

## BEST OPERATING PRACTICE

PENNINGTON COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BOARD	SECTION: ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT  SUBJECT: FIRE ASSISTANCE TEAM (F.A. TEAM)	BOP#: FSB13 PAGE 1 of 2 DATE: 12/11/2019
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*Disclaimer: All Best Practices are provided as a guide for departments by the Pennington County Fire Service Board. These are for general guidance and should be modified by each department based on their own individual rules or standard operating guidelines/policies. Each department within Pennington County is ultimately liable for its own operations and practices.*

**PREMISE:** The Fire Assist Team (F.A. Team) is multi fold. First and foremost, it is not formally a strike or task force team 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). Those resource(s) may be personnel, wildland engines, structural engines, tenders, or something.

**PURPOSE:** It is generally 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 like resources or strike team/task force concept. It is hoped that with this group of PCFD they would be able to assist the requesting agency.

It is conceived with the idea that if some other county, fire department or agency requested fire assistance from the County this group will have a specific identifier in the paging system to allow ESCC too quickly and easily page out the group, without having to guess which departments might be able to respond.

**SCOPE:** This procedure should apply to all PCFD who have agreed to be part of the F.A. Team page

Any participating department does so with the understanding that they are providing **MUTUAL AID** to the requesting agency and therefore do not expect, nor should they demand or request financial reimbursement. If for whatever reason, there is financial reimbursement then each fire department is responsible for requesting reimbursement. The concept is to keep this as simple as possible, with few BOP's, rules, guidelines, or conditions. It is based on the assumption of reasonable response.

**HISTORY:** Original Release December 11, 2019

### OPERATING PRACTICE:

1. When a request is made for the F.A. Team, the procedure is as follows:
  - a. ESCC page the F.A. Team. (For example, the page may read something like, "Jackson County has requested assistance on a fire.").
  - b. Pennington County Fire Administrator (Administrator), Chair or Vice-chair of the Fire Service Board (FSB), contacts the requesting agency, department, party to determine their actual needs (wildland, structural, personnel, overhead, etc.).
  - c. Administrator, Chair or Vice-chair of the FSB determines staging location and

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informs ESCC of the type of equipment/personnel needed.

- d. ESCC then pages the F.A. Team to pass on this information. (For example, page may read, "*F.A. Team depts. request is for type 6 wildland engines, meet at Box Elder fire station at 1400 hours.*")
  - e. The F.A. Team departments would assemble at the designated location and proceed from there. A "leader" or "strike team leader" would be designated from those responding. Additional information would be passed onto those departments at this time by the Administrator, Chair or Vice-chair of the FSB.
2. Requesting Agency/Department – How Do You Request F.A. Team:
- a. Any Incident Commander (IC) may request the F.A. Team.
  - b. Contact the County Dispatch Center 605-394-4139, give them your contact info, cell phone, radio channel, the basics of what is needed.
  - c. Request the Fire Assist Team (F.A. Team) for what you have.
  - d. The Administrator, Chair or Vice-chair of the FSB will contact the IC for additional information.
  - e. The F.A. Team should be for one (1) operational period, approximately 12-16 hours.
  - f. The F.A. Team is not to supplement, back fill or cover your department.
3. Fire Assist Team Departments – How Do You Respond to F.A. Team Request:
- a. Responding departments provide adequately trained personnel equipped with the proper PPE for the response.
  - b. Do not self-dispatch.
  - c. Respond to your fire station and stand by for further info from your Chief Officer.
  - d. Respond as F.A. Team, not as single resource.
  - e. Exception to above could be, example: Phillip VFD requests the F.A. Team, Wall VFD would respond direct, get advance info and relay to rest of F.A. Team.
  - f. Plan on at least one operational period, 12-16 hours.
  - g. If a department is unable to respond the Chief Officer will contact Administrator, Chair or Vice-chair of the FSB.
  - h. Individual firefighters **do not** directly call Dispatch or Administrator, Chair or Vice-chair of the FSB. Information will be received via paging.
4. Department participation is optional.
- a. Departments wanting to participate contact the Administrator.
5. The F.A. Team does not replace, nor does it have any bearing, input, or status with Northern Great Plains Interagency Dispatch or any other agency.