
- Area C
- Area E
- Area F
- Area G



County of Los Angeles
Fire Department



OES Region I Area C

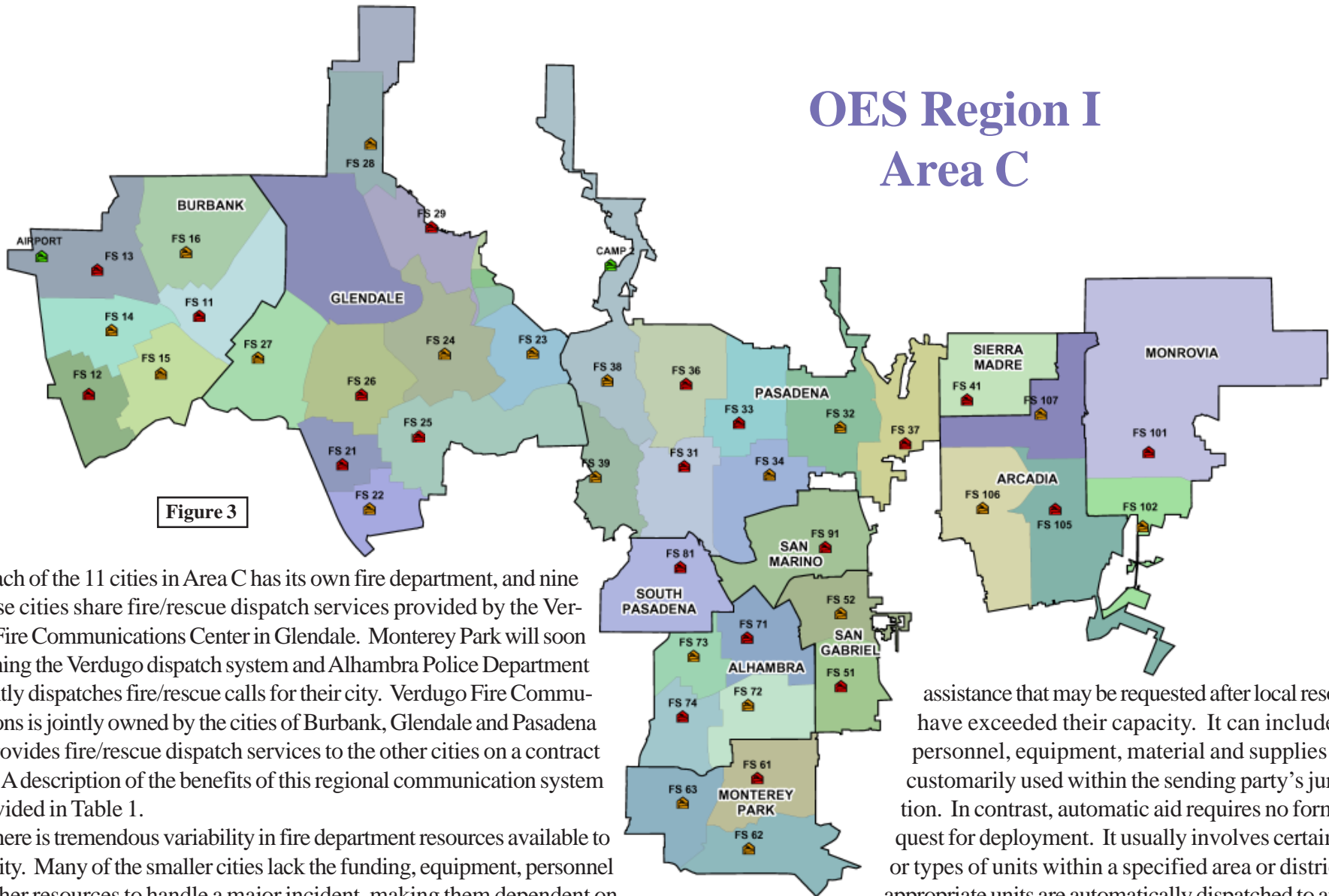


Figure 3

Each of the 11 cities in Area C has its own fire department, and nine of these cities share fire/rescue dispatch services provided by the Verdugo Fire Communications Center in Glendale. Monterey Park will soon be joining the Verdugo dispatch system and Alhambra Police Department currently dispatches fire/rescue calls for their city. Verdugo Fire Communications is jointly owned by the cities of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena and provides fire/rescue dispatch services to the other cities on a contract basis. A description of the benefits of this regional communication system is provided in Table 1.

There is tremendous variability in fire department resources available to each city. Many of the smaller cities lack the funding, equipment, personnel and other resources to handle a major incident, making them dependent on the goodwill of neighboring jurisdictions to assist during crises. For example, some cities have no ladder trucks and must rely on neighboring agencies to assist when such apparatus are needed. Others may lack an air utility, USAR, hazmat unit or water tender.

