



Amherst County Fire/EMS Standard Operating Guidelines	
Subject:	Automatic Aid & Mutual Aid
Reference Number:	
Effective Date:	May 1, 2025
Revision Date:	N/A
Signature of Approval:	Chief of Fire/EMS

Purpose:

- Define and establish a standard for automatic and mutual aid responses

Definitions:

- Automatic Aid – Second and/or third-due company assigned upon the initial dispatch based on pre-determined criteria. Examples of Automatic Aid situations include structure fires, commercial fire alarms, etc.
- Mutual Aid – Request for additional resources that are specifically needed and manually requested. Also applies when first-due department does not have available resources to respond, so the second and/or third-due is requested.
- First Due – The primary territory district of a department. For example, the Town of Amherst is in Amherst Fire Department's first-due district.
- Second Due – The area in which a department is the second closest or is pre-determined to be the second response agency to a specific location.
- Third Due – Following first and second-due, this is the area in which an agency would be the third agency called for a specific location

Outside of County Response:

- **NO PERSONAL VEHICLE** is to respond to any call outside of Amherst County unless approved by the department chief or his/her designee.
- All members responding on the company apparatus shall be certified in Firefighter I. No junior/non-certified member shall respond on the apparatus.
- *City of Lynchburg Response:* Respond with appropriate or requested apparatus and maximum staffing, leaving 1 empty seat for a Lynchburg Firefighter to join, if possible and/or necessary.

Mutual Aid Responses into Amherst County:

- All personnel from mutual aid departments responding to incidents within Amherst County shall immediately check-in at the Command Post upon arrival at the scene.
- All personnel operating within Amherst County shall adhere and be held accountable to all guidelines within this document. Copies of Amherst County SOGs shall be shared with all mutual aid departments and partners within the region.

Nature Codes:

The following page contains a comprehensive list of the fire dispatch nature codes and the pre-designated resources automatically assigned to them.

Description	PS Response	Number of Fire Departments	Ambulance Needed	Notes
ACCIDENT- AGRICULTURAL	800, On-Call, 806	2	Y	Involving farm equipment/machinery
ACCIDENT- INDUSTRIAL	800, On-Call, 806	2	Y	Involving commercial/industrial equipment/machinery
AIRCRAFT EMERGENCY	800, On-Call, 806	All	Y	Aircraft (helicopter, fixed wing, motorized) accident/crash
FIRE ALARM - COMMERCIAL	N	1 plus AFD for Ladder	N	
FIRE ALARM - RESIDENTIAL	N	1	N	
APPLIANCE FIRE	As needed & 806	2	Y	
BRUSH OR WILDLAND FIRE	N	1	N	
CHEMICAL/HAZMAT SPILL	800 & 801	1	Y	
CHIMNEY FIRE	800, On-Call, 806	All	Y	Treat as Structure Fire
CONTROL BURN	N	1	N	
DUMPSTER FIRE	N	1	N	
ELECTRICAL FIRE - INDOORS	As needed & 806	2	y	
EXPLOSION	800, On-Call, 806	All	Y	
ELEVATOR RESCUE	As Needed	1	As needed	
GAS LEAK - INSIDE	806	2	Y	Natural Gas or Propane - Indoor Leak
GAS LEAK - OUTSIDE	N	1	N	Natural Gas or Propane - Outdoor Leak or Strong Smell
HAZMAT (not otherwise listed)	800 & 801	1	As needed	
FIRE INSPECTION/INVESTIGATION	800 & 801	N	N	
THROUGH THE LOCK	As Needed	1	As needed	
LANDING ZONE	800, On-Call	1		Consider 2nd FD if MVA (up to IC)
FIRE MUTUAL AID	N	As requested	N	
NATURAL DISASTER	All	As needed	As needed	Tornado, flooding, rock/landslide, earthquake
MISCELLANEOUS FIRE	As needed	As Needed	N	
POWER LINE/UTILITY	N	1	N	Downed power/utility line; other outdoor electrical fire
SEARCH AND RESCUE	800, On-Call, 806	All	Y	
SMOKE INVESTIGATION	N	1	N	
STANDBY	N	As requested	N	
STRUCTURE COLLASPE	All	2	Y	
STRUCTURE FIRE- COMMERCIAL	800, 801, On-Call, 806	All	Y	
STRUCTURE FIRE- RESIDENTIAL	800, 801, On-Call, 806	All	Y	
TECHNICAL RESCUE	800, On-Call, 806	2	Y	

DOWN TREE/IN ROADWAY	N	1 - If VDOT not available	N	
VEHICLE FIRE	As needed	1	As needed	
WATER RESCUE	800, On-Call, 806	AFD & MFD	Y (If in Amherst County)	
TRAIN/RAILROAD ACCIDENT	800, On-Call, 806	1	Y	
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	N	As needed	As needed	
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT W/ ANIMAL	N	As needed	As needed	
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT W/ ENTRAPMENT	800, On-Call, 806	2	Y	
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT W/ FATALITY	800, On-Call, 806	1	Y	
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT W/ INJURIES	806	1	Y	
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT PEDESTRIAN STRUCK	806	1	Y	