

This guideline provides North Zone procedures for responding to mutual aid and automatic aid requests. In all cases, the decision to respond to a mutual aid or automatic aid request must be based on assuring adequate coverage is available to the citizens of the North Zone first. If North Zone resources are not adequate, or there is some other precluding condition that would make response to these types of calls impractical, the request for aid shall be denied.

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT RESOURCES:

Each North Zone department will determine minimum resource levels for their agency. See Attachment A-Zone Drawdown Levels

Special circumstances that may be occurring within the North Zone may require the Zone Coordinator to decline an out-of-zone Mutual/Automatic Aid request. Examples include: weather conditions, a significant number of emergency incidents being handled by North Zone, or if Zone is at resource drawdown.

The Zone Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that appropriate resources are available to respond to emergencies within the North Zone. As applicable and necessary, the north zone shall consult with Zone Fire Chief's or designated representative regarding resource availability.

STRIKE TEAM/TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENTS (Mutual Aid):

Per the North Zone Master Automatic Aid Agreement, the North Zone will respond the closest unit for Strike Team/Task Force assignments within North Zone whenever it is practical to do so. This may be subject to deviation based on availability of specific resources.

INITIAL ATTACK ASSIGNMENTS:

The North Zone Emergency Communications Center (NCJ) North Comm. will dispatch the closest available units and/or mutual aid resources into a North Zone Area. Resources would normally rendezvous at the incident

IMMEDIATE NEED ASSIGNMENTS:

Immediate Need Philosophy-Requests for **Immediate Need** are because units are truly **needed immediately and are relatively close to the scene geographically** to make a difference in a short period of time.

If resources are sent as **immediate need within the North Zone**, units will report to Incident Staging and may be assigned before the arrival of the STEN.

- If the STEN elects to have units respond directly to the scene, the first unit to

arrive on-scene of an incident will attempt to get the strike team assignment and relay that information to the responding STEN.

- If the STEN elects to rendezvous and respond together as a unit, the STEN will advise the Dispatch Center the strike team is on scene.

Assigning the STEN for In Zone Immediate Need:

- The STEN will be the **closest chief geographically located to the incident or event** on the STEN rotation schedule **regardless of their status as primary, secondary, or tertiary on the STEN rotation list.**

If the Incident Commander needs additional resources to the scene of a vegetation response ***In Zone Immediate Need***, the Incident Commander can do one of two things:

- Request an additional alarm
 - Multiple alarms up to 4 (in some jurisdictions)

OR

- Request a Strike Team
 - CAD will select the closest five (5) like engines
 - The CAD will select the closest 5 like units up to agency draw down level. (This will be accomplished by pulling the closest ten (10) like engines in CAD to ensure the timely dispatch of the closest 5 engines).
 - Per North Zone Policy, all resources responding on a Strike Team/Task Force assignment are to be responding in five (5) minutes of dispatch or are subject to being by-passed.
 - OES engines will not be included. (On a case by case basis, they may be considered for use in Zone or when drawdown levels warrant).

For **immediate need outside the North Zone**, the STEN may elect to rendezvous the strike team or direct them to report to Incident Staging and assure that units involved are advised. If the STEN determines that resources will respond directly in to another operational area for an immediate need strike team, per the CAL EMA Strike Team Engine/Task Force Leader Manual, they must be able to reach the incident within 30 minutes from time of dispatch. (30 Minute Criteria will be from the closest resource to the county involved by using a 30 minute driving radius identified in a GIS map layer).

- If the STEN elects to have units respond directly to the scene, **the first unit to arrive on-scene of an incident will attempt to get the strike team assignment and relay that information to the responding STEN.**
- If the STEN elects to have units respond directly to the scene, once the unit arrives on-scene of an incident, each unit will need to contact the North Zone Emergency Communications Center (NCJ) North Comm. to advise they are on scene.
- If the STEN elects to rendezvous and respond together as a unit, the STEN will advise the North Zone Emergency Communications Center (NCJ) North Comm. the strike team is on scene.
- Coordination of resources while assuring unity of command should be a priority.

Assigning the STEN for Out of County/Operational Area Immediate Need:

- The STEN will be the **closest chief geographically located to the incident or event** on the “STEN” rotation schedule **regardless of their status as primary, secondary, or tertiary on the STEN rotation list.**

PLANNED NEED ASSIGNMENTS:

For **planned need inside or outside the County of San Diego**, the STEN will rendezvous at the designated rendezvous location and time. Planned Incident arrival time determines departure time. .

Assigning Units for Planned Need Assignments:

The North Zone Emergency Communications Center (NCJ) will select units from the “Out of Zone/County Planned Need” list. This list will include all of the agencies in North Zone that have units qualified to fill either Type 1 or Type 3 requests. See Attachment B-Out of County “Planned Need” List.

Selection Process:

The dispatcher will simply select five (5) agencies from the “Out of Zone/Out of County Planned Need Agency List” by alternating down the list selecting every other one starting with the first agency where they left off from the last strike team assignment.

Any subsequent requests for Strike Teams (whether it’s the same day or 3 months later), The North Zone Emergency Communications Center (NCJ) North Comm. will simply go to the

NEXT five (5) agencies in order by alternating agency selection every other one starting with the first agency where they left off from the last strike team assignment, and then repeating the process as necessary.

Assigning the STEN for Planned Need requests will be selected from the "STEN" schedule **in order of position on the list, primary, secondary, and tertiary.**

Note: When possible and practical these lists will be available in real time on the North Zone Web site.

STRIKE TEAM/TASK FORCE RENDEZVOUS LOCATIONS:

The following list identifies rendezvous points for Strike Teams/Task Forces leaving the North Zone:

North on I-5:	Cristianitos Road & I-5
North on I-15:	I-15 & Hwy 76 (Park-N-Ride)
East on Hwy 78:	17001 San Pasqual Valley Rd, (San Pasqual Academy)
South on I-15:	16881 West Bernardo Drive (RB Transit Center)
South on I-5	12971 Sorrento Valley Rd (Park-N-Ride)
East on Hwy 76	16971 SR 76 CAL Fire Station 70 (Rincon Station)

PERSONNEL:

Personnel assigned to mutual aid assignments should plan on a minimum 5 days of work for both In-County and Out-Of-County assignments (Note: personnel may be assigned for up to 14 days without relief). A minimum of 3 on-duty personnel shall respond with each engine resource.

RESPONSE INFORMATION:

Personnel will need the following information prior to departure:

- Incident type and name/designation
- Location (map coordinates)
- Travel instructions
- Incident Check-In location/Staging Area
- Reporting Time
- Strike team number and leader
- Other units assigned to the Strike Team/Task Force
- Immediate or planned response
- Communication instructions
- Order and Request number