



TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date: September 2, 2025

DATE: August 12, 2025

TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Joe Schum, Division Chief
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THROUGH: Richard J Edwards, Fire Chief
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a US Highway 395 Mutual Aid Communications Plan between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Susanville Interagency Fire Center, and Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District for the purposes of establishing a communications plan for emergencies occurring on US Highway 395 in California between the Sierra County/Lassen County line and the southern end of Constantia Road/US 395 to provide the closest resource response in a safe and effective manner and ensure single point ordering. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve a US Highway 395 Mutual Aid Communications Plan between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), Susanville Interagency Fire Center, and Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District (BPPFD) for the purposes of establishing a communications plan for emergencies occurring on US Highway 395 in California between the Sierra County/Lassen County line and the southern end of Constantia Road/US 395 to provide the closest resource response in a safe and effective manner and ensure single point ordering.

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

Since 2012, TMFPD has responded to incidents along the US 395 corridor from the Washoe County, NV/Sierra County, CA line north to the intersection of US 395 and Constantia Road in Lassen County. The first three miles of this corridor lie within Sierra County, with the remaining nineteen miles in Lassen County.

This section of highway is frequently used by TMFPD units traveling to northern Nevada. Historically, TMFPD has provided mutual aid in this corridor—often as the only responding agency.

In 2024, BPPFD was established and assumed responsibility for emergency response along US 395 from the Sierra/Lassen County line north to the southern intersection of Constantia Road and US 395 (TM4206), as outlined in Appendix A of the proposed communications plan. BPPFD provides this service under an agreement for “Structural Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Response Services” with the Hallelujah Junction Fire Protection District.

Although BPPFD now has jurisdiction, TMFPD units remain the closest responders to much of the corridor. Therefore, a coordinated communications plan is necessary to enhance safety, efficiency, and clarity among all responding units.

The plan’s primary objective is to ensure the closest available resources are dispatched quickly and safely, with a single point of ordering. To achieve this, participating departments and dispatch centers must work collaboratively to coordinate the fastest possible response. Establishing clear communication protocols between field units and the Susanville Interagency Fire Center benefits all agencies involved.

This plan does not alter or override existing ambulance transport responsibilities or agreements. It also does not obligate TMFPD to respond to US 395 incidents if doing so would reduce service levels within its own jurisdiction.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the District.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve a US Highway 395 Mutual Aid Communications Plan between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Susanville Interagency Fire Center, and Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District for the purposes of establishing a communications plan for emergencies occurring on US Highway 395 in California between the Sierra County/Lassen County line and the southern end of Constantia Road/US 395 to provide the closest resource response in a safe and effective manner and ensure single point ordering.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board/s agree with the staff’s recommendation, a possible motion could be:

“I move to approve a US Highway 395 Mutual Aid Communications Plan between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Susanville Interagency Fire Center, and Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District for the purposes of establishing a communications plan for emergencies occurring on US Highway 395 in California between the Sierra County/Lassen County line and the southern end of Constantia Road/US 395 to provide the closest resource response in a safe and effective manner and ensure single point ordering.”