

Pebble Beach Community Services District ***Fire Department***

3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach, CA. 93953

Staff Report
October 27, 2006

To: Board of Directors
From: George Haines, Fire Chief
Subject: PBCSD Fire Department Program Overview

SCOPE

This program overview entails general information regarding the historic, current and potential direction of the Pebble Beach Community Service District Fire Department. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and statistical averages for key fire department are included as informational tools to assist in future strategic planning.

HISTORY

Fire protection for Pebble Beach formally began in the 1930's when the then California Division of Forestry (CDF), provided wildland fire response coverage for the State Responsibility Area's (SRA). By statute, CDF responds to all wildland fires in Pebble Beach, and for many years responded to structural fires as personnel and equipment were available, and primarily during the fire season. Over the years, County Service Areas were formed for fire protection, and in the 1960's a municipal type fire engine was purchased and staffed by CDF contract personnel. This single fire engine company at the old Carmel Hill Fire Station was responsible for Pebble Beach, unincorporated Carmel, Jack's Peak, Asilomar, and Mid-Carmel Valley.

In the mid 1970's, the Mid-Valley, Rio Road, and Pebble Beach Fire stations were built and staffed. Although Mid Valley formed its own fire district, the engine at Carmel Hill still responded to Pebble Beach and what is now known as Cypress Fire District (unincorporated Carmel and Jack's Peak) Services were expanded over the years to include fire prevention and Basic Life Support (BLS) services.

The Pebble Beach Community Service District was established in 1982. Services continued to be provided by contractual agreement with the CDF, and formation of the district brought further improvements to all areas of fire protection, including the establishment of the Fire Prevention Bureau. In 1995, the new Carmel Hill Fire Station was built as a joint venture with CDF, Pebble Beach CSD, and Cypress Fire District. In 2003, Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedic services were provided by contractual agreement with American Medical Response (AMR) and continue today, though they are now provided by WestMed Ambulance Company.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

Fire –

The fire department uses a combination of methods to provide initial and extended attack response to incidents within the jurisdiction. Initial attack response is provided by Pebble Beach Fire Department apparatus, which consists of one ladder truck and one fire engine, each staffed daily with three firefighters, and one Battalion Chief. Also available are a patrol vehicle and reserve fire engine which are staffed as needed. The initial attack response is augmented by regional cooperation from Cypress Fire District and the CDF. Cypress and Pebble Beach cost share an engine that is staffed with 4 people and is located at the Carmel Hill Fire Station. The CDF also responds as available, generally during the declared fire season. The majority of emergency and non-emergency responses are mitigated with the initial attack response.

Additionally, the department has entered into Automatic Mutual Aid (auto-aid) Agreements with neighboring fire jurisdictions. These agreements are made by fire jurisdictions to provide assistance to each other and strengthen each fire department's response by providing additional resources for initial attack, more staffing, or specialized equipment without the costs associated if each agency had to provide them on their own. Traditional Mutual Aid Agreements are another way to supplement response strength. Auto-aid and mutual aid requests are always granted on an "as available" status. Consequently, dependence on department funded personnel and equipment is the preferred strategy.

Modern fire departments strive to meet NFPA standard 1710 which refers to staffing levels and response times for fire and medical emergencies. The standard is flexible, in that there is more than one way to satisfy the suggested staffing and response requirements. Pebble Beach Fire Department satisfies the standard for fire emergencies, due to our auto-aid agreements and cooperative fire agreements with CDF and Cypress Fire District.

Emergency calls are dispatched from the CDF Emergency Command Center (ECC). The ECC is also the dispatch center for the CDF San Benito-Monterey Unit and eight contracting agencies. Incidents dispatched by the ECC last year totaled 5,135. The ECC is staffed year round with five Fire Captains, one of which is funded as a regional cost share position between Pebble Beach, Cypress and Carmel Highlands.

