

**MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT
(WITH AUTOMATIC AID PROVISIONS)
FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

This Agreement is entered into between the undersigned Fire Protection Districts, Regional Fire Authorities and Cities all of which are municipal corporations of the State of Washington.

RECITALS

1. This agreement is entered into under the authority of RCW 52.12.031, 35.22.280, 35A.38.010 and chapter 39.34 RCW, the Interlocal Cooperation Act.
2. Each of the parties owns and maintains equipment for the suppression of fires and for the supplying of emergency medical services. Each of the parties also retains firefighting and emergency medical service personnel who are trained to provide various levels of fire suppression and emergency medical services.
3. The geographical boundaries of each party are located in such a manner as to enable each party to render automatic or mutual aid service to the other.
4. In the event of a major fire, disaster, or other emergency, each of the parties may need the assistance of the other party to provide supplemental fire suppression and emergency medical service equipment and personnel.

AGREEMENT

The parties, to carry out the purposes and functions described above and in consideration of the benefits to be received by each of the parties, agree as follows:

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this Agreement is to improve the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services within the respective jurisdictions of the Parties hereto by facilitating Automatic and Mutual Aid and assistance. The Parties desire to furnish rescue, fire protection, hazardous materials and medical personnel, equipment, materials, and other supplies, and to render such fire protection, rescue, hazardous materials and medical services to each other as may be necessary to suppress fires, control and contain hazardous materials and/or other emergencies of a magnitude that has developed or appears probable to develop beyond the control of a single party which therefore requires the combined forces of the parties hereto.

2. PARTIES

- 2.1. This Agreement is entered into between Clark County Fire Districts No. 3, 6, 10 and 13, East County Fire and Rescue, Clark Cowlitz Fire and Rescue, and the Cities of Camas-Washougal and Vancouver.

3. TERM

- 3.1. This Agreement shall become effective on the date executed by two or more parties and shall continue until such time as all Parties to this Agreement withdraw.
- 3.2. This Agreement may be terminated by any Party giving written notice to all other parties with thirty (30) days written notice of termination.

4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1. "**Incident Commander**" means the individual designated by the Requesting Agency charged with overall management and command of an emergency incident pursuant to the National Incident Management System.
- 4.2. "**Mutual Aid**" means the provision of such apparatus, personnel, and equipment as reasonably necessary and available to assist a Requesting Agency in matters relating to the Services as needed by a Requesting Agency.
- 4.3. "**Requesting Agency**" means a Party who is a party to this Agreement and has made a request for Mutual Aid from one or more other Party(s) pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.
- 4.4. "**Responding Agency**" means a Party who is a party to this Agreement and has thereby agreed to provide Mutual Aid to another jurisdiction pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 4.5. "**Automatic Aid**" means an automatic response by one Party into the jurisdiction of another Party in the manner established in Section 5.1 herein.
- 4.6. "**Services**" means the provision of rescue, fire protection, hazardous materials and medical personnel, equipment, materials, and other supplies, and to render such fire protection, rescue, hazardous materials and medical services to each other as may be necessary to suppress fires, control and contain hazardous materials and/or other emergencies of a magnitude that has developed or appears probable to develop beyond the control of a single party which therefore requires the combined forces of the parties hereto.

5. AUTOMATIC AID

- 5.1. Automatic Aid responses shall only apply to pre-determined event types and situations established by the Chiefs of the parties pursuant to the following procedure:
 - a. The Chief of each party, or the Chief's authorized representative, shall from time to time mutually establish a series of response plans that are preprogrammed into the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency CAD. These plans shall determine those alarms to which the other party shall respond

on first alarm and on subsequent alarms. The plans shall set forth the following information:

- i. A description for how each event type will be processed (i.e. for Priority 1 and Priority 2 calls the closest available unit will be sent regardless of agency jurisdiction);
- ii. Description of equipment and designation of companies to respond to each alarm.

6. REQUESTS FOR MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE.

- 6.1. The commanding officer of the Requesting Agency or the officer in charge of a fire unit or an emergency medical service unit at the scene of an emergency, of any party, is authorized to request Mutual Aid assistance from the other parties if confronted with an emergency situation at which the Requesting Agency has need for equipment or personnel in excess of that available at the Requesting Agency's fire department.

