Vision

Why is Cal OES Fire & Rescue doing this project?

- Replace the aging MACS 405 Google Sheets process with a mobile application to improve the the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System.
- Provide transparency in the coordination and collaboration of available mutual aid resources throughout the state.
- Continue the digital transformation of the Fire Service by building on the successes of the Mutual Aid Reimbursement System (MARS).

Value and Benefits

How does a local fire agency benefit from this project?

- Enables access to a single system ("one stop shop") provided by Cal OES, which includes the Mutual Aid Reimbursement System and many other applications.
- Provides firefighters access to a common operating picture and information.
- Consolidates your local fire department data in one place.
- Supports dispatchers to efficiently get resources on the road quicker.

How do the Regional and Operational Area Coordinators benefit from this project?

- Easy and simple system, leading to a reduction in phone calls.
- Decreases reliance on email and avoids communication bottlenecks.
- Provides automated reporting capabilities to identify what is available, who hasn't updated their status, how many resources are out of service, etc.

How does the state benefit from this project?

- Streamlines coordination and communication across all levels of the Fire Service to respond to emerging disaster incidents more effectively.
- Expands the MACS 405 reporting for all hazards and includes special operations.
- Provides real-time data from the lowest level of input at local agencies.

Change Management

What does this cost? / What do I have to purchase? / What do I have to install?

- There is no purchase or software installation required.
- The application is cloud-based and runs on any internet browser.
- Cal OES provides complimentary user licenses for all participating agencies.

Fire Asset Status Tracker – Frequently Asked Questions

Will we receive training?

- Yes! Training will be available through webinars, in-person, and online videos.
- Informational overview sessions will occur during Region and Operational Area meetings beginning in April.
- Online training videos will be made available to offer bite-sized, microlearning.
- The California Fire & Rescue Coordination Center (CFRCC) will be providing training and program support for FAST.

We like our Google product: Can we keep it? / How does it interface?

- The scope of this project replaces the apparatus and overhead status pages.
- If your agency uses Google Sheets for additional purposes, you may continue to, but integrated features are not planned for this phase of the project.

"When I make changes in the app, will it also change XYZ?"

- Not currently. Slack notification integrations have been tested and validated; however, no additional integrations are planned for this phase of the project.

How do we get access? How do users register or get approved?

- Users with existing local fire agency access in MARS will immediately get the same access rights within FAST.
- Primary Users (typically Chiefs) may manage the user access rights in FAST.

Who can update my equipment status?

- Only users with Primary access rights to a local fire agency may update statuses.
- Primary users (Chiefs) may invite Operational Area Coordinators to their local fire agency as Primary or Secondary users.
- Secondary users may only view information.

What do we have to do to participate in the process/application?

- Local Fire Agency Primary Users must complete an agency survey of all apparatus, overhead, and other details before statusing their resources.

When will the application be released?

- July 2024 following the training and change management period.

Who has been involved? Who has tested/vetted this application?

- Collaborative effort between Cal OES IT, Fire & Rescue Branch, FIRESCOPE, Regional Coordinators, Operational Area Coordinators, and Local Fire Chiefs.