Assistance provided by other jurisdictions is often negotiated and formalized as *mutual aid* or *automatic aid* agreements. Mutual aid refers to

assistance that may be requested after local resources have exceeded their capacity. It can include such personnel, equipment, material and supplies as are customarily used within the sending party's jurisdiction. In contrast, automatic aid requires no formal request for deployment. It usually involves certain units or types of units within a specified area or district; the appropriate units are automatically dispatched to an incident under circumstances detailed in the agreement.

Both types of agreements generally stipulate that none of the participating fire agencies, in rendering aid to another jurisdiction, will be obligated to reduce their own resources to the extent that a situation is created that might be detrimental to its citizens. Table 2 shows the primary front-line resources available within Area C.

Table 1: Benefits of Participating in Verdugo's Regional Fire Communications Center

- Costs of personnel and computer, phone, dispatch and radio communication systems are shared between multiple agencies, lowering each agency's share and eliminating unnecessary and costly redundancy;
- Dispatchers who specialize in fire and rescue, who are able to provide Emergency Medical Dispatch instructions to callers prior to the arrival of paramedics;
- Centralized coordination of "unified responses" within the Area C mutual aid system;
- Fast access to OES Region I resources;
- Common radio frequencies enable relatively seamless operations on major incidents, increased safety on the fireground and faster initial responses;
- Redundancy of critical radio, telephone, and computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems prevents unnecessary interruptions in service;
- Fire Stations are alerted automatically through CAD, which provides a hard-copy printout and displays dispatch information on mobile computer terminals (MCT's);
- Status changes and movements are recorded using MCT's, reducing radio channel congestion;
- Notifications to key personnel are automatically triggered by alarm level or incident type through CAD, or manually by the dispatchers;
- Detailed incident history information is recorded through CAD;
- The "ReddiNet" hospital status system displays local hospital emergency department status for EMS incidents;
- Monthly Task Force meetings are held where Battalion Chiefs share decision making and keep their colleagues in the other Area C agencies updated and informed;
- In-depth statistical analysis of fire and rescue incidents using data captured by the CAD system; and
- The forthcoming CAD upgrade will include mapping and automatic vehicle location capabilities, providing an ongoing visual record of unit locations relative to incident locations and helping to avoid "gaps" in deployment.

Table 2: Area C Resources

| | Engines | Trucks | Air Utilities | Water Tenders | USAR | HAZMAT | Stations | Ambulances |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Alhambra | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Arcadia | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Burbank | w | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| Glendale | 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| Monrovia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | (PM squad) |
| Monterey Park | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Pasadena | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 4 |
| San Gabriel | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| San Marino | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Sierra Madre | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| South Pasadena | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 40 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 40 | 22 |

The Problem

There are currently over 40 aid agreements in place among and between Area C cities and the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, U.S. Forest Service and other agencies, involving mutual and/or automatic aid for fire, emergency medical, hazardous materials and rescue responses. A list of these agreements is provided in Appendix A.

In an emergency situation when time is of the essence and lives and property are at stake, there is not sufficient time to consult the finer points of 40-odd agreements to confirm which apparatus and personnel may be sent. Ideally, the closest units should automatically be dispatched to supply the necessary resources with a minimum of delay. Some agreements even stipulate that a Chief Officer's approval must be obtained before aid may be supplied, and this too can result in unfortunate delays.

Over the years, some gaps in coverage have evolved and situations are arising with increasing frequency that require a "dispatch first, ask forgiveness later" approach. A simpler, more comprehensive plan is needed.

The Proposed Solution

After extensive discussions among the 11 fire departments of Area C, a proposed solution has been formulated involving the creation of a borderless fire response area where boundaries between the 11 cities would be dropped and Verdugo Fire Communications would dispatch the closest appropriate emergency equipment, regardless of its affiliation or where the fire occurs. This proposal does not include provision of emergency medical services; existing interagency agreements for medical responses would remain in effect.

A system of “key stations” was developed by identifying 20 strategically

placed fire stations that, if staffed and equipped during a major disaster, would still provide sufficient coverage for the entire geographic area under most circumstances. In Figure 4, a circle with a 1.5-mile radius surrounds each key station to show the immediate response area. Those areas that occur between circles are generally very lightly populated or unpopulated.

During a major incident with maximum draw-down of area resources, most or all of the key stations would remain staffed to respond to any other incidents that occur in the area. If at that point additional resources are needed for the major incident, mutual aid will be sought at the region or state level.

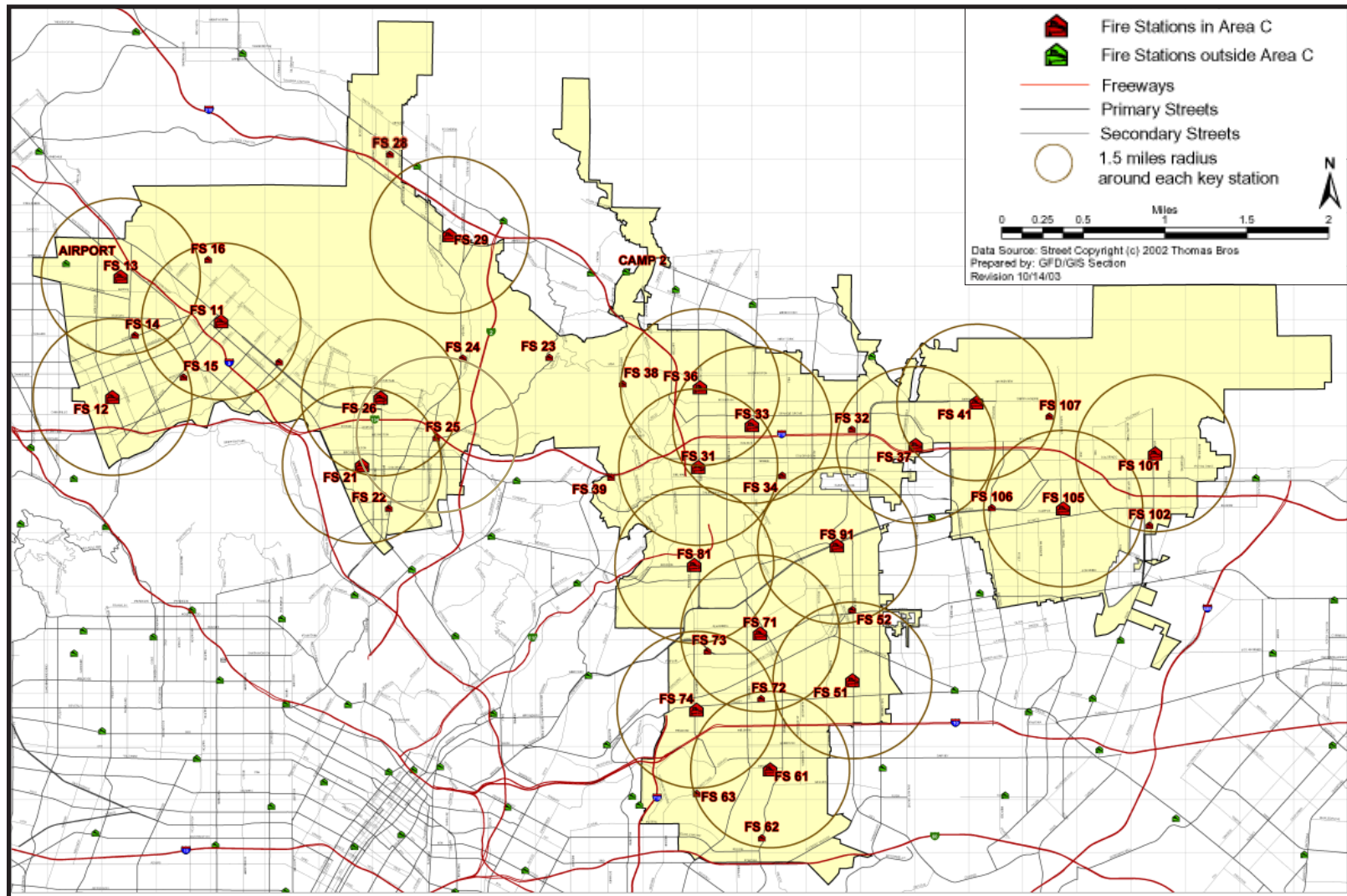


Figure 4

Table 3: Apparatus Dispatched by Incident Type

| Type Code | Description | Engines | Trucks | RA's | BC's |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---------|--------|------|------|
| ALARM | Fire Alarm | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ALARMF | Fire Alarm-Full Assignment | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| APPL | Appliance Fire | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| APT | Apartment House Fire | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| ARC | Arcing Wires | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BOMB | Explosives/Bomb Threat/Scare | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BRUSH | Brush Fire | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| CARBON | Carbon Monoxide Alarm | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ELECF | Electrical Fire | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| FLOW | Sprinkler System Activated | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| FNO | Fire Now Out | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GARAGE | Garage Fire | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| HOUSE | House Fire | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| ILLEG | Illegal Burning | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OUT | Miscellaneous Outside Fire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PERSON | Person On Fire | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| PLANE | Plane Accident, Down or Fire | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| POLE | Transformer/Street Light Fire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RAIL | Train Fire | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| REFUSE | Refuse Fire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RESET | Fire Alarm Reset | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SMOKEI | Smoke in a Structure | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| SMOKEO | Smoke in the Area | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| STR | Structure Fire | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| UNKF | Unknown Type Fire | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| VAULT | Electrical Vault Fire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VEG | Vegetation Fire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VEH | Vehicle Fire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VEHFWY | Vehicle Fire on the Freeway | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VEHSTR | Vehicle Fire in a Structure | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

A deployment plan covering 30 types of fire incidents has been agreed upon by the 11 participating fire agencies, indicating the number of engines, trucks, rescue ambulances and Battalion Chiefs that should be dispatched when these types of incidents occur anywhere within Area C, as shown in Table 3. Note that this applies to first-alarm incidents only.

