

# Genesee County Association of Fire Chief's Recommended Operating Guidelines

## **SUBJECT: Automatic Mutual Aid 10-1**

Effective 02-10-10  
Revised June 2017  
Review June 2020

### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective is to establish a more clear and narrower definition of "structure fire" and there by reduce cancelled AMA calls by 50%. This is intended to provide a guideline for the dispatch center to use when determining if AMA should be dispatched on the initial alarm.

### **PROCEDURE**

Listed below are several situations that dispatchers may encounter during their day to day activities. This list is not all encompassing and when a situation is encountered that is not listed the dispatcher should follow their chain of command as appropriate.

	<u>Send AMA?</u>
Caller CAN NOT articulate to the dispatcher if the structure is on fire	NO
NO flames or smoke seen coming from the structure	NO
Odor of smoke in or around a building but no smoke seen	NO
Audible smoke alarm but NO smoke or flames seen	NO
Appliance fire with the fire confined within the appliance	NO
Cooking fire with the fire confined to a pan	NO
<b>Cooking fire where the caller CAN NOT confirm the fire is confined to a pan</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Smoke visible in or originating from a structure</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Flames visible in or originating from a structure</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Chimney fire</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Multiple calls reporting a structure fire</b>	<b>YES</b>

If the dispatcher has any questions, after dispatching the appropriate department, as to whether AMA should have been dispatched, they should ask the first fire officer en-route if they want AMA dispatched. It will then be up to the fire officer to request AMA.

It must be understood that there will be instances where AMA *is not* dispatched and was needed and instances where AMA *is* dispatched and was not needed. Fire Officers must be extremely tolerant when this occurs and not criticize dispatchers for using their discretion.