

Solano Operational Area. Agencies shall follow protocols in accordance with the Incident Command System and California's Standardized Emergency Management System procedures. The Agreement also includes a provision for response limitations contingent upon staffing and equipment availability and financial condition.

With the new County consolidated fire dispatch center (Center), the Agreement calls for all communications to be made through the Center. The Center is the focal point for fire asset reporting and major fire response in the operational area. The requesting agency shall describe the nature of the emergency and the anticipated personnel and equipment necessary for response. Solano County dispatchers use the Matrix to coordinate responses to three alarm and greater fires in the Solano Operational Area and play a crucial role in providing fire mutual aid outside the county. Solano County plays a critical role in communications, emergency medical response, and dispatch and fire agency consolidation projects.

Mutual aid agreements are critical in emergency preparedness and planning, especially during fire season when agency assets can be quickly overwhelmed. Agreements in advance reduce response times and aid in post-disaster recovery. All city mayors and fire district board chairs have signed the Agreement. The Sheriff's Office is requesting the Board approve the Agreement and authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the Agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Similar to the California State Mutual Aid Fire Agreement, under which Solano County participates, the proposed agreement includes a provision for agencies to request reimbursement for expenses when the mutual aid response exceeds 12 hours. Should a fire occur within the Solano Operational Area, agencies could request reimbursement from the applicable cities or fire districts only. The County could not be held financially responsible for these costs. Therefore, Board action will not impact the County General Fund.

The cost associated with preparing the agenda item is nominal and absorbed by the department's FY2018/19 Working Budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board can choose not to approve the Agreement; however, this alternative is not recommended as Solano County already participates in mutual aid response under California law. Moreover, rejecting the Agreement already approved by the cities and fire districts would show a lack of support for unincorporated area residents dependent upon the districts and the cities for fire and emergency medical services.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Solano Fire Chiefs Association drafted the Agreement.

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION