

13. Equipment & Facilities Management

Adopted 1 May 2001
Revised October 2008

Goal: “Effectively deploy our resources.”

Organizational Values:

- Assure facilities & equipment are volunteer friendly.
- Maintain facilities & equipment in a state of readiness.
- Provide efficient and effective facilities & equipment.
- Provide facilities & equipment that meet the target levels of service.
- Maintain facilities & equipment that reflect a sense of pride of and for our community.

Historical Perspectives:

- The first firestation for the District was built in 1954, with the second (Station 8-2) in 1965 and the third (Station 8-3) in 1979; the headquarters station (Station 8-1) was relocated in 1998. The District retained the site of the old headquarters station using it as a support & training center.
- Historically, volunteers responded to alarms when notified by a firestation siren (until 1985) and later by radio pagers (since 1967). When the new Station 8-1 was built, it was designed to accommodate sleeping space for on-duty responders. A shift-based staffing program has been in place since 2002 with volunteers staying at Station 8-1 on nights & weekends.
- The District provided rental housing to members in separate mobile homes at two sites from 1984 to 2007.
- With the hiring of its first full-time employee in 1984 and subsequent staffing changes, the need for administrative & support space in facilities increased. Adequate office & public use space was planned & provided for in the new Station 8-1.
- The first new pumper (engine) was purchased in 1954, with subsequent purchases in 1965, 1980, 1987, 1993 and 1996. Early engines were based upon commercial type chassis, while the recent (1993 & 1996) ones are built upon custom chassis designed for that purpose.
- The type, complexity and cost of equipment and apparatus have increased in the last three decades; the emergence of EMS has required new equipment and apparatus.
- The District depended upon surplus vehicles for the bulk of its fleet (tenders, rescue units, utility vehicles) until the early 1990’s. The last surplus vehicle was an ambulance donated by Thurston County Medic One, which was rebuilt with a new chassis in 2005.

Current Situation:

- While the locations of the 3 existing stations meet Washington Survey & Rating Bureau ISO insurance rating coverage, Stations 8-2 and 8-3 are not capable of housing responders like Station 8-1.
- The District owns 11 motorized vehicles: three Type 1 engines, two Type 6 (wildland) engines, two Type 2 tenders, one BLS EMS transport-capable rescue, two utility vehicles and one antique pumper.
- The functions for the management of these assets are assigned to the Assistant Chief for Facilities & Equipment.
- The old Station 8-1 (Service Center) is vacant and is being considered for conversion to the District Training Center (see *Future Direction* below).



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“Provide a capital asset repairs & replacement schedule to ensure the District has adequate funds and advanced awareness of such replacements.”

Program Narrative

Provide for regular maintenance and/or replacement of key assets on a schedule:

Facilities:

Facility exterior paint:	10 yr
Roofing/gutters:	25 yr
Facility interior paint:	5-7 yr
Flooring & ceilings:	10-15 yr
Kitchen appliances:	10 yr
Furnace/HVAC:	15-20 yr
Water treatment:	10-15 yr
Emergency generators:	15-20 yr
Paving surface repair:	3-4 yr
Septic/drain-field:	15-20 yr

Equipment:

SCBA:	8 yr
SCBA air compressor:	20 yr
Thermal imager:	4 yr
Hose & appliances:	As reqd.
Power saws:	8 yr
Portable generator:	8 yr
Power fans:	8 yr
Extrication equipment:	10 yr
Radio equipment:	As reqd.
PC workstations:	5 yr
KSU telephone:	6-10 yr
Type 1 engine:	25 yr
Type 6 engine:	25 yr
Type 2 tender:	25 yr
BLS rescue unit:	15 yr
Utility vehicle:	8 yr

“Plan and provide for facility, apparatus & equipment upgrades or renovations that can improve response times and increase efficiency of operations.”

Future Direction:

- Continue to maintain and fund a *Capital Repairs & Replacements Plan* outlining heavy maintenance, adaption, expansion and/or remodel, acquisition and disposal of District assets. Funding will be provided through annual contributions from the District Operating Budget. Items in the Plan will be reviewed regularly to ensure applicability and adequacy of funding.
- Based upon the outcome of the 2006 *District Community Risk Assessment* and the update of the *District Strategic Plan* in 2006-2007, two major initiatives have been adopted: 1) creation of a new north-end firestation with capability to house responders at a location suitable to cover the response district for both Station 8-2 and 8-3 (thus eliminating them) and, 2) creation of a new District Training Center.

Strategies:

- Maintain facilities, apparatus & equipment that are capable of meeting the operational needs of the District; plan and provide for facility, apparatus & equipment upgrades or renovations that can improve response times and increase efficiency of operations. This is the key to the new north-end firestation plan.
- Provide realistic, ongoing and verifiable training to members using convenient facilities, props and equipment. Using the old Station 8-1 site will allow on-duty responders to engage in hands-on training while remaining close to their primary response district. Inclusion of live-fire capability should be evaluated (refer to *District Strategic Plan Section 11 “Training”* and the *District Training Plan*).
- Provide regular inspections of facilities, apparatus & equipment to ensure the health & safety of members and that maintenance & repairs are provided for in a timely fashion.
- Provide cost effective equipment consistent with operational requirements and specified relative to its intended use and workload. Reasonable training requirements for members in the proper use of this equipment is imperative (“ease of use”).
- Monitor new mandates and regulations; provide input into the development process for standards and regulations whenever possible.
- Standardize equipment within the District and with other departments as reasonably possible.
- Focus on two-station concept meeting ISO coverage standards, capable of housing on-duty staffing as determined by the Fire Chief. Apparatus assignment at each station should include:
 - one Type 1 engine,
 - one Type 2 tender, and
 - BLS first-response capability (either as part of the Type 1 engine or separate BLS rescue unit).
- The District will maintain one transport-capable BLS EMS unit at Station 8-1; the unit will not be classified as an ambulance.
- The District will retain one Type 1 engine for reserve status; the unit will not be included in the *Capital Repairs & Replacement Plan*.
- The District will support day-to-day operations functions with utility vehicles:
 - one full-size 4-wheel-drive pickup with capacity to tow heavy loads,
 - one 4-6 passenger 4-wheel-drive vehicle for transportation and back-up command functions, and
 - one 4-wheel-drive vehicle assigned to the on-duty Assistant Chief for command functions.