

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
IDYLLWILD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (IFPD)  
AND  
MOUNTAIN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (MDP)**

**Introduction**

The town of Idyllwild and the surrounding area is located within a forest frequently in danger of a major fire threatening the lives and property of its residents. There is also the ever present danger of a major earthquake. Because only two highways lead out of Idyllwild, both of which are subject to rock slides, Idyllwild residents are in danger of being isolated for an extended period. In response to these realities Mountain Disaster Preparedness, (MDP), was formed.

MDP is a non profit 501 (c) 3 volunteer organization consisting of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trained and non-CERT trained volunteers as well as a volunteer medical contingent. MDP is equipped with hand held long range radios operating off our MDP repeater as well as hand held short range radios. MDP provides its members with frequent training in many disaster response skills, including CERT and radio use and protocol. MDP has eight strategically located Disaster Aid Stations (DAS) equipped with limited medical supplies, extensive rescue equipment, gasoline powered generators, blankets and other emergency supplies.

MDP has also established an MOU with the Riverside American Red Cross enabling it, under dire circumstances where Red Cross personnel are unable to reach our communities, to open and operate the Red Cross Emergency Field Shelter using the supplies in the Red Cross trailer located at Idyllwild Pines.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to facilitate the rapid and successful response of MDP in conjunction with IFPD, to a major disaster in order to maximize the protection of lives and property.

**MDP's Role**

In the event of a major disaster MDP may, at their own discretion, utilizing their own resources and without direction from IFPD, take steps to assess damage, injury, or other significant problems concerning streets, highways, structures, or persons, and report such damage or injury to IFPD by radio, telephone, or in person.

Additionally, those members of MDP with medical backgrounds have organized a plan designed to provide limited emergency medical care in the event of a disaster in which circumstances exceed the capacity of professional agencies to respond.

**IFPD's Role**

IFPD will, in addition to their other duties and responsibilities, receive reports from MDP by radio, telephone, or in person, regarding any damage, injury, or other significant problems to streets, highways, structures, or persons, and will take such appropriate action as they determine to be necessary or practical commensurate with their other existing duties and responsibilities.

If deemed appropriate by IFPD under the circumstances existing at any given time during an emergency situation, work space, if available, may be provided for one or more MDP personnel at the fire station.

Additionally IFPD will allow those personnel possessing appropriate Disaster Service Worker (DSW) certification or working under the direction of DSW persons, to conduct these services in the IFPD Treatment Room. MDP agrees that these personnel will be covered by appropriate insurance through DSW or otherwise.

**Relationship between MDP and IFPD**

It is understood that IFPD will not be held responsible or liable with regard to any actions taken by MDP personnel while engaged in the activities described above, and that involvement in any such actions is strictly voluntary. When MDP personnel open and operate a medical surgery, or provide other medical services, these services will not be under the direction or be the responsibility of IFPD. IFPD's agreement to provide use of its facilities should in no way imply IFPD's responsibility for any of these activities and IFPD specifically disclaims any resulting responsibility or liability.

Approved by:

  
Norman J. Walker  
Idyllwild Fire Chief

7/06/11  
Date

  
Veronica Alt, President  
Mountain Disaster Preparedness

7/13/11  
Date

  
Idyllwild Fire Commissioner

6/22/2011  
Date