

2021

SFFMA Leadership Development Program

External Relationships and Agreements



Presented by
Mike Montgomery
Lieutenant

Northwest Volunteer Fire Department



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Learning Objectives

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- **Concepts**

- Define and identify external relationships
- Identify desirable characteristics of external relationships
- Define and describe types of external agreements
- Compare and contrast mutual and automatic aid

- **Application**

- Establish and maintain desirable external relationships
- Include external relationships in the planning process
- Write effective external agreements



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Instructor information

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- **34 years fire service experience**

- Master Structural Firefighter, Inspector, & Investigator
- BBA: Texas A&M and AAS: Lone Star College
- Consultant, Training Specialist, and Type III IMT Specialist

MSM

Michael S. Montgomery LLC
public safety consultants



TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING
TEEX
EXTENSION SERVICE

- Former Chief Officer, Firefighter, and Logistics Specialist



- Serve on several advisory boards, councils, & committees

- **24 years private sector experience**



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The Risk Assessment Process

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Communities can use the Risk Assessment process to answer



What do we need to prepare for?



What level of capability do we need to be prepared?



What are our current capabilities?



What gaps exist between the capabilities we currently have and the capabilities we need?



How can we address our capability gaps?

Source: CPG 201: THIRA/SPR Guide—3rd Edition, FEMA, May 2018



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External relationships

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- Do you consider, develop, evaluate, and maintain external relationships and processes?
- With whom?



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- Who knows what I need to know ?
- Who needs to know what I know?
- Who knows what I don't know I need to know?
- Who needs to know what I know, but doesn't realize it yet ?



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- Are they included in your strategic plan ?
- Do they support your purpose, mission, operations ?
- What is their impact or benefit?
- Are they cost-effective ?
- Is there a conflict resolution process ?



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Take a Break



External agreements

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- **Do you have written agreements for ... ?**
 - Dispatch ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - EMS ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - Emergency Management ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - Fire suppression ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - Prevention / Investigation ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - Special Operations ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - Training facilities ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - Other ☐ Yes ☐ No
- **Are they for mutual or automatic aid ?**



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Mutual or automatic aid ?

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Mutual aid

Assistance that is dispatched upon request

Automatic aid

Assistance that is dispatched automatically on a first alarm assignment



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Reimbursement and Mutual Aid

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- **"Solito negotium" or "business as usual"**
 - Must be in a written agreement
 - If you don't charge for mutual aid, you won't be reimbursed by the State of FEMA for mutual aid
- **Typical agreement language should provide for:**
 - Reimbursement of costs
 - A "no cost" period, usually 12 consecutive hours
 - A "reimbursement from available funds" clause
- **No agreement? Tx Gov't Code 418, Subchapter E-1**



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Advantages of Automatic aid

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- **Response by closest unit**
- **Avoid apparatus duplication**
- **Reach effective response force levels**
- **Share specialty services.**
- **Increase availability of staff officers for ICS**
- **Improve ISO class rating**



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Automatic aid and ISO

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- **ISO will recognize an automatic-aid plan:**
 - Must fill a need
 - May include firefighters only, or firefighters + apparatus
 - Must be prearranged according to plan and dispatched on the initial alarm
 - Must be provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
 - Preferable to have a written agreement
 - Should have common radio channels and SOP/SOGs



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Service agreements

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- **Introduction and recitals**
- **Contract period, renewal, and termination**
- **Definitions**
- **Representations and responsibilities**
- **Services to be provided**
- **Financial responsibilities and capital assets**
- **Insurance, indemnification, and insurance proceeds**
- **Reports**
- **Miscellaneous**
- **Exhibits**



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- How often are agreements reviewed and revised ?
- Formal process to manage, review, and revise ?
- Formal performance review of needs and actions ?



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Given this discussion on external systems

- **Are you able to . . . ?**
 - Define and identify external relationships and their types
 - Identify desirable characteristics of external relationships
 - Compare and contrast mutual and automatic aid
 - Write effective external agreements