When a large fire occurs and additional equipment and personnel are required, more are added in increments known as “alarms.” For example, if 3 engines, 2 trucks, 1 rescue ambulance and 1 Battalion Chief are normally dispatched to a garage fire, twice as many of each might be sent to a second-alarm garage fire. The Battalion Chief in charge, known as the Incident Commander, makes the determination whether and when to request a multiple alarm. Alternatively, equipment is sometimes ordered piece by piece when it does not appear another full alarm assignment is required.

The following tables show the proposed incremental addition of equipment as a single alarm progresses to multiple alarm levels under the proposed automatic aid agreement, as well as the number of units remaining available to respond to other incidents within Area C. The structure fire scenario would include house, apartment and garage fires, as well as all other structures.

SCENARIO 1: STRUCTURE FIRE

| | 1st Alarm | 2nd Alarm | 3rd Alarm | 4th Alarm | 5th Alarm | 6th Alarm | 7th Alarm |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Engines | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 21 |
| Engines Remaining Area C-wide | 37 | 34 | 31 | 28 | 25 | 22 | 19 |
| Trucks | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Trucks Remaining Area C-wide | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Battalion Chiefs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Air Utilities | 0 | 1 | As Needed/Requested | | | | |
| Rescue Amb. | 1 | As Needed/Requested | | | | | |

SCENARIO 2: BRUSH / URBAN INTERFACE FIRE

| | 1st Alarm | 2nd Alarm | 3rd Alarm | 4th Alarm | 5th Alarm | 6th Alarm | 7th Alarm |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Engines | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 |
| Engines Remaining Area C-wide | 35 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 |
| Trucks | As Needed/Requested | | | | | | |
| Battalion Chiefs | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Air Utilities | As Needed/Requested | | | | | | |
| Water Tender | 1 to certain locations | 1 | As Needed/Requested | | | | |
| Rescue Amb. | As Needed/Requested | | | | | | |

In the past few years there have only been two fires that exceeded third-alarm status within Area C. Both were brush fires that reached the fourth-alarm level. Under the proposed agreement, even with 20 engines committed to a major brush fire, another 20 engines would remain available for other Area C incidents and many of them would most likely be deployed at key stations to minimize response time regardless of where additional incidents might occur.

Equitable Distribution

Reciprocity is the key to successful aid agreements. When a multiple-alarm incident exceeds the capacity of the home jurisdiction’s resources, the closest available units must be sent to assist, either in compliance with existing aid agreements or as dictated by the closest available equipment. The jurisdiction receiving the assistance then supplies personnel and equipment when another agency needs help.

Within the nine cities sharing Verdugo’s dispatch services, there are about 39 major fire incidents per year, on average, as shown in Table 4 (major fires are those with multiple-alarm status and/or resulting in at least \$100,000 damage and/or loss of human life). There are only about 19 multiple-alarm incidents per year in the area covered by these cities – less than 2 per month – so the probability of a particular engine or truck company participating in more than one major incident per month is relatively small.

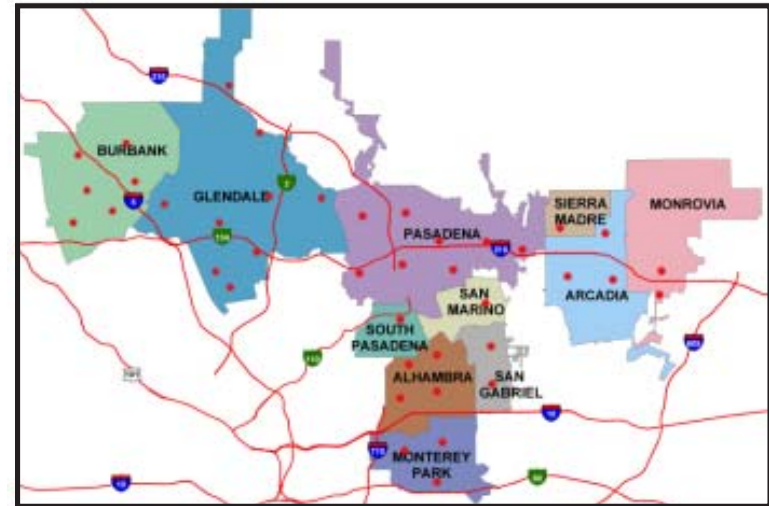
Table 4: Significant Fire Incidents (1/2000-9/2004)

| City | Alarm Level | | | | Total Sig. Incidents | Fatalities |
|--------------|-------------|----|---|---|----------------------|------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| Arcadia | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 2 |
| Burbank | 16 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 36 | 3 |
| Glendale | 20 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 41 | 1 |
| Monrovia | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Pasadena | 25 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 3 |
| San Gabriel | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| San Marino | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Sierra Madre | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| South Pas. | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 |

It is also important to note that each instance of automatic aid provided under this proposal would be of brief duration, at most a few hours. When an

extreme incident occurs such as a fourth-alarm brush fire, off-duty personnel from the affected jurisdiction are recalled to duty and reserve apparatus are deployed so the fire companies from other agencies that initially responded to the incident may return to their cities and fire stations as quickly as possible.

