

Category 5

Criterion 5E: Fire Suppression Program

The agency operates an adequate, effective, efficient and safe fire suppression program directed toward controlling and/or extinguishing fires to protect the community from injury or death and reduce property loss. If identified risks are outside the scope of the agency's capabilities, Category 10 performance indicators should address the agency's ability to receive aid from partners in those areas. The agency should conduct a thorough risk assessment as part of activities in Category 2 to determine the need for a specific fire suppression program and support the overall risk reduction strategy.

Summary:

The department operates five fire medical stations and two medical stations, seven in total, in the City of Lawrence and Douglas County. The Operations Division is comprised of three operational shifts: X, Y, and Z. Thirty-nine (39) uniformed personnel on-duty is the established minimum staffing. This provides for five, four-person engine/quint/truck apparatus, one three-person rescue apparatus, seven two-person medic units, and two operations chief officers. The department provides fire suppression to the City of Lawrence and Grant Township. The department responds to 200-300 fire-related incidents (100 series NFIRS codes) a year. This makes up around 2% of the department's call volume. In 2021, the department had 57 structure fires. Fire related total property loss (property & contents) due to structure fires was \$1,652,713. The department had zero fire-related fatalities in 2021.

The department responds to wildland type incidents in the City of Lawrence and Grant Township, however, given the small amount of wildland area in the department's service area, the departments wildland services are minimal. Deployment of resources to wildland fires is consistent with the deployment of fire suppression responses. In 2021, the department responded to 59 wildland/grass incidents. The department's fleet consists of two type (7) brush trucks that are crossed staffed with personnel from Station 2 and Station 4.

Performance Indicators:

CC 5E.1 Given the agency’s community risk assessment/standards of cover and emergency performance statements, the agency meets its staffing, response time, station(s), pumping capacity, apparatus and equipment deployment objectives for each type and magnitude of fire suppression incident(s).

Description

The department’s deployment model at Station 5 is in transition from moving out of a rescue truck, staffed with three personnel to a rescue tiller, staffed with three personnel. To match the department’s current four-person fire apparatus staffing, the department actively seeks funding through budget requests and a grant application. Currently, this is not funded. A new quint for Station 3 is currently in the design phase with an anticipated order date in fall 2022.

The department meets its baseline deployment objectives as identified in department SOP 103.21 Response Performance and Outcomes Appendix A, Baselines. Response performance objectives are described to include staffing, response time, pumping capacity, and other capabilities of the first arriving unit (distribution) and the effective response force (concentration).

Fire Suppression Distribution / First unit to stop loss

For 90 percent of all low risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the first-due unit, with a minimum of 3 firefighters and 1 officer, (4) total, is: 9 minutes and 35 seconds within urban areas, 17 minutes and 16 seconds in rural areas. The first arriving unit is capable of: establishing command; completing an initial size up; establishing water supply; and initiating fire attack and/or rescue. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

For 90 percent of all moderate risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the first-due unit, with a minimum of 3 firefighters and 1 officer, (4) total, is: 9 minutes and 36 seconds within urban areas and 16 minutes and 3 seconds in rural areas. The first arriving unit is capable of: establishing command; completing an initial size up; establishing water

supply; and initiating fire attack and/or rescue. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

For 90 percent of all high risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the first-due unit, with a minimum of 3 firefighters and 1 officer, (4) total, is: 8 minutes and 45 seconds within urban areas and 13 minutes and 46 seconds in rural areas. The first arriving unit is capable of: establishing command; completing an initial size up; establishing water supply; and initiating fire attack and/or rescue. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

Fire Suppression Concentration / Effective Response Force

For 90 percent of all low risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the effective response unit (ERF), with a minimum of 3 firefighters and 1 officer, (4) total, is: 9 minutes and 35 seconds within urban areas, 17 minutes and 16 seconds in rural areas. The ERF is capable of: establishing command; completing an initial size up; establishing water supply; and initiating fire attack and/or rescue. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

For 90 percent of all moderate risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the effective response force (ERF), with a minimum of 7 firefighters and 3 officers; (10) total, is: 13 minutes and 14 seconds within urban areas and 13 minutes and 59 seconds in rural areas. The ERF is capable of: establishing command; providing a water supply; advancing an attack line and a backup line for fire control; complying with the requirements of two in-two out; searching and rescuing at-risk victims. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

