

	TRAVIS COUNTY ESD #5 MANCHACA FIRE RESCUE Department Memorandum	M2025-003
	Hays County Auto/Mutual Aid System	Effective: 5/28/2025
		Expires:
		From: C. Barron

TCESD5 has agreed to enter into the Hays County Auto/Mutual Aid System with the departments located in Hays County. This would entail TCESD5 being picked for response to any possible incident in Hays County.

Unlike the Travis/Williamson County Auto-Aid system, Hays does not have any county wide adopted SOGs for emergency responses and thus each department is their own set of SOGs for fire ground responses, maydays, brush fires, etc.

We have gathered all the SOGs from the departments we will most likely be responding to and Captain has compared them to our AA and internal SOGs. To note, there are a few differences we need to make you aware of:

Overall, their primary focus seems to be on establishing the Incident Command System (ICS), including things like command structure and modes of operation. However, there are some differences that noticed compared to our policies:

1. **No Pre-Assignments:** It appears that crews would need to check in with command to receive their assignments, rather than having pre-assigned roles.
2. **Unclear Apparatus Response:** The policies don't specify how many apparatus should respond to a structure fire, nor do they clarify the role of Battalion Chiefs (BCs). It's unclear whether BCs would assume command, as the policies don't mention this explicitly.
3. **Accountability System:** They use a PASS/Velcro system for accountability, which is more manual compared to our automated system through CAD.
4. **PAR Timing:** For structure fires, they require a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) within the first 10 minutes, followed by another every 20 minutes thereafter. This differs slightly from our typical timing, but it does maintain a focus on crew safety.
5. **Tactical Withdrawal:** The concept of "tactical withdrawal" is used differently. In their policies, it refers to retreating from a threat or person, whereas we use it more for withdrawing from a structure.

The different department policies are fairly broad, with an emphasis on ICS, but they lack some specifics—especially around initial assignments and the number of apparatus that should respond to an incident.

Hays County radio channels can be found in Zone 5, Zone 25 or can be setup in a Dynamic Zone. Channels most often used are:

HC_FDSP – Fire Dispatch – used for communications with HC dispatch
 HC_FOPS1 – Tactical Channel used for fire ground communications
 HC_FOPS2 – Tactical Channel used for fire ground communications

As we begin getting dispatched into Hays County and doing fire ground operations, please take note of any major operational differences and report them to command staff so that we can incorporate those differences in an SOG designated for Hays County Mutual/Autoaid responses.