

OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Fire Chief Robert Ojeda

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager; Andrew Martin, City Attorney
James Campbell, External Relations Director; File

SUBJECT: Alamo Area Council of Government Mutual Regional Aid Agreement

DATE: March 11, 2004

Summary and Recommendation

This ordinance approves the terms and conditions and authorizes the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City of San Antonio and municipalities throughout the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) Region for mutual aid when requested in response to an event where assistance is required.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

Background

The proposed AACOG Regional Mutual Aid (RMA) agreement was created in November 2003 and designed to better address the possibility of a Weapons of Mass Destruction type incident. The program was developed to assist cities and counties to more effectively and efficiently exchange services and resources among municipalities within the AACOG region in response to a disaster event or events, where assistance is required. The proposed RMA agreement will not interfere with existing state or local mutual aid agreements or programs such as the countywide "Catastrophic Mutual Aid Agreement" of which the San Antonio Fire Department is a participant. Unlike the Catastrophic Mutual Aid Agreement entered into by the San Antonio Fire Department, the AACOG Regional Mutual Aid Agreement will transcend the aforementioned agreement and may include all city departments. The agreement is also designed to resolve inconsistencies and uncertainties concerning insurance and liability coverage of emergency workers when deployed from one jurisdiction to another. Additionally, it takes full advantage of opportunities for federal/state reimbursement of deployment related costs. The Department of Homeland Security/Office of Domestic Preparedness has mandated that jurisdictions must participate in regional mutual aid agreements in order to remain eligible to receive current and future homeland security related grant funding.

In addition to the effective and efficient movement of resources between governmental entities throughout the AACOG region, the execution of the RMA agreement will facilitate the process to secure potential reimbursement of deployment related costs from the requesting agency or the reimbursement of allowable costs from state or federal agencies in the event of a federal disaster declaration. Furthermore, the agreement has the active support of all local governments and professional emergency responder member organizations in the AACOG region.

Policy Analysis

The Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee of AACOG, with representation from COSA, finalized the Regional Mutual Aid Agreement in November 2003. This agreement, along with Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations Level training for first responders, is required to qualify for \$5.1 million in federal formula grants and up to \$6.3 million in Urban Areas Security Initiatives grants.

The scope of the proposed agreement is to provide any assistance available from a municipality or county government to another entity. The agreement may be activated in the event of either:

- a) A declaration of a local state of disaster;
- b) The finding of a state of civil emergency by the Emergency Management Director of the governing body of a party;
- c) A Homeland Security Activity.

During a disaster event, a regional "Mutual Aid Event Agreement" can be quickly developed and executed so that the specific manpower and equipment resources to be provided as well as the terms and conditions of the assistance to be provided will be identified and officially agreed upon by both the "Requesting" and "Assisting" parties.

The parties agree that responses to emergencies or disasters will be only within the AACOG region as specified in the proposed agreement. Furthermore, it shall be at the assisting entity's discretion to determine their ability to honor the request for mutual aid from the requesting entity.

Financial Impact

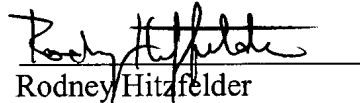
Expenses incurred when responding to events not designated a federal disaster shall be the responsibility of the requesting entity. Expenses incurred during a declared federal disaster are eligible for reimbursement. Under a declared federal disaster, the City of San Antonio would submit the required documentation for reimbursement.

Coordination

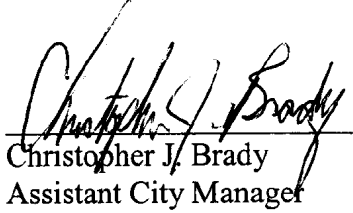
This item has been coordinated with External Relations Office, Health Department, Police Department, Public Works, Environmental Services, Code Compliance, Department of Community Initiatives, Finance, Alamo Area Council of Government and the Office of the City Attorney.



Robert Ojeda
Fire Chief



Rodney Hitzfelder
Interim Emergency Management Coordinator



Christopher J. Brady
Assistant City Manager

APPROVED:



Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager