

## **Section 8: Fire Protection**

### **General Information**

#### **I PURPOSE**

To provide an overview of how fire protection is provided in Swift County.

#### **II PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Fire protection is provided in Swift County by the fire departments of Appleton, Benson, Clontarf, Danvers, DeGraff, Kerkhoven, Murdock, and Sunburg.

In addition, fire departments within Swift County have mutual aid agreements.

Fire department specific training for each city can be found in the Resource Manual.

#### **III See Resource Manual – page 11**

## **Standard Operating Procedures for Section 8 Fire Protection (\*11)**

### **I PURPOSE**

The purpose of this SOP is to provide for fire protection of the population due to any type of natural, manmade, or nuclear disaster. All fire departments maintain their own Standard Operating procedures.

### **II RESPONSIBILITIES**

In addition to fire protection, the fire departments will have other responsibilities in the event of a disaster.

- A. Assisting in the dissemination of warning.
- B. Coordinating or assisting with evacuation.
- C. Coordinating or assisting with search and rescue efforts.
- D. Informing other local officials of the risks associated with a hazardous materials incident or accident.
- E. Reporting information through the incident command system or EOC about status during emergency operations.
- F. Responding to hazardous materials incidents within their limits of training.
- G. Providing light and heavy rescue services.
- H. Providing first responder / EMS services.
- I. Provide Skywarn personnel in the event of severe weather.

### **III ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS OUTLINED IN THE FOLLOWING**

**Supporting Documents**  
Swift County Mutual Aid Agreement

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## **Section 8: Fire Protection**

### **Mutual Aid Agreement (\*22)**

#### **General Provisions**

##### **Authority At Fires and other Emergencies**

Sec. 13.101. The Chief and / or his authorized representatives, as may be in charge at the scene of a fire or any other emergency involving the protection of life and / or property or any part thereof, shall have the power and authority to direct such operation as may be necessary to extinguish or control any fire, perform any rescue operation, investigate the existence of suspected or reported fires, gas leaks, or other hazardous conditions or situations or of taking any other action necessary in the reasonable performance of their duty. In the exercise of such power, Swift County Law Enforcement personnel may prohibit any person, vehicle, vessel, or thing from approaching the scene and may remove or cause to be removed or kept away from the scene any vehicle, vessel, or thing which may impede or interfere with the operations of the fire department, and in the judgment of the Chief any person not actually and usefully employed in the extinguishing of such fire, or in the preservation of property in the vicinity thereof.

##### **Interference with Fire Department**

Sec. 13.102. Any person who obstructs the operations of the fire department in connection with extinguishing any fire, or other emergency, or disobeys any lawful command of the Chief or Officer of the fire department who may be in charge at such a scene, or any part thereof, or any Police Officer assisting the fire department, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

**Section 8: Fire Protection**  
**West Central Mutual Aid Agreement (EXAMPLE) (\*22)**

**Whereas**, the said municipalities desire to make available to each other their respective fire-fighting equipment and personnel in the case of emergencies, and each of said municipalities has legal authority to send its fire-fighting equipment and personnel into other communities.

**Now therefore it is mutually agreed as follows:**

1. On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, it is agreed that the Fire Department of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ shall provide Mutual Aid to any of the Fire Departments listed as members of the West Central Mutual Aid Association and who have executed an Agreement in this form. This Agreement shall be in effect when executed by the appropriate persons for the City and its Fire Department. A list of all members of the Association signing this Agreement shall be furnished to each member of the Association.
2. Any Fire Department of any City wishing to withdraw its membership from the West Central Minnesota Mutual Aid Association, may do so by notifying every other member department in writing at least 30 days prior to termination of its membership in the West Central Minnesota Mutual Aid Association.
3. Mutual Aid will be provided as follows:
  - a. Request for Mutual Aid shall be made by the Officer In Charge of an emergency.
  - b. Equipment and personnel shall be provided by a department by orders from the Fire Chief or Officer In Charge of the department at the time a request for Mutual Aid is received.
  - c. Mutual Aid shall not be furnished to another department to the extent that it will jeopardize local protection.
  - d. Equipment and personnel responding to a Mutual Aid call shall be under the direction of the Officer-In-Charge of the emergency making the request for aid.
  - e. Equipment and personnel assisting in a Mutual Aid call shall be released only by the Officer-In-Charge of the emergency except that if such equipment and personnel are required for a fire or other emergency by the department contributing such, it may be returned to the home department by order of the Chief of the home department or other Officer-In-Charge.

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**West Central Mutual Aid Agreement(Example) Continued**

4. A department or municipality requesting Mutual Aid shall be liable for the following charges:
  - a. Fuel used for equipment use and return trip.
  - b. Refilling or re-supply of air for SCBA's.
  - c. Fire suppression supplies
  - d. Food for personnel working.
  
5. Each department or municipality shall be liable for the following:
  - a. Their own personnel for workmen's compensation claims or any other insurance claims because of injuries or damages incurred while working under Mutual Aid.
  - b. Any damage caused by their own equipment or personnel traveling to/from and working under a Mutual Aid call.
  - c. Its own repair or replacement of equipment damaged or lost while aiding another department.
  - d. Compensation for its personnel working at a Mutual Aid call.
  
6. Amendments to this Agreement may be made at any regular meeting of the Association, providing that every member department is notified in writing of the proposed change at least 30 days prior to a regular meeting date. Amendments to this Agreement will require a 2/3rds vote of the members voting.

CITY Of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City Manager/City Clerk)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mayor)

FIRE DEPARTMENT OF: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Fire Chief)