

**WESTHAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD POLICY**

**Mutual Aid Response**

**Issued** 03/29/2010  
**Approved:** Fire Chief Christopher Norris  
**Revised:**  
**Reviewed:** August 1, 2012

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose and intent of this policy is to increase the safety and accountability of all personnel when responding to another community for emergency responses. In addition, emergency scenes are chaotic and congested and all efforts will be made to minimize the use of personally owned vehicles (POV's) when responding to any other community.

**SCOPE:** Anytime Department resources are requested to another community, the only people who are to respond will be personnel responding on the emergency apparatus, excluding the Fire Chief or any Deputy Fire Chief responding in their personal vehicle.

At times, a request may be made by another community for just additional personnel or manpower. In these situations, personnel will still respond in Department apparatus and travel to and from the emergency scene together.

Westhampton Engine 1 will always be the apparatus that responds mutual aid for either manpower or a request from another community for an additional Engine. This apparatus will always be sent with at least four personnel to the requested community when responding. Whenever possible, the four personnel will consist of an Officer and three Firefighters. If an Officer is not available, then Four Firefighters will respond with the Senior Firefighter being the Officer in Charge of the Engine. If four personnel are not able to respond, Northampton Control will be notified and no one will respond.

If any other emergency apparatus is requested to respond to another community (ie. Brush Truck, Tanker, ATV or Rescue), the only personnel who are to respond will be the individuals responding on the emergency apparatus. Whenever possible, this will include an Officer and a Firefighter. If an Officer is not readily available, two Firefighters will respond with the Senior Firefighter being the Officer in Charge. If two personnel are not able to respond, then Northampton Control will be notified and no one will respond.

The only time more than one piece of emergency apparatus will leave the community is with the permission of the Chief or his or her designee.