

Memorandum

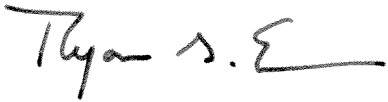


Date: April 3, 2009

To: Dr. Elba Garcia, Chair
and Members of the Public Safety Committee

Subject: Dallas Fire-Rescue Department's Achievements
(October 1, 2007 – Present)

The Public Safety Committee will be briefed on the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department's Achievements (October 1, 2007 – Present) on Monday, April 6, 2009.



Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary
Tom Perkins, City Attorney
Craig Kinton, City Auditor
Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge
Ramon F. Miguez, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Interim Assistant City Manager
Dave K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council Office



Dallas Fire-Rescue

Department's Achievements

October 1, 2007- present

Eddie Burns, Sr.
Fire Chief

April 6th, 2009



Purpose

- To highlight accomplishments within Dallas Fire-Rescue from October 1, 2007 to present



Life Safety and Risk Reduction: For the Citizens

1. Continued the smoke detector installation program by installing detectors purchased with grant funds
2. Reduced the fire fatality rate by 33% from 2001-2002
3. Implemented an all-hazards injury prevention program for children; piloted in 07-08 in three DISD schools and being implemented in several private schools for 08-09
4. Reorganized division to provide both geographic and targeted hazard (high rise and hazmat) approach for inspections
5. Successfully solved two high profile serial arson cases and obtained convictions of the juvenile suspects (Oak Cliff and Northwest Dallas)
6. Operated two arson canine teams at no cost to the City to improve investigators' efficiency in evaluating a scene to determine whether accelerants were used



Life Safety and Risk Reduction: For the Workforce

1. Began succession planning by conducting leadership training for officers
2. Obtained additional resources including personnel, tough book computers and vehicles
3. Provided specialized training on hazardous materials inspections and increased training opportunities for inspectors
4. Increased skill sets and improved expert witness status by providing training to certify nine investigators as certified Fire & Explosion Investigators
5. Converting reports to electronic format which decreases time spent on data entry
6. Beginning decentralization process by opening one field office to increase collaboration and travel efficiencies



EMS: For the Citizens

1. 12 lead EKG's with capnography, and transmission of EKG's to Biotel via Bluetooth
2. AED's on all apparatus and ongoing CPR training
3. Inquiry Management System
4. Additional Rescues
5. EMS Hurricane Response; staffing and tiered response of Convention Center EMS Command for hurricane Dolly, Gustav and Ike and deployment of a Medical Strike Team to South Texas during Hurricane Ike
6. Bike medic deployment for special events



EMS: For the Workforce

1. Electronic patient care reporting
2. Online continuing education
3. Increasing of EMS staff – Special Events Coordinator and Quality Assurance Coordinator
4. Toughbook laptop computer (CF19's)
5. Advanced Life Support Engines at stations 5, 16 and 40



Planning and Development: For the Citizens

1. Ensured resources available through auto assistance agreements
2. Preparing for Insurances Services Office review
3. Ensured resources available for major incident through Mutual Aid agreements
4. Improved service delivery through improved training
5. Improved service delivery through appropriate resource allocation
6. Improved service delivery through overall self assessment of Department



Planning and Development: For the Workforce

1. Pursuing Departmental Accreditation
2. Initial assessment for Insurance Services Office review
3. Ensured automatic assistance agreements in place
4. Mutual aid agreements and contract



