

	 ALBEMARLE COUNTY STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	
	Subject:	EMS Mutual Aid to Surrounding Localities by Career Personnel
	Reference Number:	SOG-OPS-023
	Effective Date:	1 March 2007
	Last Revision Date:	N/A
	Signature of Approval:	 J. Dan Eggleston, Chief

Purpose:

To provide direction for career personnel with regard to the provision of EMS mutual aid services to surrounding counties.

Background:

EMS mutual aid to surrounding counties has been a common practice over the years. As the region's population grows, so does the demand for service – both within Albemarle and the surrounding counties. In order to ensure reliable service to the citizens of Albemarle County, yet still maintain a good relationship with our surrounding communities, the following guidelines are provided.

Definitions:

Mutual Aid: Request for response and/or assistance from another department/locality.

Automatic Aid: Aid to another department that is provided automatically as part of a pre-established agreement. Automatic aid agreements typically outline specific geographic areas and the type/amount of resources to be provided.

Guidelines:

1. This guideline shall not supersede or negate mutual aid and/or automatic aid agreements presently in place.
2. The automatic aid agreement between Scottsville Volunteer Rescue Squad and their first due portion of Fluvanna County will be honored.
3. EMS mutual aid requests from other counties will be placed through the ECC to the appropriate on-duty Captain for case-by-case consideration.
4. Greater emphasis on response should be given to cases where another department/locality has an incident that requires additional resources beyond the initial first-level response and/or a potentially life-threatening situation exists.
5. During periods of heavy local activity or severe weather, mutual aid responses to other counties should generally be declined. Captains should consult with the Duty Officer in such situations.
6. Requests for mutual aid, where the first due apparatus from the other department/locality has failed to respond on a first call (at any level) shall generally be declined. See #4 above.
7. Decisions to rendezvous with apparatus en route to the hospital should be based upon location, existing call load, availability of resources for Albemarle County incidents, and the potential for interventional benefit. If, in the Captain's opinion, intervention will be impractical, response should generally be declined.
8. When an EMS mutual request is denied, the Captain or Firefighter/Medic that denies the request shall complete a Mutual Aid Request Denial form. This form shall be placed in the PPCR envelope for the shift.