7. RESPONSE TO REQUEST.

- 7.1. Upon receipt of a request for Mutual Aid, the commanding officer of the Responding Agency receiving the request, shall immediately take the following action:
 - a. Determine if the Responding Agency has equipment and personnel available to respond to the Requesting Agency and determine the nature of the equipment and number of personnel available.
 - b. Determine what available equipment and what available personnel should be dispatched in accordance with the operating plans and procedures established by the parties.
 - c. In the event the needed equipment and personnel are available, to dispatch such equipment and personnel to the scene of the emergency with proper operating instructions.
 - d. In the event the needed equipment and personnel are not available, to immediately advise the Requesting Agency of such fact.
 - e. The Parties recognize that time is critical during an emergency and diligent efforts will be made to respond to a request for Mutual Aid as rapidly as possible, including any notification(s) that requested resources are not available.
- 7.2. Any response to a request for mutual aid shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (a). Such assistance does not jeopardize or reduce the level of protection necessary to carry out the entity's fire and emergency medical protection responsibilities. No party to this Agreement shall be required to make equipment and personnel available, nor to remain on in response, to any other requesting party where doing so would create an unreasonable danger to the lives or property of that party's community.
- (b) All parties recognize the need to provide properly trained and equipped personnel to respond to mutual aid emergencies. Each party acknowledges that appropriate training of personnel is necessary, shall be ongoing, and must be upgraded to ensure the qualifications, performance, efficiency, and safety of personnel responding to mutual aid emergencies. The Incident Commander or designee shall have the right to dismiss any personnel and/or equipment from the scene of a mutual aid emergency that, in the opinion of the Incident Commander or designee, do not meet the needs and/or requirements of the emergency. Furthermore, all incoming mutual aid departments shall have the right to leave a mutual aid scene, if they feel an incident is not being conducted in a safe and proper manner, to include the use of the Incident Command System.

8. COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY AT EMERGENCY SCENE.

- 8.1. The Incident Commander of the Requesting Agency shall be in command of the emergency and all equipment and personnel sent to them, regardless of origin; provided, that the responding equipment and personnel shall be under the immediate supervision of the officer in charge of the responding apparatus. The operational command, however, may be relinquished to the senior officer of any fire department rendering assistance under the terms of this Agreement.
- 8.2. If the officer-in-charge of the Requesting Agency shall not have arrived at the incident the officer-in-charge of the Responding Agency shall be in command of the fire or incident until the arrival of the officer-in-charge of the Requesting Agency and during such time shall exercise all lawful authority of the fire officer-in-charge of such area.
- 8.3. Each party agrees to use the Incident Command System (ICS) for all Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid requests and responses.
- 8.4. The equipment and personnel of the Responding Agency shall be released from service and returned to the Responding Agency by the Incident Commander as soon as conditions may warrant. When releasing personnel and/or equipment the Incident Commander shall first release the incoming mutual aid companies if the needs can be met with the requesting agency's equipment and/or personnel.

9. COOPERATION.

91. The personnel of each of the departments participating in this Agreement are invited and encouraged on a reciprocal basis to visit each other's facility for guided familiarity tours and, as feasible, to jointly conduct planning inspections and drills.
92. The commanding officers of the parties may, from time to time, mutually establish pre-emergency plans which shall indicate the types of and locations of potential problem areas where emergency assistance may be needed, the optimal type of equipment that should be dispatched under various possible circumstances, and the optimal number of personnel that should be dispatched under the existing circumstances.

10. COMPENSATION/EMPLOYEES/VOLUNTEERS

101. Each party agrees that it will not seek compensation for services rendered under this agreement from the other parties; provided, however, that the party requesting assistance shall attempt to obtain financial assistance from federal and state agencies where financial assistance is available to reimburse the assisting party(s) for losses or damages incurred in supplying Automatic or Mutual Aid under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit any Party to this Agreement from seeking civil damages from any third-party individual or entity which may have been responsible for the emergency conditions for which aid was requested.
102. No employee or volunteer of a Responding Agency shall be deemed to be a loaned servant, employee, agent or volunteer of the Requesting Agency or any other Party. No Party shall assume any liability for the direct payment of any salary, wage, compensation, stipend, or other payment to any of the other Party's personnel performing services hereunder or for any other liability not expressly assumed herein. No agent, employee, volunteer, or other representative of the parties shall be deemed an agent, employee, or other representative of the other Parties for any reason.

