

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors

AGENDA NO. **7.D.**

FROM: William Hollingsworth, Fire Chief

Meeting Date: December 14,
2017

Subject: DISCUSSION REGARDING
MAINTAINING CURRENT STAFFING
LEVELS AT THE CAMBRIA CSD FIRE
DEPARTMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors consider the presentation evaluating the benefits of a 4 person engine company versus 3 person engine company constant staffing model.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Monetary costs and potential funding sources will be discussed under agenda item 7.E.

DISCUSSION:

The fire service continues to evolve and progress, matching its equipment and personnel necessary to meet the demands of emergency service delivery to each community. Specific benchmarks and safety standards have been developed by governing agencies (such as NFPA, NIOSH and FEMA) to ensure the safety of emergency workers when responding to inherently dangerous situations. Numerous studies have concluded that a constant staffing level of a first-in, 4 person engine company is necessary to provide for the overall safety of the firefighters and community alike. Therefore, firefighter staffing levels directly affect the level of service delivery.

Factors affecting staffing:

- Department staffing history
- Increased training and safety requirements
- Staffing needs for a routine residential structure fire
- Decline of volunteerism
- Inconsistency with Cal Fire Station 10 staffing
- Interagency response agreement
- Automatic and Mutual Aid responses (us helping them, and them helping us)
- Third person medical attendant on EMS responses
- San Luis Obispo Grand Jury recommendation
- Increasing call volume
- Special projects
 - Hydrant maintenance
 - Home safety inspections
 - Community Risk Reduction
- SAFER grant and CCSD Board vote on June 22, 2017 approving budget

Safety Justification:

- "Two In/Two Out" – IDLH Atmosphere
 - OSHA Standard
 - NFPA 1710 – Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations

- NFPA 1500 – Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program
- NFPA 1410 – Standard on Training for Emergency Scene Operations

Staffing Studies and Analysis

- Centaur/FEMA Study
- Columbus, OH Fire Department Study
- Seattle, WA Fire Department Study
- Dallas, TX Fire Department Study
- U.S. Fire Academy Fire Risk Analysis
- Austin, TX Fire Department Study
- Clark County, NV Fire Department Study
- Ontario Fire Marshal Study
- Metropolitan Fire Chiefs and Minimum Staffing Report
- Johns Hopkins University Study

Supporting Agencies and Affiliations

- NFPA – National Fire Protection Association
- NIOSH – National Institute for Occupational Safety
- FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- IAFF – International Association of Fire Fighters
- IAFC – International Association of Fire Chiefs
- OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- ISO – Insurance Services Office
- Cal OES – California Office of Emergency Services
- AHA – American Heart Association
- ICMA – International City Management Association

Return to three (3) personnel engine staffing:

- Advantages
 - Cost savings for reducing the level of available emergency services
- Disadvantages
 - Increased life and safety risk to firefighters and public
 - Inability to meet OSHA mandate for “Two In/Two Out”
 - Higher levels of risk liability
 - Greater potential for injury and loss of life
 - Change in fundamental firefighting tactics
 - Loss of available reserve personnel
 - Decreased ability to provide Automatic and Mutual Aid response
 - Decreased ability to recover costs associated with Mutual Aid response
 - Decreased ability to provide third attendant on critical EMS response
 - Contrary to the San Luis County Grand Jury recommendation
 - Decreased ability to complete special projects – hydrant maintenance

It is generally accepted that a municipality has the right to determine the overall level of fire protection it wants. However, regardless of the level of fire protection chosen by the public, neither they nor their elected officials have the right to jeopardize the safety of the employees providing those services. The public pays for the protection of life and property through their tax dollars. They do not expect firefighters to take a defensive posture, to simply respond to a working fire, surround it and drown it; to do so would be to concede preventable losses of both life and property. The public expects that the fire department is staffed and prepared to provide aggressive interior fire attack when appropriate, to accomplish both victim rescue and property conservation, and to address all non-emergency related concerns. Additionally, they expect the continuance of special projects, maintenance of our infrastructure, and the ability to provide the best service available to the community of Cambria.

BOARD ACTION: Date _____ Approved: _____ Denied: _____

UNANIMOUS: ____RICE ____FARMER ____BAHRINGER ____WHARTON____