Training and Support Services: For the Citizens

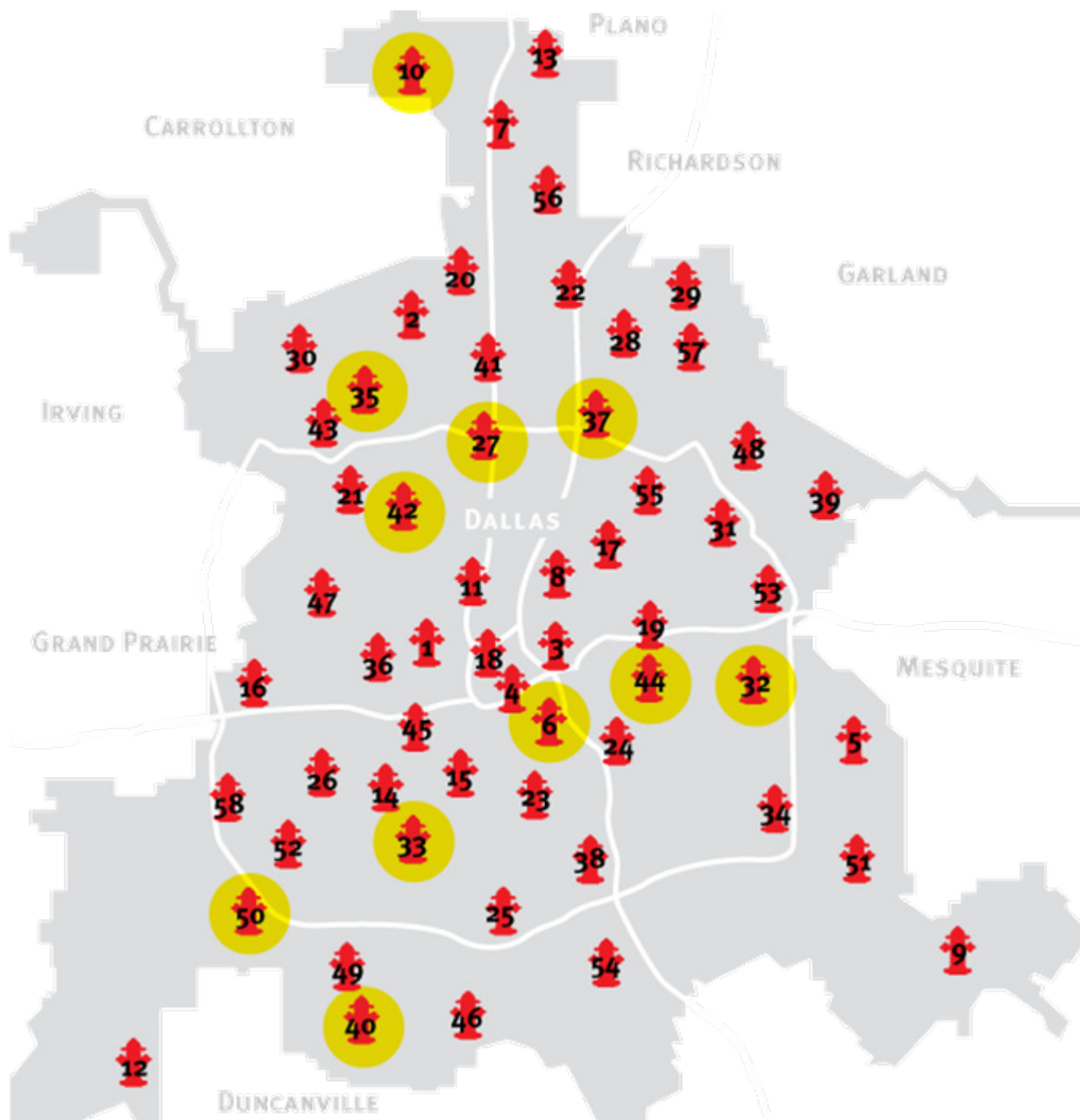
1. Citizen's Fire Academy began (Class #5) in February 2009
2. Environmental compliance for enhanced quality of life
3. Met goal of 90% compliance with preventive maintenance of equipment to ensure emergency response capability
4. Recruit class community service participation
5. Explorer program
6. Assistance with equipment/supplies for hurricane relief efforts without impacting service to our citizens



Training and Support Services: For the Workforce

1. Five (5) year training plan developed and enhanced In-Service Training Program (including Adjunct Instructors)
2. Wellness/Fitness Program: have completed physicals for more than 2/3 of Emergency Operations personnel
3. New/Replacement Stations: (33, 35, 40). Replacement Stations 33 and 35 opened in 11/2008. In addition, replacement Station 42 construction to be complete in 04/2009. Land acquisition in progress for Stations 6, 27, 32, 37 and 44. Station 10 expansion has been approved and should be complete by 04/2010. Station 50 has an anticipated completion date of 10/2010.
4. Improved facility maintenance program- (structured process to address issues)
5. Environmental Compliance- (received recognition for efforts)
6. Recruit Training – In October 2008, began an unprecedented effort to train 100 recruits. This included our first “fast track” program for 13 recruits that had already attained a Texas Firefighter Certification. Their training cycle was reduced to eight weeks prior to assignment and evaluation in the field by selected mentors.