During non-rush-hour traffic, a seemingly distant fire station might be able to supply the fastest response to some incidents via freeway. The following map shows freeways within and around Area C. Note that there may be times when Burbank or Glendale fire stations might be able to respond rapidly to cities as distant as Monterey Park and Monrovia.



Uniform Coverage: Preventing “Gaps”

When a fire incident occurs, time is of the essence, so available units closest to the incident will be sent first, no matter which city the incident is in or which fire agency the units are from. This may create a “gap” in coverage around the incident as nearby stations are vacated to respond. Units from other fire stations nearby may be moved up to cover key stations around the incident, with priority given to covering an agency’s stations with its own units and personnel whenever possible. For example, if Arcadia’s only key station (105) is vacated to respond to an incident, personnel and apparatus from Arcadia Fire Station 107 might be asked to move up to Station 105 if they are available.

When an Incident Commander requires additional units, for example if the incident progresses to second-alarm status, those units that can arrive soonest will be dispatched first, even if they are already on move-up status from another city, manning a station near the incident. Verdugo will immediately dis-

patch additional units from non-key stations in nearby cities to cover any vacated key stations. This will be greatly facilitated by the addition of mapping and automatic vehicle location capabilities in the upcoming upgrade to Verdugo's computer-aided dispatch system (expected summer 2005) because it will provide an ongoing visual record of unit locations relative to incident locations on a map.

When a third-alarm structure fire occurs, at least nine engines and four trucks are required. Units from as many different agencies as possible will be dispatched to cover vacated key stations to minimize the impact on any one agency. Companies at the key stations will then cover any other incidents that occur while a major incident is in progress. Units enroute to a move-up would still be considered available if another incident arose near the unit's location. Verdugo would dispatch that unit to the new incident and identify a different unit for the move-up. Verdugo dispatchers have proven themselves adept at orchestrating such intricate and complex movements during rapidly changing multiple-incident scenarios.

To illustrate, imagine a target of concentric circles where the bulls-eye is an active incident. Units in the circle closest to the bulls-eye are sent to respond because they can get to the incident soonest. Other units from the next larger circle might be sent to cover if a key station in the first circle was vacated by this dispatch. If the fire is elevated to the next level, more units will be needed. Again, available units closest to the bulls-eye will be dispatched and any key stations vacated will be staffed by move-ups from slightly more distant non-key stations. Elevation to third-alarm status will generally pull units from most of the Area C cities to minimize the impact on any one fire agency or city. Using freeways during non-rush-hour times will facilitate some movements, for example moving an engine from an Alhambra station to one in Burbank.

What circumstances will trigger move-ups of units and personnel to other fire stations? If it appears that responding units will be committed 30 minutes or longer and one or more key stations have been vacated, move-ups will be considered. The Fire Communications Shift Supervisor will examine activity and coverage around the vacated stations and determine whether move-ups to key stations will be necessary or if sufficient coverage is already provided by the units at the next closest station. If the incident's alarm level is increased, move-ups will occur immediately to eliminate any gaps in coverage.

Availability

Drills and training exercises are common in the fire service. Although

most of these are completed in-service and in-district, occasionally units are taken out of service, potentially delaying fire company response. In our ongoing pursuit to ensure operational readiness, particularly when a drill involves several adjacent agencies, it is critical to the success of the proposed agreement that units remain in service whenever possible, asking Verdugo to place them "third up" or "fourth up" in the recommendation algorithm if they are in training so they will only be called after other nearby resources have been exhausted but they remain available for any major incident.

Training

A set of standards related to deployment of fire resources under various circumstances will be generated and training will be provided to Chief Officers throughout Area C to enable a level of consistency. Just as having too few apparatus and personnel onscene can be disastrous, having too many can lead to logistical complications and even danger to those involved. Having numerous engines and trucks available is not sufficient reason to deploy them.

It is inevitable that there will be differences between agencies regarding how personnel and apparatus are deployed when a major fire is fought. When the proposed agreement is enacted, line personnel will be advised that direction from the Incident Commander is to be carried out to the best of their ability even though there may be slight deviations in operational protocols from city to city.

