

# HJR155: Hampton Roads Automatic Aid Between Emergency Services

Presented to the HRPDC

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# Overview

- ▶ General Assembly enacted the resolution in 2008
- ▶ Requested the HRPDC to review emergency response operations across jurisdictional lines to determine if legislation is needed to improve cooperation among first responders
  - Final report includes both automatic and mutual aid responses across jurisdictional lines
- ▶ Inclusive of fire, emergency medical services, and law enforcement
- ▶ Two-year study

# Types of Aid

- ▶ Automatic Aid occurs when a 911 dispatcher in the responding jurisdiction can deploy resources from another jurisdiction
- ▶ Mutual Aid occurs when the 911 dispatcher contacts another jurisdiction and the contacted jurisdiction deploys the requested resources



# Methodology

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- ▶ Met with representatives from fire, EMS, law enforcement, and 911 dispatch
- ▶ Reviewed
  - Suffolk tornado situation report
  - National Socialist Movement situation report
  - First responder Mutual/Automatic Aid Agreements
  - National Fire Incident Reporting System



# Suffolk Tornado

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- ▶ MMRS Strike Team deployed
  - Southside Logistics Cache – City of Norfolk
  - Peninsula Logistics Cache – York County
  - James City County Police
- ▶ Norfolk emergency operation center was activated and hosted Suffolk's operations briefly
- ▶ Newport News provided 40 police officers
- ▶ Norfolk provided 144 officers

# Situation – Suffolk Tornado

- ▶ Portsmouth Fire department provided two engine trucks, one ladder truck and one medic and
- ▶ Portsmouth Amateur Radio–ES provided nine members
- ▶ Chesapeake fire department provided five engines, one ladder truck, one tactical rescue vehicle, Battalion Chief, three medic units, EMS officer, small bus, 15 passenger van



# Fire

- ▶ More mutual aid than automatic aid
- ▶ Naval bases are included in mutual aid agreements
- ▶ Hampton Roads Fire Chiefs
  - Developing regional mutual aid agreement, standardizing resource typing, unifying standard operating procedures, and improving interoperable communication
- ▶ No legislation required



# Emergency Medical Service

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- ▶ Predominantly resides under fire
- ▶ Mutual aid required under the Code of Virginia
- ▶ Tidewater Emergency Medical Services Council and Peninsula Emergency Medical Services Council
  - Support regional collaboration
- ▶ No legislation required



# 911 Dispatch

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- ▶ Overview of phone service difference
  - Landline, Cell Phone, Voice over Internet Protocol
- ▶ Automatic and mutual aid left to the first responders
- ▶ Association of Public Safety Communication Officials (APCO) project 36
  - Developing standard CAD-to-CAD interchange
- ▶ No legislation required



# Law Enforcement

- ▶ Mutual aid is preferred to automatic aid
  - Regional Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement
- ▶ Hampton Roads Chiefs of Police Association
  - Facilitates regional exchange
- ▶ No legislation required to facilitate mutual/automatic aid
- ▶ Seeking to develop statewide law enforcement mutual aid legislation to replace regional mutual aid agreements



# Conclusion

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- ▶ No legislation required to facilitate automatic or mutual aid
  - Since 2001, over 8,000 incidents of mutual aid and over 1,600 incidents of automatic aid have occurred between fire and EMS departments
  - National Socialist Movement in 2005 brought together 12 law enforcement agencies
- ▶ Law enforcement has requested assistance from the HRPDC staff to draft legislation that would replace regional mutual aid agreements for the 2010 General Assembly session