Communications and Technology: For the Citizens

1. Implemented enhanced CAD system capable of mapping the exact location of a cellular call and enables interoperability between Police, Fire and 9-1-1
2. Established a QA Program within Fire Dispatch that includes a fulltime QA position
3. Created marker locations within the CAD system for Katy Trail to assist in defining the location of an emergency
4. Created marker locations within the CAD system for White Rock Trail to assist in defining the location of an emergency
5. Enhanced the online DFR active incidents screen available to the public
6. Designed CAD components to assist in the implementation of the Rapid Response Unit Program (EMS)



Communications and Technology: For the Workforce

1. Implemented new station alerting system (Locution); implemented electronic version of EMD card set in Fire Dispatch and created an internal website to report data; collected data for the pre-implementation phase of the RRU program and published on the website
2. Developed a re-assignment for the “Bid” system allowing members to submit bids for re-assignment and manages personnel changes
3. Increased supervisory role/capacity on Dispatch floor and established continuing education training for Dispatchers
4. Developed a document sign-off process for accountability of communication through our Department’s internal Departmental Directives and Memorandums
5. Developed a daily inventory process that tracks the morning inventory of apparatus, key equipment, and to manage equipment reported out of service
6. Developed and made modifications to the fuel tracking system for fire stations that meet requirements of TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) and OEQ (Office of Environmental Quality) for fuel system management



Emergency Response Operations: For the Citizens

1. **Response to approximately 500,000 fire and EMS incidents** – Emergency Responses from October 1, 2007 to present
2. **Hurricane Gustav and Ike** – Coordinated Command Center and EMS functions for evacuees in Dallas
3. **Training Exercises** – Full scale high rise fire exercise at Renaissance Tower, WMD exercise in Dallas Convention Center, emergency exercises at UT Southwestern and Children's Hospital
4. **Service Region Coordination** – Assigned Deputy Chiefs to monitor and coordinate all citizen requests and activities in each of the 7 service regions
5. **Citizen Programs** – Performed approximately 1,000 Show and Tells, and Fire Station Tours since October 1, 2007
6. **In-Service Programs** – Provided smoke detector and battery installations for citizens and performed maintenance on fire hydrants in each battalion district



Emergency Response Operations: For the Workforce

1. **Firestore** – Software database that organizes all the fire-rescue inspection and tactical data to provide easy access to reports and statistics
2. **Adopt-A-Station** – Provides a vehicle for citizens and businesses to donate goods and services to specific fire stations
3. **ICS Training-NIMS compliant** – Incident Command Training based on National guidelines, including incident visibility vests to expedite assistance and communication
4. **Seat Belt Pledge – 100% participation** – Commitment from all personnel to wear seatbelts on and off duty in response to the Brian Hunton National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge
5. **Self Contained Breathing Apparatus** – New AirPak75 technology provides oxygen level display, EZ-Flo positive pressure breathing, built in PASS device and emergency shared breathing capabilities
6. **Communications Improvement** – Chief roundtable meetings with station companies to increase two-way communications for current concerns and issues



Homeland Security: For the Citizens

1. Improved Haz/Mat response capabilities by decreasing citizen exposure to hazardous materials
2. Ability to save lives at incidents requiring search and rescue capabilities
3. Increased return on tax dollars by supplementing them with grant funds
4. National recognition for the City during hurricane deployment
5. Enhanced capability to respond to incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction
6. Expanded response/rescue capabilities at incidents involving high water and/or swift water hazards



Financial Services: For the Workforce

1. Enhanced fiscal responsibility:
 - a. Greater internal control for expenditure approval process and financial reporting
 - b. Developed strategies for and streamlined budget development process
 - c. Strengthened review of City Council Agenda Items and Administrative Actions
2. Operational Efficiencies:
 - a. Assessment and evaluation on use of equipment notes and long term needs
 - b. Cost benefit analysis on fire operations staffing, equipment and materials expenditures
 - c. Costs savings measures; recruit hiring vs. overtime costs
3. Hurricane Relief Efforts:
 - a. Managed data collection and reimbursement process
 - b. (\$1.4M) reimbursement request to FEMA and State of Texas for hurricane relief efforts; Edouard, Dolly, Gustav, and IKE



Departmental Accomplishments Mean Improved Service to the Citizens

1. The public is safer
2. Prosecution of incendiary firesetters is more likely
3. Children and adults are more educated in injury and fire prevention
4. Fire Officers are closer in proximity
5. Paramedics are nearer at special events
6. Members of the Department are better trained to react with efficiency and effectiveness to the needs of the citizens
7. More lives can be saved through search and rescue, hurricane, flood, and terrorist response



QUESTIONS?