For 90 percent of all high risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the effective response force (ERF), with a minimum of 10 firefighters and 6 officers; (16) total, is: 14 minutes and 8 seconds within urban areas and 22 minutes and 46 seconds in rural areas. The ERF shall be capable of: establishing command; safety; providing an uninterrupted water supply; advancing an attack line and a backup line for fire control; complying with the requirements of two in-two out; establishing a rapid intervention team; completing forcible entry; searching and rescuing at-risk victims; evacuation; ventilating;

exposure protection; controlling utilities; and performing salvage and overhaul. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

Appraisal

Through the creation of the 2022 Community Risk Assessment Standards of Cover (CRASOC) an Immediate Recommendation was identified to address the three-person staffing on the rescue tiller.

Recommendation 8: *The department should increase operational staffing on Ladder 5 (rescue tiller) from three to four personnel to provide consistent staffing on all fire apparatus.*

During the 2023 budget process, the department requested three (3) additional personnel to increase staffing on the rescue tiller to be compliant with OSHA “2-in-2-out” rule for emergency operations. The positions were not approved for the 2023 budget. In 2022, the department submitted an application for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant to fill these positions.

The 2020 Station Optimization Analysis was utilized to recommend station expansions and relocation to enhance and strengthen the deployment of emergency resources. The publication was useful in communication to community stakeholders and community leaders of the department's response performance gaps.

Plan

The department anticipates a response to the SAFER grant request in fall of 2022. If not awarded, the department will continue to pursue additional FTE positions in future budget requests to increase staffing to four on the tiller rescue. The department will continue to pursue grant opportunities to increase personnel staffing.

The department will utilize the 2020 Station Optimization Analysis with updated risk dimension data to continue to pursue emergency resource deployment recommendations.

References

SOP 103.21 Response Performance and Outcomes Appendix A, Baseline
2022 CRASOC (page 13)

2020 Station Optimization Analysis
2017-2021 Response Performance Tables

CC 5E.2 The agency uses a standardized incident command/management system, which is supported by agency policy and training programs.

Description

The department utilizes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to manage resources on emergency incidents. The department utilizes the Incident Command System (ICS) on every incident. SOP 201.10 Command Procedures details the responsibility of the incident commander on the emergency scene. The department currently utilizes Blue Card Incident Commander Program and is guided by SOP 201.11 Blue Card. All company officers are trained in Blue Card with Captains and above being certified as Blue Card Incident Commanders. The department utilizes three Blue Card Instructors (one on each shift) to conduct the training. The department has trained all personnel to a minimum of ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800. In addition, the department requires company officer candidates to obtain ICS 300 and chief officer candidates to ICS 400 prior to applying for promotion per SOP 601.10 Promotional Assessment Process.

Appraisal

Department members are well versed in the ICS system, and it is an integral part of the department's daily operations. Department members use the ICS for all incidents, medical and fire, large and small. Continually exposing department members to the ICS allows for easily expanding an incident without confusion. The department uses NIMS approved courses to fulfill training and incident management compliance objectives .

Plan

The department will continue to use NIMS ICS. The department will remain aware of any changes to NIMS or the ICS system and adapt to them as necessary. The department will continue to utilize Blue Card Command and continue to certify all Captain. All officers and members will continue to receive annual training in Blue Card Communications delivered by department instructors.

References

SOP 201.10 Command Procedures

SOP 201.50 Blue Card

SOP 601.10 Promotional Process

CC 5E.3 The agency conducts a formal and documented program appraisal, at least annually, to determine the impacts, outcomes, and effectiveness of the program, and to measure its performance towards meeting the agency's goals and objectives.

Description

The department conducts a formal and documented program appraisal annually that summarizes the program's impacts, outcomes, and effectiveness in the prior year. New goals are outlined for the upcoming year within this document.

Appraisal

The department's assigned program manager and support staff have been able to complete an annual program appraisal. These appraisals are provided to the AHJ for review, as well as posted on the department's external / internal website for employee review as part of the Annual Compliance Report.

Plan

The department will continue to utilize these annual appraisals to improve performance within the program as well as develop more efficient operational procedures based on the prior year's performance.

References

- 2021 Fire Suppression Program Appraisal
- 2022 CFAI Annual Compliance Report (pages 13-16, 68-73)
- 2021 Wildland Fire Program Appraisal