

Organizational Statement
For the
Barkhamsted Fire District
&
Barkhamsted East Fire Department
&
Pleasant Valley Fire Department
&
Riverton Fire Department

October 1, 2002

In Accordance with OSHA Fire Brigade Standards CFR29, 1910.156

The focus of the Organizational Statement and a strategic planning effort shall be used to determine what services and the level of delivery which the Districts / Department shall provide as a minimum to its taxpayers and guests visiting the community. The potential services cover a wide range of hazards and delivery parameters. They include the following services:

Fire Suppression

Fire suppression operations are organized to effectively combat the types of fires that are likely to occur in the fire district. The priority goals of suppression/rescue activities are as follows:

- a.) Save lives
- b.) Limit the spread of fire
- c.) Extinguish the fire
- d.) Minimize the property damage from fire-related hazards

Firefighters are trained and equipped to perform an aggressive interior assault on structure fires in order to accomplish the goals. Fires in structures present the highest probable risk to life and property in our district.

The district experiences outside fires involving brush, woods, propane and natural gas, and electrical equipment are not uncommon. Transportation networks present the additional risk of fire in the respective vehicles and cargo.

Emergency Medical Services

District personnel medically certified respond, when dispatched, to provide rapid intervention for persons in need of medical care.

Rescue

Multi-Discipline rescue services are provided to cover rescue/emergency situations.

Hazardous Materials

District personnel operate at their level of training at hazardous materials incidents. A defensive strategy is stressed for dealing with hazardous material incidents.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention activities provided by district personnel to protect life and property from fire and other hazards through public education.

Code Enforcement and Plan Review - The fire district has a responsibility to enforce the Connecticut Life Safety Code. Annual inspections of all buildings (excluding one & two family dwellings and manufacturing occupancies) and plan reviews of proposed buildings for compliance with State statutes and regulations are

Barkhamsted Fire District Organizational Statement **10/1/2002**

conducted to rectify conditions which may cause fires or situations that may allow a fire to spread uncontrolled. The primary goal of these inspections is to ensure the safe egress of occupants who may be endangered by the fire or its products. The Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshals and Inspectors, who are certified to do so, carry out these inspections as assigned.

Investigation - An investigation of all fires and explosions is conducted to determine the origin and cause of the ignition. This information is required in order to prevent the occurrence of future fires or at the very least reduce the severity. If the fire is determined to be incendiary, a thorough investigation is intended to prosecute the guilty party. In this case, the investigation becomes a deterrent to the crime of arson. District personnel in conjunction with law enforcement agencies shall perform the investigations. The investigations are performed by department personnel in conjunction with law enforcement agencies. The data obtained is useful in targeting the areas of the community, demographics, and occupancies, which are more likely to have fires. This information is then utilized in the strategic planning process to more effectively serve the community.

Organizational Structure

Governing Body - The BFD is established under sections 7-324 to 7-329 of the Connecticut General Statutes to provide fire protection and related services to the Town of Barkhamsted. The district's three fire departments are all incorporated to contractually provide the aforementioned services.

Management – The BFD operates with an elected Board of Directors overseen by a President and Vice President; the employees of the District report to the District Board of Directors through the President. The District's three Fire Departments are organized with traditional structure of an elected Chief, subordinates officers and members.

Fire Marshal - The Fire Marshal of the District shall be certified as such by the State of Connecticut, Office of Fire and Building Safety. The Fire District Board of Directors appoints the Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshals and Inspectors. The supervisor of the Fire Marshal is the District President.

The Fire Marshal is responsible for administering the fire prevention activities of the fire department, including code enforcement, fire investigation, and public education. Chapter 541 of the Connecticut General Statutes imposes many duties and responsibilities of the Fire Marshal. These responsibilities include inspections of all buildings and facilities for public use and all occupancies regulated by the Connecticut Life Safety Code. Additional duties include:

- the investigation and reporting of the origin and cause of all fires within the district;
- enforcement of state regulations covering oil burning equipment and storage,
- use and transportation of explosives, flammable liquids and gases;
- enforcement of the manufacturing employer hazardous material notification law;
- inspection of fireworks and
- special effects displays for compliance with regulations;
- inspection of outdoor amusements;
- review of plans and specifications for proposed construction;
- establishing and administration of fire lanes;
- determination of the level and need for fire protection at exhibitions or amusements,
- and many other detailed duties.

Training

Training shall take place on a regular basis for both career and volunteer personnel. Every member is strongly encouraged to attend additional training and educational programs.

Barkhamsted Fire District Organizational Statement
10/1/2002

Standard Operating Guidelines/Procedures

All responses are directed by Standard Operating Guidelines/Procedures, which offer direction to operating forces. SOP's are generated and reviewed on a regular basis to guide personnel as circumstances are foreseen and evaluated. These documents are maintained at all stations and are available for review by personnel at all times. New procedures and orders are posted and reviewed before application. These procedures and orders will address personnel assignments and the safe use of those people.