

Provision of Mutual **Emergency Response** Assistance Between QAS and QFES

Effective 01/01/2014

Application: This agreement applies to:

- Fire officers employed under the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990*
- Ambulance officers employed under the *Ambulance Service Act 1991*

All volunteers of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) must be made aware of their responsibilities and commitments in this area and the part they can play in meeting these responsibilities.

Purpose

The aim of this Agreement is to outline requirements for mutual emergency response assistance provided between QAS officers and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) officers when life threatening or emergency response situations exist.

Rationale

Incidents will occur where life threatening and, or emergency situations exist and emergency response assistance between QAS and QFES is required to ensure the best possible public safety (including patient) outcome can be achieved through the prudent cooperation of available emergency service resources.

The extent to which assistance is provided will depend on the life threatening or emergency response situations of each specific request for assistance.

To facilitate inter-service understanding and cooperation, the Commissioner QAS and Commissioner QFES have agreed to the following state-wide policy for mutual emergency response assistance.

Policy

1. QAS and QFES will provide mutual emergency response assistance to each other to ensure that the best possible public safety outcome can be achieved in responding to and managing emergency incidents.
2. QFES agree to provide assistance to QAS when emergency response situations exist but it is not the policy of QFES to engage in an automatic First Responder role.
3. Any assistance provided by either QAS or QFES is dependent upon:
 - a) Other requests to either QAS or QFES to respond to any immediate emergency situation
 - b) Maintenance of safe working conditions
 - c) The extent of skills and training received by individual officers providing mutual emergency response assistance
 - d) The specific circumstances and level of assistance required at the emergency incident.

Review Date: 01/01/2016



4. The extent of assistance provided will be determined by the QFES Incident Controller (IC) and the QAS on-scene Controller. It is expected that incident controllers will effectively liaise with, and coordinate mutual on-scene emergency response assistance.
5. Where a QFES crew is on scene prior to the arrival of the ambulance, the QFES IC will ensure care is provided to a patient consistent to the level of training of the crew and will establish contact through Firecom with the ambulance communications centre.
6. The current dispatch protocols utilised by the QAS and QFES CAD systems in regards to mutual assistance at incidents being required will remain unchanged.
7. The QAS and QFES communication centres will keep in close liaison for the duration of the incident requiring mutual assistance.
8. Wherever possible, QAS and QFES officers should strive to be familiar with the operational requirements, equipment and vehicles of each service as it operates in their local geographic area.
9. QAS will respond and standby at emergency incidents, particularly where there is a high risk of injury or illness to QFES staff and/or the public providing there is current operational capability.
10. If operational staff are concerned that they are being responded to incidents that are not in the spirit of this Agreement they should fill out the attached "Breach of Agreement Report" with all details of the specific incident and lodge that form with Regional Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners. (The form is attached to this document).

Note:

- ◊ Request for support for SES volunteers will be determined on the scale and complexity of an incident.

Relevant Legislation, Policy and Guidelines

Ambulance Service Act 1991
Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990

Glossary

Word	Definition
Emergency Response Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇒ The nature of the incident is life threatening and requires an emergency response to provide public safety and/or patient care, and/or⇒ Resources are overwhelmed and are not capable of responding to all emergency response requests.
On-scene Controller Incident Controller (IC)	For QAS – the most senior officer present at scene For QFES – the officer who, in accordance with QFES policy, is the Incident Controller.

For Assistance Contact

Business Unit	Phone number
Executive Officer, QAS State LASN Operations	(07) 3635 3063
Executive Officer, QFES Deputy Commissioner Operations	(07) 3635 3048



RUSSELL BOWLES ASM
COMMISSIONER
QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

11.4.14



LEE A JOHNSON AFSM MIFIREE
COMMISSIONER
QUEENSLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

6/3/14

PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

POTENTIAL BREACH OF AGREEMENT REPORT

To: Assistant Commissioner QFES <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Commissioner QFES <input type="checkbox"/>	From: Responding Officer Station
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Date: _____

Re: _____

This report is submitted to outline a perceived breach of the intent of the QFES – QAS Mutual Emergency Response Assistance Policy.

INCIDENT DETAILS

Incident Number: _____

Date of Incident: / /

Incident Report attached: Yes No

Circumstances: (outline the circumstances of the incident)

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Signature