

**Question from 12 January Workshop:** Describe minimum standards WSRB required to meet active station status:

**Answer:** There are 17 items in the “Fire Department” category for grading; none of which specify “fire station”. The two most relevant items are Item 3 “Distribution of Companies” and Item 17 “Miscellaneous Factors and Conditions”.

**3. Distribution of Companies**

Engine and ladder companies must be distributed to provide effective protection to the community. Structures should be within 1.5 road miles of a first-alarm engine company and 2.5 miles of a ladder company. Distances may be increased to 4 road miles in areas with separation of 100 feet or more between buildings. Pumper-ladders and automatic aid will be considered in this item.	43	79%
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In Item 3, the location of the fire station, housing response resources (i.e. staff, apparatus and equipment) is understandably critical. The standards for these response resources are covered in the 17 various items, and are graded separately. For example, staffing is based on the company (apparatus) requirements, not on a fire station basis, including the provision for the ratio of “1 on duty being equivalent to 6 on-call” firefighters.

The standard for distances in Item 3 are the minimum set, generally for an urban setting; the rule of distribution based on distances not exceeding 5 road miles is a maximum recognized, beyond which fire protection is not generally credited.

**17. Miscellaneous Factors and Conditions**

**17a Fire Stations**

This item considers suitability of fire stations, including construction, housing of apparatus, and if the station is provided with a secondary power source. Communication equipment should be provided at fire stations and include two-way radios, spare portable radios, commercial telephone, and means for public reporting to the dispatch centers. Firefighters must have two separate means for receiving alarms from the communication center. At least one means must be supervised. If the stations are not staffed, firefighters must be equipped with the means to receive alarms.	14	86%
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**17b. Fuel**

Fuel must be available in sufficient quantities at fire stations. Suitable arrangements must be made for delivery of fuel to apparatus at fires of long duration.	17	15%
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In Item 17, specific reference is made to fire stations for its suitability to house resources and for communications capability. For any standard not met (including provision for fuel), appropriate points would be levied against the fire department item score.