

**PENNINGTON COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BOARD (FSB)  
BEST OPERATING PRACTICES (BOPs)**

ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT	Date	BOP#
FIRE ASSISTANCE TEAM (FAT)	Addition: 12/11/2019  Revision: 1/1/2024	FSB101

<b>PREMISE:</b>	The Fire Assist Team (FAT) is multi-fold. Primarily, it is not a strike team/task force as defined by NWCG or almost any other group. It is designed to be a reasonable group of Pennington County Fire Departments (PCFD) who, if needed outside of Pennington County (County), could respond with the requested resource(s). These resource(s) may be personnel, wildland engines, structural engines, tenders, and/or other requested resource(s).
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	The purpose of this BOP is to establish a strike team/task force concept defined by the County. It is assumed that any fire department that is part of this group may or may not be able to supply the requested resource on any given day. Therefore, the reason for more than the traditional five (5) like resources or strike team/task force concept is necessary. The result for this group of PCFD is that they would be able to assist the requesting agency.
<b>SCOPE:</b>	This BOP should apply to all PCFD who have agreed to participate in the FAT page.  Any participating department does so with the understanding that they are providing <b>MUTUAL AID</b> to requesting agencies.

**OPERATING PRACTICE:**

**1) FAT REQUEST PROCEDURE**

- a) When a request is made for the FAT, the procedure is as follows:
  - i) ESCC should page the FAT (e.g.: *"Jackson County has requested assistance on a fire."*).
  - ii) Pennington County Fire Administrator (Administrator), Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the FSB should contact the requesting agency/department/party to determine their actual needs (wildland, structural, personnel, overhead, etc.).
  - iii) Administrator, Chair, and/or Vice-Chair of the FSB determines staging location and informs the ESCC of the type of equipment/personnel needed.
  - iv) ESCC should then page the FAT to relay this information. (e.g.: *"FAT departments. request Type 6 wildland engines. Meet at Box Elder Fire Station at 1400 hours."*)

- v) The FAT departments should assemble at the designated location and proceed from there. A “leader” or “strike team leader” should be designated from those responding. Additional information should be passed to those departments at this time by the Administrator, Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the FSB.

## 2) HOW DO YOU REQUEST THE FAT?

- a) Any Incident Commander (IC) may request the FAT.
- b) Contact the County Dispatch Center (ESCC) at 605-394-4139, give them your contact information, cell phone number, radio channel, and the basic required information.
- c) Request the FAT for the needs you have.
- d) The Administrator, Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the FSB should contact the IC for additional information.
- e) The FAT should be for one (1) operational period, approximately 12-16 hours.
- f) The FAT is not to supplement, back fill or cover your department.

## 3) HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO A FAT REQUEST?

- a) Responding departments should provide adequately trained personnel equipped with the proper PPE.
- b) Do not self-dispatch.
- c) Respond to your fire station and standby for further information from your chief officer.
- d) Respond as a FAT, not as single resource.
- e) An exception to the above would be, *“Phillip VFD requests the FAT.”* The Wall VFD would respond directly, get advance information and relay the information to rest of the FAT.
- f) Plan for at least one operational period, 12-16 hours.
- g) If a department is unable to respond, the chief officer should contact the Administrator, Chair, and/or Vice-Chair of the FSB.
- h) Individual firefighters **do not** call dispatch, the Administrator, Chair, and/or Vice-Chair directly. Information should be received via paging.

## 4) PARTICIPATION

- a) Department participation is optional.
  - i) Departments wanting to participate should contact the Pennington County Administration Office.
  - ii) Updates to the list should be submitted yearly prior to December 15th.

## 5) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- a) The FAT does not replace, nor does it have any bearing, input, and/or status with Northern Great Plains Interagency Dispatch or any other agency.