



Fire Department

8401 E. Indian School Road
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September 15th, 2021

To: Gary Neiss, Town Manager, Carefree Arizona
Town Council, Carefree Arizona

Re: Mutual Aid

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your request for information regarding potential assumption of Fire and EMS services within an all-hazards automatic aid contract. Recently, during schedule Town of Carefree Public Safety Advisory Committee meetings the assumption has been made by some committee members that the Town of Carefree has adequate coverage for Fire and EMS services and that in the event of larger incidents the mutual aid system with supplement Carefree's need for resources. It is important that I clarify what exactly the Town of Carefree might experience in the event of an incident that requires the activation of the mutual aid relationship with Scottsdale.

On August 24th, 2021 the City of Scottsdale adopted Resolution No. 12159 approving Agreement No. 2021-056-COS which renews the mutual aid relationship with Rural Metro Fire Department Inc. (RMFD) The City has no such agreement with the Town of Carefree. The mutual aid relationship with RMFD provides that Scottsdale Fire Department (SFD) may respond to calls for help received from the Fire Chief of Rural/Metro or other authorized person in command of or responsible for the fire protection provided by Rural/Metro; provided, however, that the response is to be given only when the SFD is not otherwise occupied and only when the services of the responding unit can be spared by the SFD with a margin of safety to protect the citizens and property of the City. Rural/Metro agrees not to call for such help unless (a) the fire, medical emergency or rescue is of such a nature that it cannot be handled by its equipment due to resources being committed to other fires, medical emergencies or rescues simultaneously, or (b) due to the geographical distance to the call for service, it would be in the interest of public safety to seek assistance from a closer provider. The Scottsdale Fire Department would likely respond if life safety is imminently threatened and would only assume supportive functions (defensive) if RMFD is on scene as the primary responder. This means that we would very sparingly take an offensive firefighting posture outside our response jurisdiction and may not respond if RMFD service delivery area property is threatened. It is highly unlikely that the SFD would request resources from the RMFD within a City of Scottsdale service delivery area.

Your current provider and the City of Scottsdale measure ourselves against the same standards for organization and deployment of fire service operations. That standard, NFPA 1710 Standard 2020, specifically 5.2.4.1.1, Single-Family Dwelling Initial Full Alarm Assignment Capability, addresses the initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire of approx. 2000 sqft. Requires the following.

1. Establishment of Incident Command and a dedicated Incident Commander, 1 person.
2. Establishment of an uninterrupted water supply maintained by a pump operator, 1 person



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3. Establishment of effective water flow from two hand lines operated by two firefighters, 4 persons
4. Provision of one support member for each back up line, 2 persons.
5. Provision of one search and rescue team consisting of 2 firefighters, 2 persons.
6. Provision of one team to raise ground ladders, 2 persons.
7. If aerial ladders are required, 1 person to operate that apparatus.
8. Establishment of OSHA required Rapid Intervention Crew, 4 persons.

These single dwelling fire requirements total an effective response force with a minimum of 16 personnel. Any commercial structure would require 28 firefighting personnel.

This reality guarantees that in every instance of a fire call for service RMFD would not be able to meet the response criteria within the reasonable time standard in Carefree or any of their Maricopa County Service delivery areas due to the geographic location of RMFD resources. They would only be able to do so if Scottsdale, Phoenix and Daisy Mountain guaranteed their response. That guarantee only comes within the automatic aid agreement and is not assured within the mutual aid relationship.

In the event of a critical care emergency medical calls beyond a single patient care scenario (multi patient vehicle accidents, multi casualty incidents, etc.) an adequate response to achieve optimal patient care would necessitate the use of mutual aid resources. Those resources would again only respond if Scottsdale resources were available and would not place the citizens or visitors of Scottsdale in jeopardy.

No discussion has been had regarding special operations calls such as HazMat, Technical Rescue, etc. in Carefree. To my knowledge your current provider has no technical level capabilities to respond to such calls and would again require mutual aid resources. Scottsdale has a finite number of special operations resources and they are dedicated to automatic aid responses. Mutual aid support from Scottsdale for the use of those resources would be very rare and only if life safety threats exist.

Based on the dialogue during the public meetings and the commentary in the meeting minutes, I felt it necessary to provide greater clarity to Carefree management and the members of your public safety advisory committee and town council for service delivery expectations from the Scottsdale Fire Department in Carefree within the context of our mutual aid agreement with Rural Metro.

Best Regards,

Tom Shannon
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