



City of Sacramento City Council

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
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Meeting Date: 10/25/2011

Report Type: Staff/Discussion

Title: Fire Department Update 2011

Report ID: 2011-00899

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Contact: Ray S. Jones, Fire Chief, (916) 808-1300, Fire Department

Presenter: Ray S. Jones, Fire Chief, (916) 808-1300, Fire Department

Department: Fire

Division: Office Of The Fire Chief Administration

Dept ID: 12001011

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Background

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form

Lan Wang

10/18/2011 11:35:49 AM

City Treasurer Review

Reviewed for Impact on Cash and Debt

Russell Fehr

10/11/2011 10:38:26 AM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Ray Jones - 10/17/2011 11:09:45 AM

Description/Analysis

Issue: Chief Jones was asked by the City Manager and Council Member D. Fong to provide a run review update in order to brief the Mayor and City Council on fire and EMS call volumes, response times, trending upticks, estimated dollar losses and a comparison of this data with this same data from 2010, taking into consideration the revised brownout schedule.

Policy Considerations: There are no policy considerations with this report.

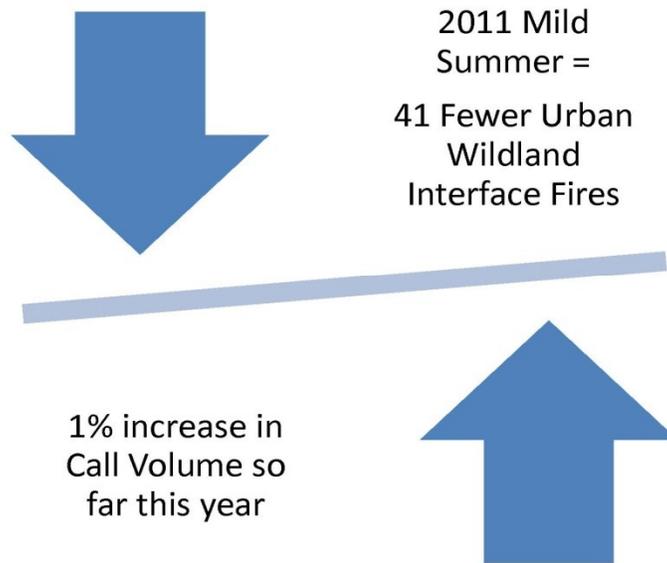
Environmental Considerations: This activity is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not constitute a “project” as defined in Section 15378(b)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines, and it is otherwise exempt pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (no significant effect on the environment) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Sustainability: There are no sustainability considerations with this report.

Commission/Committee Action: Not Applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: As requested by the City Manager and Council Member D. Fong, the Fire Department has prepared an update. While the number of fires is down, the number of EMS calls continues to increase, as does the number of calls for service in general; we foresee this trend continuing into the future. Property losses are down, but response times are up. Response times are the direct result of our rotating 4 brown-out schedule.

1st Quarter 2011	1st Quarter 2010
Total Incidents 16725	Total Incidents 16504
Total EMS Incidents 11557	Total EMS Incidents 11397
Total Fires 769	Total Fires 813
Property Loss \$1.1 Million	Property Loss \$1.9 Million
Average Response Time 5:11	Average Response Time 5:08



Financial Considerations: There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable.

BACKGROUND

The 1st Quarter numbers for FY2011 are as follows:

Total Incidents: 16,725
Total Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Incidents: 11,557
Total Fires: 769
Property Loss: \$1.1 Million
Average Response Time: 5:11

For comparison, the 1st Quarter numbers for FY2010 were as follows:

Total Incidents: 16,504
Total EMS Incidents: 11,397
Total Fires: 813
Property Loss: \$1.9 Million
Average Response Time: 5:08

The reduced fire numbers are due almost entirely to the unusually mild summer. We had 41 fewer urban wildland interface fires this summer as compared with last summer.

Property losses are down due in part to the reduction in urban wildland interface fires, which typically have a high loss due to exposure involvement. The second reason they are down is that as a region we increased the initial alarm assignment package and front loaded the dispatch. The earlier intervention means we put more fires out in the incipient stage instead of the flash over stage. This has been highly successful and is highlighted by a big reduction in multiple alarm fires.

At this point in the year, we are seeing an approximately 1% increase in overall call volume as compared with last year. However, if the month-by-month uptick remains consistent, we project that we will see a 2% increase by year end.

EMS calls are up due in large part to the declining economy and the loss of insurance. The uninsured now rely on the EMS first responders to be their primary care providers. We are seeing this trend all across California, but it is magnified in the Sacramento region and especially in the City of Sacramento.

Finally, we have two lives saved as a direct result of Station 43 being opened. Additionally, no lives lost can be directly attributed to the budget reductions of the 1st quarter.

Brownouts have affected response times. There has been a 2:04 minute increase in response times in browned out jurisdictions. This translates to an average response time of 7:08 minutes in affected districts.