

# ROGUE VALLEY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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| <b>Document:</b>                     | <b>Mutual Aid On Unprotected Lands</b> |
| <b>Section &amp; #:</b>              | Mobilization #4.02                     |
| <b>Adoption Date / Updated Date:</b> | April 1, 2007 / January 17, 2019       |
| <b>Developed / Updated:</b>          | RVFCA /                                |
| <b>Review Date:</b>                  | April 2021                             |

## Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to clarify the implementation of the Jackson/Josephine Counties Mutual Assistance Agreement relating to assistance given by structural fire protection agencies to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) on unprotected lands. Unprotected Lands shall be described as areas protected by ODF but outside the jurisdictional boundaries of a structural fire protection agency.

## Scope

As a contributing signatory of the RVFCA Mutual Assistance Agreement, ODF provides and receives aid for fire protection services. ODF and the structural agencies desire to continue the strong working relationship that addresses the fire protection needs of Southwest Oregon while being sensitive to the expense and legal issues of response into unprotected lands.

## Standards

1. ODF may request mutual aid resources as defined in the RVFCA Mobilization Plan for one operational period. An operational period is generally defined as 12 hours; however, the IC and Structural Liaison may define the period according to incident requirements. The intent is to provide a point of discussion for cost reimbursement when the need for assistance exceeds a reasonable time.
2. Deployments of mutual-aid resources are available in accordance with the RVFCA Mutual/Automatic Aid Agreement (RVFCA Documentation Manual Section 4.01) and the Rogue Valley Regional Mobilization Plan (RVFCA Documentation Manual Section 4.04) inclusive of all applicable conditions and procedures.
3. Mutual aid for a fire confined to a structure would not normally be requested when there is no potential for the fire to spread beyond the structure of origin.

## Procedure

1. When the request for assistance involves protection of structures, the ODF Incident Commander will request a representative to act as a Structural Liaison to provide advice on the potential threat to structures and the extent to which additional

structural resources may be required. The Structural Liaison may be the structural Incident Commander, local fire chief, or a Fire Defense Board Chief Representative. Structural resources may be provided by the closest fire agency or through the Rogue Valley IMT pool. The ODF Incident Commander and the Structural Liaison will make initial contact and take joint responsibility for determining structural resource or other support needs.

2. The Fire Defense Board Chief(s) shall be notified on all requests for assistance in unprotected areas and may assume liaison responsibilities as the incident dictates. ECSO shall coordinate the notification of the Fire Defense Board Chief as required.
3. Mutual aid assistance will be discontinued when any of the following conditions occur:
  - a. The threat to structures and/or the need for other assistance has been reduced to a level that mutual aid resources are no longer required.
  - b. The one burn period has elapsed.
  - c. The mutual aid resources are re-assigned for local ODF reimbursement.
  - d. The State of Oregon Conflagration Act or other form of response authorization and funding is approved for continued commitment to the incident.
  - e. The agency providing mutual aid resources requests their return.
4. The IC should attempt to accommodate the agency's standard shift change when possible.
5. ODF Reimbursement is possible for extended attack, when assistance is rendered beyond the initial attack period as specified in the current Mutual/Automatic Aid Agreement for Jackson and Josephine Counties, and when such assistance is at the request of Oregon Department of Forestry. These conditions for reimbursement may apply to any ODF protected lands, including those otherwise within the boundaries of a municipality or Rural Fire Protection District.

Mutual Aid Cooperators may seek reimbursement from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Southwest Oregon (SWO) District, when the following conditions exist.

- a. The Cooperator is a participant in the RVFCA Mutual/Automatic Aid Agreement for Jackson and Josephine Counties.
- b. ODF SWO has requested specific resources from the Cooperator to either become or remain engaged at the incident and agreed to reimburse the full costs of the personnel and equipment, beyond the initial attack period and terms.
- c. The Cooperator Resources will be an incident resource and under the operational control of the Incident Commander or ODF representative during the duration of their assignment.

- d. Cooperator Resources will complete an ODF Shift Ticket at the conclusion of each shift to the ODF Representative, or Incident Commander & should be named on all incident action plans to be generated in extended attack.
- e. If the Cooperator has personnel that are fully qualified in their position on the incident but are volunteer status with the sending agency. The Cooperator should invoice ODF at the Administratively Determined rate, specified by ODF for that position, for that volunteer's time. The statewide annual AD rates for positions are available through ODF, pre-season.
- f. Cooperator Resources should be invoice ODF promptly within 30 days of the assignment for direct personnel and equipment costs. These invoices, along with a copy of the completed ODF Shift Ticket will be submitted to:

ODF SWO District  
ATTN: Office Manager  
5286 Table Rock Rd  
Central Point, OR 97502