

Monroe Fire Department

Standard Operating Guidelines

Mutual Aid or MABAS Deployment Policy



Purpose: The intent of this policy is to more clearly define the department's ability to provide or receive mutual aid to our neighboring fire and emergency services agencies, by restating and clarifying this policy the surrounding jurisdictions may also be better able to plan for these responses involving MFD assets.

These are by no means inclusive of all types of potential calls; they do however represent the most frequently encountered incidents. The on-call duty officer or department chief officers may modify any response requirements to address the current situation. The on-call duty officer may also cancel or refuse any response he or she feels is un-warranted.

Level of Performance: This guideline shall be followed for all Monroe Fire Department provided mutual aid or MABAS responses unless modified by the fire chief, on-call duty officer, or other department chief officers.

The Monroe Fire Department shall also abide by the above guidelines when developing MABAS Box Cards or requesting aid from neighboring departments.

The Monroe Fire Department has, for many years, provided and requested mutual aid for large incidents to and from the departments that surround Monroe in Green County. Since 2005, the department has participated in The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (*MABAS*).

MABAS guidelines and by-laws spell out how deployment of resources should occur and specifically mention several pertinent facts;

- Any MABAS deployment is provided with no expectation of reimbursement to the responding agency except in cases of hazardous material responses or special equipment expendable materials (*such as AR-AFFF foam concentrate*) and on-scene fuel costs.
- Any department may elect to not respond to any incident, at any time, due to staffing or equipment unavailability.
- Each department must preapprove any response box cards prior to those cards being issued to the division dispatch center or any other division or entity.
- MABAS does not provide for automatic aid (*wherein multiple departments are dispatched immediately upon receipt of an initial alarm*). MABAS alerts are only issued upon orders by the Incident Commander (*IC*) of the host department.

Effective upon adoption of this policy by the Monroe Common Council, the following guidelines shall be used to determine when and how a mutual aid or MABAS deployment will be authorized and provided.

- The Monroe Fire Department has not and will not accept or request ***Automatic Aid*** assignments from any department or emergency services agency.
- A department may request one piece of MFD equipment on any Mutual Aid **or** 1st alarm level MABAS box. This may be a Pumper, Squad, Ladder, Tender, Brush, Utility vehicle or ATV.
- A department may not request apparatus on the mutual aid level and an additional apparatus on the 1st alarm MABAS box card if later issued.
- The requesting department may request one additional apparatus on second or higher alarm level MABAS box (*total of two resources at the 2nd alarm or lower level including mutual aid requests*).
- Requests for additional or later (*3rd alarm or higher*) box cards will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis when the box cards are developed and again when activated and the requesting department notified of availability of such apparatus. If approved, these responses will be limited to one additional apparatus or crew resource.
- The total equipment or crews requested at any combined level on an incident may not exceed three separate resources.
- A department may request special equipment such as a Foam trailer (*U-16*), Air/Power trailer (*U-14*), Light Tower (*U-15*) or Haz-Mat supply (*U-17*) regardless of other requested equipment so long as the total request does not exceed three apparatus or crews. When *U-14*, *U-15*, *U-16* or *U-17* is requested, Utility 13 (*or other assigned vehicle*) will tow the unit and the two units together will be considered a single resource.
- When the Foam trailer (*U-16*) is requested, a MFD engine (*with a full crew*) will also respond as a pumping unit for the trailer. This support pumper will count as a separate resource making up the total resource allocation of no more than three units.
- When Ladder 7 is requested and high flow water is expected to be used (*such as a large building fire*) a MFD engine (*with a qualified operator and one additional firefighter*) will be dispatched along with Ladder 7. This support pumper will count as a separate resource making up the total resource allocation of no more than three units.
- A department may request a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) to respond at any level, at any time, regardless of any other equipment requested so long as the total request does not exceed three apparatus or crews.
- A department may request a Chief Officer for any incident, at any time, regardless of other active or pending apparatus or resource requests.

- Each request to exceed these response levels **MUST** be approved on an individual basis by a MFD chief officer (*Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief or Division Chief*).

Special equipment or response requests by non-fire agencies will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis when the request is made. Final authority to provide the response shall lie with the department chief officers or on-call duty officer.

Mutual aid requests for “**Full Response**” will not be honored; all personnel and equipment will be dispatched using the above listed guidelines and limitations.

The Monroe Fire Department on-call duty officer may, at any time, under local policy or MABAS rules, refuse any request for aid based on equipment availability or needs and/or staffing availability within the City of Monroe or Monroe Rural Fire District.

Implementation: This policy has been approved by the Officers of the Monroe Fire Department and the Monroe Common Council. This policy, and all adopted procedures, provide a guideline for operations within the Monroe Fire Department. Adoption of these guidelines in no way restricts the incident commander, department administration or the Monroe Common Council from modifying operations or implementing exceptions to policy in the interest of safety, efficiency and harmony within the organization. It shall remain in effect until withdrawn or modified by the department.

Effective Date: December 2, 2014

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