

Coverage

Revised 4/09

During a large incident, significant local/nearby resources are in use, and remote resources are needed to backfill and maintain a minimally acceptable level coverage for other calls.

In general, this “minimally acceptable” coverage will be accomplished by:

- Providing manned units (rather than traditional “from-home” coverage) at strategic stations
- Dispatching units to other calls for assistance from a larger area than normal.

Additionally, these coverage units may ultimately also be needed at the initial incident, and are therefore already closer than their home locations.

During “normal” working fires, Command (either by actual fire ground decision, or by automatic implementation of pre-designed plans) assures his/her community is covered via traditional mutual aid.

This Coverage Plan applies when an incident of unusual nature or size draws those traditional coverage units into use at the scene. In such instances, it is expected that Command will be concentrating efforts at dealing with the initial emergency, and delegate issues of coverage to implementation of this Plan.

This Coverage Plan may be implemented in one of three ways:

- By order of Command (to relieve him of concern for coverage issues)
- By Dispatch (upon realization of deficiencies in coverage created by the incident)
- By County Coordinator (upon consideration of the larger region as a whole)

In all cases, Command shall be notified of and agree to implementation of the Coverage Plan

First Round: Provide for a manned engine (interior crew of 4+) at geographically alternate stations
Assure a local person is in quarters to guide covering unit to local addresses
Request County Coordinator to assist Dispatch in overseeing coverage

2nd Round: Fill remaining stations with manned specialty pieces:
Rescue (interior crew of 4+)
Tanker (crew of 2+)
Ladder (interior crew of 4+)
Provide a Chief (including vehicle and driver/aide) for each five coverage pieces

Coverage units may be requested from the next “surrounding circle” of departments not involved in the incident, or by requesting Task Forces and/or Strike Teams from outside the affected area. Chiefs of those communities in the “outermost circle” or sending TF/ST will be responsible for assuring their own community’s coverage, typically by manning units not sent for coverage.

Assignments:

Upon receipt of another call, send the geographically nearest units:

- Investigation/minor incident: Engine and Chief
- MVA: Engine, 2 rescues, Chief
- Structure: 3 engines, 1 rescue, 1 ladder, 1 Chief
- Un-hydranted area: Add 5 tankers and second chief
- Working fire: Add 2 engines, 2nd ladder, another Chief

