

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FUND NO. 001
ACCOUNT NOS. 0901-08

DESCRIPTION

The Merced Fire Department endeavors to protect lives, assist citizens, and save property by adhering to the concept of the mission statement and the design of the Merced Community Fire Protection Master Plan (CFPMP). The Fire Department is divided into five spheres of responsibility and each operational area is committed to insuring that the goals and objectives are realized to the fullest extent possible within permissible guidelines. The areas of responsibility are Administration, Prevention, Training, Logistics/Support, and Operations.

MISSION

The Merced Fire Department strives to provide the highest level of life, environment, and property protection to the citizens of Merced through fire / rescue and emergency / disaster mitigation, emergency medical services, fire prevention, and related services.

ADMINISTRATION

GOAL

- ◇ Coordinate the efforts of the Fire Department to meet the expectations of the Community Fire Protection Master Plan (CFPMP) and to effectively manage goals and objectives so that they meet the current and projected fire and life safety needs of the citizens.

OBJECTIVES

1. Insure the efficiency and direction in departmental growth and development.

***PERFORMANCE
MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS***

In coordination with the City General Plan, update the CFPMP, with emphasis on "Standards of Cover", for determination of future service delivery. Timeline will be in accordance with management directives.

FIRE

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. Maintain response times and provide prompt emergency services. | <p>Continue development and construction of a new fire station in northeastern Merced. Address operational changes and plan for opening in the first quarter of 2005.</p> <p>Continue planning for relocation of existing stations and create preliminary goals for building a new station in north central Merced, in the area of Bellevue Ranch, to address continued growth and service needs by Spring 2005.</p> |
| 3. Increase the department's ability to plan for providing future response, task, technological, and staffing needs. | <p>Continue review and assessment of potential contract service areas for emergency response in line with city growth and the sphere of influence. Report of operational feasibility to be determined by discussions with state and local agencies, including U.C. Merced.</p> |

FIRE

PREVENTION

GOAL

- ◇ Proactively diminish the potential for pain, suffering, and monetary loss from fire and injury, maintain inspection programs, and minimize the fire hazards by coordinating the systematic removal of weeds, trash, and other related dangerous conditions.

OBJECTIVES

4. Maintain a fire safe community with current and updated practices, information, and training.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

Enhance delivery methods for various Fire Prevention activities, including "Adopt a School", and "Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)." Ongoing program in coordination with schools and Neighborhood Watch groups.

Refine the procedures for multi-agency use and delivery of programs relative to the "Safe House" trailer by Fall 2005.

Integrate inspection occupancy classifications and usage into the Firehouse reporting software by Fall 2004.

FIRE

TRAINING

GOAL

- ◇ Prepare and maintain personnel with the skills necessary for delivering quality service to the citizens by- establishing and adhering to performance and safety standards, recognizing and implementing federal, state, and local training mandates, and providing direction for career growth and advancement .

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5. Increase the department's ability to recruit and retain personnel. | Continue to coordinate efforts with Merced College to promote the local firefighter academy and the Fire Technology program. Establish a resource list of local certified instructors with authorization to instruct specialized courses by Fall 2004. |
| 6. Enhance the department's ability to provide formal education based training opportunities necessary for promotion. | <p>Establish an evaluation and feedback system for the mentoring program by Fall 2004.</p> <p>Review the state certified Driver-Operator program and update departmental procedures as necessary by Winter 2004.</p> <p>Provide data input necessary for reporting, tracking, and maintaining personnel training and certifications through the Firehouse reporting software system by Fall 2004.</p> |

FIRE

LOGISTICS/SUPPORT

GOAL

- ◇ Promote the efforts of all other divisions by fulfilling logistical needs and by maintaining and enhancing facilities, services, and materials and assuring the effective use of resources and supplies while utilizing the latest equipment and technology.

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 7. Maintain, repair, and replace emergency equipment in accordance with safety and manufacturers guidelines. | Initiate research on specifications for a new fire engine as determined by the vehicle replacement schedule. Preliminary specifications to be completed by Spring 2005. |
| 8. Update equipment and support systems as necessary to stay in line with performance and technological growth and advancements. | Continue with communications upgrade funded by F.I.R.E. A.C.T. grant. Expected to be functional by Fall 2004. Address communication needs of Station 55 in accordance with timetable of construction. Pursue additional grant funding to enhance and upgrade dispatch system capabilities. Measurements will be determined by grant awards, construction timelines and programming compatibilities. |

FIRE

OPERATIONS

GOAL

- ◇ Plan and provide for a maximum emergency reflex response time of 4-6 minutes citywide and manage operational objectives directly applicable to the primary mission of protecting lives and property.

OBJECTIVES

- 9. Insure the efficiency and direction in departmental growth and development.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

Update the department's Official Action Guidelines by Spring 2005. Continue to coordinate with other departments in relation to GIS, Web development and information sharing. Completion to be in line with committee timeframes.

2004-2005 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- In this fiscal year, the department will continue efforts to increase our service capabilities with the addition of fire station #55, continued C.E.R.T. training, and enhanced service delivery and use of the fire prevention "Safety House" trailer. Challenges will include: location selection and logistics for new stations, manpower and equipment needs and distribution, resource allocation for jurisdictional coverage, and support operations to manage the rapid growth of the service area.
- The development of U.C. Merced and changes within the Merced County Fire Department will require that continued consideration is given to the possibility of the City contracting services to both of the agencies.
- The city Fire dispatch and communication system needs significant upgrading to meet existing and future needs. Inter-agency communication, secondary and secure communications, and encrypted or adaptable radio systems are being proposed as necessary by federal and state agencies as part of the "Homeland" protection service delivery system. A grant was awarded last fiscal year for some operational upgrades and additional F.I.R.E. Act grant funding is being pursued to address more of the dispatch and communication system needs.
- Functional and tabletop exercises are being planned to test recently updated disaster plans and inter-agency coordination. Grant requests are being submitted to address potential threat issues and local agencies are coordinating grant awards in order to avoid duplication of effort while increasing overall service delivery.
- The budget request included 9 personnel to staff Station 55 and 3 Fire Captains to serve as truck officers. The City Manager's Recommendation

FIRE

reflects opening Station 55 with staffing of 6, reflective of the City Council's goal-setting exercise.