Phoenix Regional Automatic Aid System — Summary

The presentation provides an overview of the **Phoenix Regional Automatic Aid System**, one of the longest-standing and most advanced regional fire/EMS automatic aid programs in the United States, emphasizing **regional cooperation, firefighter safety, and data-driven dispatching**.

Regional Dispatch & System Scale

- The system is coordinated through the **Phoenix Metropolitan Regional Dispatch Center**, the second-largest Fire/EMS public safety answering point (PSAP) in the U.S.
- It dispatches for **21 fire/EMS agencies and 2 private ambulance providers**, serving **28 jurisdictions across four counties**.
- Coverage includes **2,913 square miles**, **170 fire stations**, and approximately **620 frontline apparatus**.
- Annual workload exceeds **496,000 incidents** and **803,000 unit responses**, with a **90th-percentile call processing time of 1 minute 24 seconds**.

Automatic Aid Concept

- Automatic aid ensures the **closest, most appropriate available unit** is dispatched **regardless of jurisdictional boundaries**.
- All participants must belong to the **regional dispatch system**, using a shared CAD and automatic vehicle locator (AVL) infrastructure.

History & Regional Participation

- The Phoenix automatic aid model dates back to **1976**, making it one of the earliest regional systems in the nation.
- Jurisdictions joined incrementally beginning in **1982**, with continued expansion through **2020**, reflecting sustained regional commitment and growth.

System Innovation & Milestones

- Phoenix was the **first fire department in the U.S.** to:
  - Use **mobile data terminals (MDTs)**
  - Dispatch based on **actual unit location** rather than station assignment
  - Implement **capability-based dispatching** (ALS/BLS, specialized resources) as early as **1982**

- In **2005**, Phoenix implemented the **first CAD-to-CAD interface** that shared real-time unit location, availability, and incident data between different CAD systems.

Firefighter Safety as the Core Tenet

Firefighter safety is emphasized throughout the system's operating principles, including:

- **Standardized command procedures**, terminology, and incident management structures
- Use of the **Phoenix Fire Department "Bret Tarver" Manual, Volume 2** as the common operational doctrine
- Mandatory **interoperable radio communications**, including participation in the **Regional Wireless Cooperative**
- Adoption of an **Incident Safety Officer system** aligned with **NFPA 1521**
- Standardized equipment compatibility across agencies
- **Full staffing (4 personnel)** on engines and ladders in alignment with **NFPA 1710**
- Regional training standards, including recruit training through **recognized regional fire academies** and ongoing command-level training participation.

Overall Message

The presentation highlights Phoenix's automatic aid system as a **mature, safety-focused, and technologically advanced regional model**, built on decades of cooperation. Its success is rooted in **shared dispatching, standardized operations, interoperability, and a long-term commitment to firefighter and public safety**.