From 2003 through 2005 the Pebble Beach fire department responded to an average of 591 incidents per year. The incident types include:

- ❖ Fires (3.6%)
- ❖ Medical Aids (46%)
- ❖ Mutual or Auto Aid requests (7.3%)
- ❖ Coastal Incidents (0.6%)
- ❖ False Alarms (18.3%)
- ❖ Hazardous Conditions (3%)
- ❖ Public Service Assists (11.9%)
- ❖ Smoke Checks (1.4%)
- ❖ Vehicle Accidents (7.6%)

Average engine response times to fires and medical emergencies are approximately 5 minutes, including one minute to get into gear.

With the exception of fires and EMS incidents, which are addressed in the next section, the 2006 averages are expected to remain the same or decline in some categories.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) –

Two levels of life support are provided to the Pebble Beach community by the fire department; Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS). Firefighters trained as either Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or First Responders are certified to provide BLS treatment. Ninety-five percent of firefighters assigned to PBCSD Fire Department are certified as EMT's. The remainder are First Responders who are in the process of upgrading to EMT certification. Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) service is provided by contract with WestMed Ambulance. Contracted paramedics respond simultaneously with fire apparatus to medical emergencies within the district.

Medical transport services are provided by WestMed, the county-wide provider, or Carmel Fire Regional Ambulance (CFRA), as sub-contracted by WestMed.

The department cost shares a Training Captain with Cypress and Carmel Highlands. The Pebble Beach training program is the responsibility of this Captain, who coordinates the program with an emphasis on regional training with neighboring fire agencies. He is also the liaison with Monterey County EMS, assuring that fire personnel obtain and maintain current standard certifications, as well as providing direction in regards to satisfying new or changing legal and department EMS standards.

Satisfying the NFPA Standard 1710 for medical emergencies is dependent upon having trained medical responders available for a 4 minute response for BLS and 8 minute response for ALS to any location within the jurisdiction 90% of the time. Present staffing meets this requirement, though meeting the criteria in upper Pebble Beach (near the Carmel Hill Fire Station) and the Cypress Point area is dependent upon the location of the Paramedic vehicle and fire apparatus at the time of the incident.

Requests for emergency medical assistance have averaged 45.9% of the total call volume between 2003 and 2005. The annual average EMS incident rate has risen 6.3% for this same timeframe and is expected to further increase in 2006.

Fire Prevention –

The Pebble Beach Fire Department expanded the Fire Prevention Bureau (Bureau) in 1991. At that time there was one Fire Captain assigned to oversee plan review and building construction inspections, cost shared between Cypress and Pebble Beach. The Bureau is currently staffed with:

- 1 Battalion Chief (cost shared with Cypress Fire District)
- 1 Fire Captain
- 1 Fire Prevention Specialist (Vacant)

Fire Protection Planning

Since 1991, building construction and remodeling of existing structures has dramatically increased. In excess of 5,300 plan reviews have been submitted for approval. The average plan review required two hours of staff time and three site visits during construction.

Fire Defense

The goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to minimize the risk to life and property from fire in Pebble Beach. There are various tools utilized to accomplish this goal. One of those tools is the development, review and enforcement of the "Fire Defense Plan for Pebble Beach. This tool is a dynamic document that is reviewed and adopted on a semi-annual basis.

Components of this document that help to minimize the risks from fire are:

- ❖ The annual inspections of fire roads. This is a cooperative effort with the Del Monte Forest Foundation and the Pebble Beach Company.
- ❖ The annual inspection of dedicated "Open Spaces"
- ❖ The annual inspection of high threat areas
 - Huckleberry Hill
 - Pescadero Canyon
- ❖ Overseeing the Vacant Residential Lot Program
- ❖ Coordinating the engine company inspections of developed residential properties.
- ❖ Completing annual inspections of all commercial public properties.

Public Education

The Bureau is committed to providing a Fire Safe community through prevention and education, with education being the primary focus. All staff members participate as instructors in a variety of topics including first aid, CPR, Automatic External Defibrillator and Community Emergency Response Teams.