Maps

All Area C fire stations have been given a binder containing maps of the 11 Area C cities with detail maps of the district around each fire station and driving directions from the nearest freeway for locating an unfamiliar station for the first time. The maps in this binder were also distributed in Acrobat pdf (portable document format) version which can be loaded and displayed on the mobile computer terminals in the apparatus.

Notifications

The Verdugo paging system currently notifies a Chief Officer of a multiple-alarm incident only if it is occurring in a city that officer has requested notification for. Enactment of the Unified Response proposal will necessitate that virtually all on-duty Chief Officers be notified when a multiple-alarm incident is occurring anywhere in Area C due to the possibility of move-ups from their city to any other Area C city.

Exception

The city of Sierra Madre covers approximately 3 square miles of the 126-mile area under discussion. As the only all-volunteer fire department in Los Angeles County, Sierra Madre Fire Department will not be asked to leave their jurisdiction when fires occur in nearby cities, but the other fire agencies may respond into Sierra Madre when additional resources are requested.

Record-Keeping

NFIRS reporting and incident record-keeping will be the responsibility of each agency in accordance with state and federal guidelines and the agency's own policies and procedures. Each agency will also do its own data analysis and statistical reporting, however Verdugo will provide assistance when needed for ad hoc reports and non-routine requests.

Trial Period

We propose a six-month trial period commencing in January to identify any areas of the plan needing further refinement. During that time, Verdugo Task Force representatives will provide their agency's feedback at the regular monthly meetings and any urgent requests that arise between meetings will be implemented only after obtaining suitable approvals from the agencies involved.

Benefits of the Proposed Automatic Aid Plan

- Resources for fighting a fire will potentially arrive sooner because dispatches will be automatic – there will be no delays while approvals are sought. Arriving sooner means fighting a smaller fire, which reduces the likelihood of later requiring assistance from additional units. It also reduces the probability of loss of life or property and damage to the environment by minimizing the size of the incident as much as possible. This ultimately translates as improved customer service for the 641,450 residents and better fire protection for the nearly \$54.9 billion worth of property in Area C.
- In many cases, more apparatus and personnel will be provided to assist with fires than are currently being dispatched. In a number of fire districts, particularly in the smaller cities, only two engines, one truck, one ambulance and a Battalion Chief are dispatched to certain types of fire incidents. The proposed plan consistently provides for three engines, two trucks, one ambulance and a Battalion Chief on a first-alarm structure fire

assignment. After arriving onscene and sizing up the incident, the Incident Commander is free to cancel any units that will not be needed.

- Although at least two ladder trucks are needed for most structure fire responses, only three of the eleven Area C cities have two or more trucks, and four cities have no ladder trucks at all. Sharing of trucks between agencies currently occurs in accordance with mutual or automatic aid agreements, however this sometimes leads to substantial delays while approvals are sought. By dropping city borders and sharing the eleven ladder trucks owned by the Area C fire agencies, sufficient trucks can be provided for all cities.
- Area C-wide, there are only two hazmat units, three air utilities, seven USARs (Urban Search & Rescue units) and five water tenders. Each of these specialized units can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to purchase and equip, not to mention the cost of staffing the apparatus with specially trained personnel. Sharing these resources among eleven cities eliminates the need for every city to purchase every type of apparatus and has the added benefit of providing additional experience and training opportunities that might never have occurred in the home jurisdiction.
- Improvements will be seen in inter-agency communications, training, experience and cooperation.
- The Master Mutual Aid Plan at the state level requires that automatic/mutual aid Areas have a plan in place and exhaust every possible resource in that plan before requesting assistance at the Region level. The proposed agreement creates a framework for such a plan.
- Although there are naturally going to be costs associated with responding to a neighboring agency's incidents, the benefits of having such a vast arsenal of personnel and equipment available for a city's own major incidents, should the need arise, far outweigh these costs.
- Dramatically simplified response plan will be clearer and more efficient to implement due to being uniform throughout the area.
- Joining 11 fire response jurisdictions into a single regional response zone is likely to increase the likelihood of receiving federal and state grants because shared resources will potentially benefit a much larger area and population.
- Participation in such an automatic aid agreement may be beneficial to an agency's ISO score (see Appendix B).

APPENDIX A: AID AGREEMENTS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT

(In addition to but not superceded by the State Emergency Services Act, the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan and the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement)