11. LIABILITY, INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS

- 11.1. **No Liability for Responding Agency.** Except as expressly provided herein, no Party shall be liable for (i) failure to comply with any provision of this Agreement, or (ii) liability arising from providing or refusing to provide Mutual Aid or Automatic Aid under this Agreement.
- 11.2. **Mutual Releases.** Except as specifically provided herein, each Party hereby forever releases or discharges each other Party, its officers, officials, employees, volunteers and/or agents from any claim related to this Agreement or providing Mutual or Automatic Aid hereunder.
- 11.3. **Liability to Other Parties - Damage or Destruction to Apparatus or Equipment.** Except as expressly provided herein, the Requesting Agency or any other Party shall not be obligated to pay the Responding Agency or any other Party

for any damage to or destruction of any apparatus or equipment used in Automatic or Mutual Aid. This provision shall not apply to the extent this provision would void applicable casualty insurance available to provide payment for the damage or loss of such apparatus or equipment. It is the intent of the Parties that the risk of loss to apparatus or equipment will be addressed by each Party through the purchase of casualty Insurance as opposed to seeking reimbursement from other Parties.

- 11.4. **Liability to Third Parties.** The term "third party" means any person, firm or entity other than the Parties hereto. With regard to the Automatic or Mutual Aid provided hereunder, each Party shall be responsible for all liability arising from or related to the negligent acts or willful conduct of that Party, its officers, officials, employees, volunteers and/or agents which causes damage to third parties, to the extent and in proportion that such liability is caused by the negligent acts or willful misconduct of that Party, its officers, officials, employees, volunteers and/or agents.
- 11.5. **Cross Indemnification.** To the extent permitted by law, each Party agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the other Parties, their officers, officials, employees, volunteers and/or agents from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, lawsuits, costs, including attorneys' fees, losses, judgments, awards or liabilities to any third party, arising out of the negligent acts or willful conduct of the indemnifying Party, its officers, officials, employees, volunteers and/or agents In connection with the performance of this Agreement. It is further specifically and expressly understood that the indemnification provided herein constitutes each Party's waiver of immunity under industrial insurance, Title 51 RCW, solely to carry out the purposes of this indemnification clause. The parties further acknowledge that they have mutually negotiated this waiver.
- 11.6. **Survival.** The provisions of this Section shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement, by any Party.

12. INSURANCE.

- 12.1. **Liability and Casualty Insurance.** For the duration of this Agreement, each Party shall maintain its own public liability and property damage insurance with amounts of coverage as solely determined by each respective Party against claims for injuries to persons or damage to property, which may arise from or in connection with the performance of this Agreement by its officers, officials, employees, or volunteers. This insurance requirement may be satisfied by a policy or policies of insurance or a self-insurance retention program adopted by a Party.
- 12.2. **No Industrial Insurance Requirement.** It is expressly understood that no Party shall be responsible to provide any other Party's employees or volunteers with coverage required under Title 51 RCW or Chapter 41.24 RCW, as the same now exists or may be hereafter amended.
- 12.3. **Waiver of Subrogation.** To the extent permitted by the applicable insurance policies, each Party hereby waives any right of subrogation against the other

Parties. In this regard each Party utilizing a self-insurance retention program waives subrogation for any payment thereunder.

13. PURCHASE CONTRACTS/BIDDING.

- 13.1. This Agreement is intended to constitute the Interlocal Agreement required by RCW 39.04.030 for utilizing other Parties' purchase contracts. Whenever possible, a Party that solicits bids for equipment and material purchases will conduct its solicitation in a manner that will allow other Parties to utilize its purchase contract. To enable other Parties to utilize this benefit, the initial contracting Party shall:
- a. Comply with the public bidding laws of the State of Washington as they apply to such Party.
 - b. Provide in its bid specifications or contract documents that other municipal corporations may utilize the contract for independent purchases.
 - c. Either (i) post the bid or solicitation notice on a web site established and maintained by a government, purchasing cooperative or similar service provider or (ii) provide an access link to the state's web portal to the notice.