The Bureau also coordinates the annual "PBCSD Open House and Public Safety Day". This event is attended by more than 700 local residents.

Special Events

With a high volume of public events within the Del Monte Forest, the Bureau is involved with pre-event planning followed by inspections of the venue facilities. Some of the events that the Bureau staff are involved in are:

AT&T National Pro-Am
U.S. Open
First Tee Open
Corporate Events

Concours d'Elegance
Equestrian Classic (3 events)
Tour of California
Dignitary Visits

SUMMARY

It is the goal of every fire department to improve service levels and conduct operations with fiscal efficiency. Currently, the PBCSD Fire Department maintains an ISO rating of 3. This rating is comparable to Monterey and Pacific Grove Fire Departments. An initial review of the fire department program has identified some areas that show potential for improvement which could lead to an improved rating. The areas targeted for strategic planning include:

- Increased staffing with emphasis on a fourth firefighter per engine
- Increased equipment carried on apparatus
- An expanded training facility
- Improved water delivery system
- An expanded dispatch operation and increased staffing

Improvement in some or all of these areas will benefit the effort to increase the current ISO rating of three to a higher rating of two. Additionally, improvement will further satisfy meeting the NFPA 1710 industry standard.

Attachments: Incident statistics 2003 – 2005
NFPA 1710 summary

INCIDENT STATISTICS 2003-2005

<u>Fires:</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>%</u>
Wildland Fires:	2	0.31%
Vehicle Fires:	4	0.62%
Structure Fire:	11	1.72%
Refuse Fire:	4	0.62%
Total Fires	21	3.28%

<u>Other:</u>		
Mutual/Automatic aid:	51	7.96%
Coastal Incident:	8	1.25%
False Alarm:	132	20.60%
Hazardous Condition:	24	3.74%
Medical Aid (EMS):	270	42.12%
<i>EMS response statistics include QRV</i>		
Public Service Assist:	72	11.23%
Smoke Check:	9	1.40%
Vehicle Accident:	54	8.42%
Total Incidents:	641	

<u>Fires:</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>%</u>
Wildland Fires:	5	0.92%
Vehicle Fires:	2	0.37%
Structure Fire:	3	0.55%
Refuse Fire:	6	1.10%
Total Fires	16	2.94%

<u>Other:</u>		
Mutual/Automatic aid:	58	10.64%
Coastal Incident:	1	0.18%
False Alarm:	89	16.33%
Hazardous Condition:	23	4.22%
Medical Aid (EMS):	257	47.16%
Public Service Assist:	52	9.54%
Smoke Check:	8	1.47%
Vehicle Accident:	41	7.52%
Total Incidents:	545	

<u>Fires:</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>%</u>
Wildland Fires:	7	1.19%
Vehicle Fires:	3	0.51%
Structure Fire:	13	2.21%
Refuse Fire:	4	0.68%
Total Fires	27	4.60%

<u>Other:</u>		
Mutual/Automatic aid:	20	3.41%
Coastal Incident:	2	0.34%
False Alarm:	105	17.89%
Hazardous Condition:	27	4.60%
Medical Aid (EMS):	284	48.38%
Public Service Assist:	75	12.78%
Smoke Check:	7	1.19%
Vehicle Accident:	40	6.81%
Total Incidents:	587	

NFPA Key Provisions

NFPA 1710 is a standard concerning personnel deployment and response times to fires and medical emergencies.

Designed primarily for communities with career, or paid firefighters.

Requirements for fire emergencies –

- Four people (on one vehicle or multiple vehicles) to arrive at a fire scene within five minutes, 90% of the time.
 - Five-minute figure includes one minute to get into gear
- Fourteen or 15 people to arrive at a “Full Alarm Assignment” within nine minutes, 90% of the time.
 - Nine-minute figure includes one minute to get into gear

Requirements for medical emergencies –

- BLS/Automated External Defibrillator (AED); four minutes or less, 90% of the time
- ALS; 8 minutes or less, 90% of the time
- Transport; 12 minutes or less, 90% of the time