| <u>PARTIES TO AGREEMENT</u> | <u>TYPE</u> | <u>FOR</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>PARTIES TO AGREEMENT</u> | <u>TYPE</u> | <u>FOR</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|--|----------------------|----------------|-------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Arcadia (City and/or FD) | | | | Monrovia (City and/or FD) | | | |
| El Monte, Monrovia, Sierra Madre | MA Agreement | Fire/Emerg. | Apr. 1960 | Arcadia, El Monte, Sierra Madre | MA Agreement | Fire/Emerg. | Apr. 1960 |
| Sierra Madre, Monrovia, LA County & USFS | M/A Agreement | Fire/Emerg. | 1972 | Arcadia, Sierra Madre, LA County & USFS | M/A Agreement | Fire/Emerg. | 1972 |
| Monrovia | AA Agreement | Paramedic b/u | Oct. 1973 | Arcadia | AA Agreement | Paramedic b/u | Oct. 1973 |
| Monrovia | Automatic Aid | Fire | May 1987 | Arcadia | Automatic Aid | Fire | May 1987 |
| USFS, Monrovia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre | Forest Aviation Plan | | Aug. 1996 | USFS, Arcadia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre | Forest Aviation Plan | | Aug. 1996 |
| USFS, Monrovia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre | Operating Plan | Fire | July 1998 | USFS, Arcadia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre | Operating Plan | Fire | July 1998 |
| Los Angeles County Fire Dept. | AA/IA MOU | Fire/Rescue | July 1998 | Los Angeles County Fire Dept. | AA/IA MOU | Fire/Rescue | Aug. 1999 |
| Pasadena | AA MOU | Fire/EMS/Res. | Feb. 2000 | Arcadia | AA/IA MOU | Fire/EMS/Res. | May 2000 |
| Monrovia | AA/IA MOU | Fire/EMS/Res. | May 2000 | Alhambra, Arcadia, Monterey Park, San Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 2000 |
| Alhambra, Monrovia, Monterey Pk, San Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 2000 | Monterey Park (City and/or FD) | | | |
| Alhambra (City and/or FD) | | | | Alhambra, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena | | | |
| Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/Police | Aug. 1958 | Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, San Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 2000 |
| San Gabriel | AA/IA MOU | Fire | (no date) | Pasadena (City and/or FD) | | | |
| San Gabriel | AA/IA Agrmnt. | Fire/Rescue | April 1985 | Alhambra, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena | MA Agrmnt. | Fire/Police | Aug. 1958 |
| San Gabriel and Los Angeles County | Urgency Ordinance | Hazmat | Jan. 1993 | Burbank | Agreement | Fire/Police | Nov. 1968 |
| San Gabriel | AA/MA Agrmnt. | Fire | Jan. 1996 | USDA FS Angeles National Forest | MA Agreement | Fire | Dec. 1990 |
| Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 2000 | Los Angeles County FD | MOU | Fire/EMS | Dec. 1995 |
| Burbank (City and/or FD) | | | | San Marino | MOU | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 1996 |
| Glendale | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS | July 1950 | Amendment | | | |
| Pasadena | Agreement | Fire/Police | Nov. 1968 | South Pasadena | AA MOU | Fire/EMS/Rescue | Aug. 1996 |
| USDA FS Angeles National Forest | Agreement | Fire | Apr. 1996 | USFS, Arcadia, Monrovia, Sierra Madre | Forest Aviation Plan | | Aug. 1996 |
| LA County, Glendale, Pasadena | MOU | Fire/Hazmat | Aug. 2002 | USFS, Arcadia, Monrovia, Sierra Madre | Operating Plan | Fire | July 1998 |
| Glendale, Pasadena, LAFD | AA/MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Spec. | May 2003 | Arcadia | AA MOU | Fire/EMS/Res. | Feb. 2000 |
| Glendale (City and/or FD) | | | | LA County, Burbank, Glendale | MOU | Fire/Hazmat | Aug. 2002 |
| Burbank | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS | July 1950 | Glendale, Burbank, LAFD | AA/MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Spec. | May 2003 |
| Los Angeles County FD | MOU | Fire/Rescue | Oct. 1991 | San Gabriel (City and/or FD) | | | |
| LA County, Burbank, Pasadena | MOU | Fire/Hazmat | Aug. 2002 | Alhambra, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Marino, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/Police | Aug. 1958 |
| Burbank, Pasadena, LAFD | AA/MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Spec. | May 2003 | Alhambra | AA/IA MOU | Fire | (no date) |
| Los Angeles County | | | | San Marino | AA/IA Agrmnt. | Fire/Rescue | 1985 |
| Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia & USFS | M/A Agreement | Fire/Emerg. | 1972 | Alhambra | AA/IA Agrmnt. | Fire/Rescue | Apr. 1985 |
| San Gabriel | AA/IA Agrmnt. | Fire/Rescue | Apr. 1985 | County of Los Angeles | AA/IA Agrmnt. | Fire/Rescue | Apr. 1985 |
| Glendale Fire Department | MOU | Fire/Rescue | Oct. 1991 | Alhambra and Los Angeles County | Urgency Ordinance | Hazmat | Jan. 1993 |
| San Marino | AA/IA MOU | Fire/Rescue | June 1992 | Alhambra | AA/MA Agrmnt. | Fire | Jan. 1996 |
| Alhambra and San Gabriel | Urgency Ordinance | Hazmat | Jan. 1993 | Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 2000 |
| Pasadena Fire Department | MOU | Fire/EMS | Dec. 1995 | San Marino (City and/or FD) | | | |
| USDA FS Angeles National Forest | Operations Plan | | Apr. 1997 | Alhambra, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/Police | Aug. 1958 |
| Arcadia Fire Department | AA/IA MOU | Fire/Rescue | July 1998 | South Pasadena | AA/IA Agrmnt. | Fire/Rescue | Dec. 1983 |
| Monrovia | AA/IA MOU | Fire/Rescue | Aug. 1999 | San Gabriel | AA/IA Agrmnt. | Fire/Rescue | 1985 |
| Sierra Madre Fire Dept. Order 99-007 | Mutual Aid | Fire/EMS | Oct. 1999 | San Gabriel | AA/IA MOU | Fire/Rescue | April 1985 |
| Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena | MOU | Fire/Hazmat | Aug. 2002 | Los Angeles County Fire Dept. | AA/IA MOU | Fire/Rescue | June 1992 |
| Los Angeles (City and/or FD) | | | | | | | |
| Angeles National Forest | AA/IA Agrmnt. | Fire | Apr. 1996 | | | | |
| South Pasadena | AA Agreement | Fire/Rescue | July 1998 | | | | |
| Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena | AA/MA Agrmnt. | Fire/EMS/Spec. | May 2003 | | | | |

