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HAMILTON COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS INCIDENT SUPPORT TEAM (IST)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Hamilton County Incident Support Team (IST) is to provide geographically or regional support to municipalities and that have no Fire or EMS coverage due to an emergency incident within their or neighboring community. These incidents can include but are not limited to:

- Two alarm of greater fire
- Large scale and prolonged technical rescue
- Mass casualty incident
- Major Incidents, USAR, Haz-Mat
- Prolonged Incident with resources unavailable to respond to other emergencies

The primary mission of the IST is to relocate Fire and EMS resources to depleted areas due to prolonged emergency incident(s). This group reports directly to the executive board of the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association. This group comprises Chief Officers and support staff from departments with a specific interest in being a part of the group

INTENT:

The intent is to provide support functions for all fire departments in Hamilton County. The mission is to strategically move Fire and EMS units around the county to ensure that residents of Hamilton County have at least a minimum of services available to them during times of large-scale incidents. With current staffing situations, a significant part of Hamilton County can have all emergency services committed to one incident and nothing left for additional response. This is where the IST offers the benefit of not allowing that to happen. Moving units on those rare occasions can keep all properties safe. Secondly, it will help protect our firefighters by getting more apparatus on the road faster than staying in their respective stations.

For example, if Harrison FD responded to a large fire and their standard response card would pull a lot of units from the west side of Hamilton County, there would be many areas of Miami Township, Whitewater Township, and Crosby Township dispatched as an automatic alarm to Harrison. In that case, with staffing levels the way they are, second companies likely will not have a full crew to respond to another emergency. Then The Hamilton County Communications Center (HCCC) would have to move down the list of units until they find the next available unit. It could come from as far as Springfield Township, which can be 15-20 minutes response time. Using this system, we can move units forward from the following outlying departments to fill some stations. That way, we leave in-place some communities and leave others in place to

evenly distribute resources during emergency incident. This reduces initial response and gets help to those in need sooner.

INCIDENT SUPPORT TEAM ACTIVATION:

The Incident Support Team will be notified of all greater alarms to allocate resources as move-ups for regional coverage as noted in the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Situational Awareness Policy. Regional coverage is meant to provide resources for a geographic section of Hamilton County that has its units committed to an emergency, thus providing services in case the need should arise. This group will communicate with HCCC on an alternate talk group to coordinate resources moved to a geographical location.

This group will be notified when the following emergency incident occurs;

Greater Alarms 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and activation of the following specialized resources.

- Hamilton County USAR
- Command 400
- Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials
- Mass Casualty Incident
- Any time a Fire Chief or Hamilton County Communications Center believes there is a need to notify this group.
- Airport Incident Including Signal 500

Point of Contact:

There shall be one point of contact for the IST to remain in constant contact with HCCC to work through the plan.

PROCESS:

Once the Incident Support Team realizes a large-scale event in progress, they will advise HCCC that they are online and manage the resource allocation. The IST will take into account two primary factors when considering dispatching resources for move-ups.

- First, will the current emergency incident require additional resources?
- Second, will the area with depleted Fire and EMS service have an on-scene time greater than 8 minutes?

These two primary factors will determine the resource type and amount of resources required to manage other emergency incidents in Hamilton County.

- The IST will request a fire ground for communications with HCCC and move-up units. Resources being moved into another firehouse will receive directions on how to access the firehouse they are assigned. Each agency responds differently to emergency incidents. The IST may have to deploy moved-up resources to an emergency incident over the assigned fire ground.
- HCCC will announce via HC ALL CALL the move-up resources and their new destination. These communications will allow for District and Company Officers to have situational awareness.
- HCCC will change each resource's home address to their move-up assigned address. This change will assist with CAD decision-making for the deployment of resources and should remove the moved-up company from being dispatch back into their home geographical area. Once the move-up resource has been released, the company officer and IST will coordinate with HCCC to ensure that all home addresses return to normal operations.

- Recall: An agency shall activate its recall system to staff its fire station during an emergency if they currently use the recall system. Once the department recall level achieves proper staffing, they will notify HCCC that their unit is available for emergency incidents and will be placed AV/AIQ via CAD. Departments will notify HCCC via radio if that resources are available for mutual aid incidents or not. This information will assist the IST with decision-making on relocating fire and EMS units.

Example: Milford E-71 is moving-up to Woodlawn St. 96, they officer of E-71 should understand that they may be responding to incidents in Woodlawn and other surrounding communities. The IST will monitor incidents and assist with managing the assigned resources.

EXPECTATIONS:

The expectation is for Hamilton County Fire Departments to work together and make the county a safe place to be. This program is fully intended to provide Fire, EMS, and all other emergencies services to anyone in the county. If any departments do not wish to participate in this process, you retain that right. It will work better if we all work together. There is a complete understanding that crew staffing is a vital part of being available to move units. Which is a focal point of developing this plan. We must protect our firefighters to the best of our ability. Having one engine left to protect 4 or 5 communities is just not safe. Especially when the next unit is responding from 20 minutes away.

This is a document that is meant to be modified as time goes on.