Local 975 Proposal to Ensure the Safety of Members Operating at an Auto Aid Structure Fire Incident

05/07/2019

Due to concerns for firefighter safety, the AFA is against any Auto Aid agreement that does not ensure adherence to A101 by all partners. After discussions with AFD management, the AFA is concerned that the Executive team is adamant about including language that would allow deviation from a consistent set of policies followed by all auto aid partners. If management is insistent on going down this dangerous path, AFA must insist that at a minimum a Battalion Chief be dispatched with responding units to provide direct supervision over AFD units. However, this addition does not fully address the concerns of the AFA and the AFA remains wholly against any Auto Aid Agreement that allows different operating systems.

All Austin Fire Department Auto Aid partners must agree to operate on scene of a structure fire incident with the incident management system, strategy and tactics, definitions, and procedures contained in AFD SOG A101 Fireground Operations.

In order to ensure the safety of AFD members, any auto aid department that does not agree to follow A101 will have a modified response plan by AFD to structure fires in their jurisdiction that consists of the following:

- AFD will limit the automatic response to a maximum of two engine and one aerial apparatus, depending on what resources are necessary to complete the department’s auto aid response plan for the type of structure fire.
- AFD will always respond a Battalion Chief to supervise and ensure the safety of the assigned AFD units.
- If an AFD unit arrives first on scene of a reported structure fire, the AFD unit will assume Command and state that the procedures to be used will be AFD SOGs, such as A101, high-rise procedures or mid-rise procedures.
- An AFD unit in Command may request additional AFD resources from Fire Dispatch to ensure that AFD SOGs can be followed.
- If a unit from another jurisdiction arrives on scene of a reported structure fire first, AFD units upon arrival shall stage, report their arrival to Command and await an assignment.
- Upon arrival of the AFD Battalion Chief, he/she will be assigned as a direct supervisor for the AFD units. This will normally be as a Division or Group Supervisor but may also be the leader of a single resource in the case when only one AFD unit is on scene. If the AFD units on scene have been given assignments so that one Battalion Chief cannot be the direct supervisor of all AFD units, the Battalion Chief will request another AFD Battalion Chief for that purpose.
- AFD will provide training to responding AFD BC’s on how to ensure the safety of AFD assets.
- A safety review of all non-A101 structure fire responses will be conducted after each incident.