APPENDIX A: AID AGREEMENTS (cont.)

| <u>PARTIES TO AGREEMENT</u> | <u>TYPE</u> | <u>FOR</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| San Marino (cont.) | | | |
| Pasadena | MOU | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 1996 |
| Amendment | | Fire/EMS/Res. | Dec. 1999 |
| Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 2000 |
| Sierra Madre (City and/or FD) | | | |
| Arcadia and Monrovia | Agreement | Fire | June 1939 |
| Revision | Agreement | | Mar. 1955 |
| USFS | Agreement | Fire | Apr. 1960 |
| Arcadia, El Monte and Monrovia | MA Agreement | Fire/Emerg. | Apr. 1960 |
| Arcadia, Monrovia, LA County & USFS | M/A Agreement | Fire/Emerg. | 1972 |
| Area "D" Mutual Aid | Procedures | Fire | Aug. 1977 |
| West Covina | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS | Dec. 1978 |
| USFS, Arcadia, Monrovia, Pasadena | Forest Aviation Plan | | Aug. 1996 |
| USFS, Arcadia, Monrovia, Pasadena | Operating Plan | Fire | July 1998 |
| LA County Fire Dept. Order 99-007 | Mutual Aid | Fire/EMS | Oct. 1999 |
| Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 2000 |
| South Pasadena (City and/or FD) | | | |
| Alhambra, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino | MA Agreement | Fire/Police | Aug. 1958 |
| San Marino | AA/IA Agrmnt. | Fire/Rescue | Dec. 1983 |
| Pasadena | AA MOU | Fire/EMS/Rescue | Aug. 1996 |
| City of Los Angeles Fire Department | AA Agreement | Fire/Rescue | July 1998 |
| Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Pk, S. Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena | MA Agreement | Fire/EMS/Res. | June 2000 |
| Other Agencies | | | |
| Bob Hope Airport, Burbank Tower, Airport FD Ltr. of Agreement | | | Jan. 1992 |

APPENDIX B: DOES ISO CREDIT AUTOMATIC AID?

Automatic aid is assistance dispatched automatically by contractual agreement between two communities or fire districts. That differs from mutual aid, or assistance arranged case by case. ISO will recognize an automatic aid plan under the following conditions:

1. It must be prearranged for first-alarm response according to a definite plan. It is preferable to have a written agreement, but ISO may recognize demonstrated performance.
2. The aid must offset a need in the community ISO is surveying. For example, if a community needs a ladder company and the fire department does not have one, but a neighboring community's ladder company responds by automatic aid agreement, credit may be available.
3. The aiding ladder company must cover at least 50% of the needed ladder company Standard Response District by hydrant count in the community being graded.

Note: Various insurance underwriting plans may consider other criteria for automatic aid; therefore, ISO evaluates all automatic aid plans.

Credit for responding automatic aid companies depends on the value of the automatic aid arrangements, determined by the following criteria:

1. Communication facilities - The alarm dispatch circuit between the department communication centers, or between a central communication center and the aiding fire station, should be the equivalent of the needed facilities in the community that ISO is surveying.
2. Receipt of alarm - The aiding departments should receive all alarms from the community being surveyed and dispatch their companies, according to the dispatch protocol.
3. Interdepartmental training - The communities should conduct the following interdepartmental training:
 - a. Quarterly half-day, multiple-company drills with automatic aid companies
 - b. Semiannual half-day, multiple-company drills with automatic aid companies
 - c. Annual half-day, multiple-company drills with automatic aid companies
4. Fire ground communications
 - a. Common mobile and portable radio-frequency capability

SOURCE: <http://www.isomitigation.com/fire72.html#26>