14. MISCELLANEOUS.

- 14.1. **No Separate Entity Created.** This Agreement does not establish a separate legal entity, joint board, or administrative section for the purpose of acquiring, managing, or disposing of property, or any other financial obligation allowed under the Act.
- 14.2. **Administration.** Unless the Parties otherwise agree, there shall be no lead agency responsible for the administration of this Agreement. This Agreement shall be administered jointly by the chief officers of the respective Parties.
- 14.3. **Property Ownership.** This Agreement does not provide for jointly owned property. All property presently owned or hereafter acquired by a party to this Agreement to enable it to perform the services required under this Agreement, shall remain the property of that Party in the event of the termination of this Agreement.
- 14.4. **Equipment Salvage.** All personnel involved in a response under the Agreement shall exercise due diligence in salvaging lost or damaged equipment and ensuring that it is returned to its rightful owner.
- 14.5. **Assignment.** None of the Parties to this Mutual Aid Agreement may assign any of their duties, rights, or responsibilities under this Agreement without the express written consent of the other Parties. This restriction on assignment shall not apply to the formation of a new entity between parties.
- 14.6. **Amendments.** No modification, termination or amendment of this Agreement may be made except by written agreement signed by all Parties.

- 14.7. **Governing Law and Venue.** This Agreement shall be deemed to be made and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington. Jurisdiction and venue for any action arising out of this Agreement shall lie exclusively in Clark County, Washington.
- 14.8. **Attorney Fees.** Should any Party bring suit to enforce any provision of this Agreement, the prevailing Party in such litigation shall be entitled to recover its costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.
- 14.9. **Dispute Resolution.** In the event a dispute or disagreement arises among the parties to this Agreement, an involved party may request a mediation meeting by notifying the remaining parties in writing.
- 14.10. **Non-Exclusive Agreement.** The parties to this agreement shall not be precluded from entering into similar agreements or first response agreements with other municipal corporations.
- 14.11. **Benefits.** This agreement is entered into for the benefit of the Parties to this Agreement only and shall confer no benefits, direct or implied, on any third persons.
- 14.12. **Invalidation.** In the event any portion of this Agreement is ruled invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is the intent of the parties that the remainder of this Agreement remains in effect.
- 14.13. **Interlocal Act.** This is an Agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 39.34 RCW. Its purpose is as set forth in Section 1. Its duration and method of termination is as specified in Sections 3 (Term). Its manner of financing is set forth in Section 10 (Compensation/Employees/Volunteers). No property shall be acquired pursuant to this Agreement which will need to be disposed of upon partial or complete termination of this Agreement.
- 14.14. **Document Execution and Posting.** The Parties agree that there shall be eight (8) originals of this Agreement procured and distributed for signature by the necessary officials of the parties. Upon execution, one executed original of this Agreement shall be retained by each Party hereto. The Vancouver City Clerk shall cause a copy of this Agreement to be posted on the City website pursuant to Chapter 32, Laws of Washington 2006 (RCW 39.34.040). Upon execution of the originals and posting of a copy on the City's website, each such duplicate original shall constitute an agreement binding upon both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed in their respective names by their duly authorized officers.

Clark County Fire District No. 3

By: *Scott Sorenson*
Scott Sorenson, Fire Chief

Dated: November 7, 2022

Clark County Fire District No. 6

By: *Kristan Maurer*
Kristan Maurer, Fire Chief

Dated: November 7th, 2022

Clark County Fire District 13

By: *Shawn Ford*
Shawn Ford, Fire Chief

Dated: 11/8/2022

Clark County Fire District 10

By: *Sam Arola*
Sam Arola, Fire Chief

Dated: 11-8-22

East County Fire Rescue

By: *Mike Carnes*
Mike Carnes, Fire Chief

Dated: 11-8-2022

Clark Cowlitz Fire & Rescue

By: *John Nohr*
John Nohr, Fire Chief

Dated: 11-8-2022

Camas-Washougal Fire Department

By: *Cliff Free*
Cliff Free, Fire Chief

Dated: 11-8-2022

Vancouver Fire Department

By: *Brennan Blue*
Brennan Blue, Fire Chief

Dated: 11-7-2022

