

Fire-Rescue Department Engine Brownout Plan and Lifeguard Reductions Update



Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee

May 26, 2010

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Report Focus

- 4th Monthly Report to PS&NS
- Brownout Plan
 - Workload and Response Time Statistics Update
 - Reassignment of “Quints” Update
- Lifeguard Budget Reductions
 - Beach Coverage Statistics Update
 - Training Impacts and Adjustments
 - Personnel Impacts and Adjustments

Brownout Plan Refresher

- Brownouts refers to the temporary removal from service of 0-8 fire engines per day in the 13 fire stations that house more than one emergency response apparatus
- Brownouts were implemented on February 6, 2010 as a budget reduction measure to save \$11.5M in overtime
- Each brown-out unit saves approximately \$1.4M annually
- Today's report covers February 6 through April 30, 2010
 - 26,229 emergency incidents during this period
 - 711 fires
 - 22,846 medical
 - 2,672 other

Statistical Summary of Brownouts

- Out-of-Service Time for Participating Engines
 - 23.20% - 99.51%
- Compliance with 5 min. First Unit Arrival Response Time
 - National Standard = 90% Fire-Rescue Interim Target = 55%
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **55.15%**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **53.31%**
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **30.80% - 86.71%**
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **20.90% - 81.01%**
- Average Response Times (minutes/seconds)
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = 5:03
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = 5:09
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **3:44 - 6:21**
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **3:45 - 6:36**

Effective Fire Force

- Defined as the number of firefighters required to perform operations at a typical single family dwelling fire
 - 14-15 firefighters depending on whether an aerial ladder is deployed
 - SDFD achieves this with 3 engines, 1 truck and 1 battalion chief
- Compliance with 9 min. Effective Fire Force Arrival Response Time
 - National Standard = 90% Fire-Rescue Interim Target = 72%
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = 73%
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = 66%
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = 0% - 100%
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = 0% - 100%
- Average Effective Fire Force Response Times
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = 7.50 minutes
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = 8.27 minutes

“Quint” Reassignment Status Update

- Quint = Truck with extinguishment capability
- Quint from Mira Mesa moved to University City
 - Move completed
 - Mira Mesa Station provided with replacement truck
- Quint from Santa Luz moving to Pacific Beach
 - Crew training taking place this week
 - Quint to be moved by end of May
 - Santa Luz Station being provided with newly received fire engine

Brownout Plan Summary

- Initial Plan implemented remains fundamentally sound and is functioning as designed
- No significant improvements in response times can be made absent restoration of funding for browned out units
- Impacts to non-emergency activities (e.g., training, fire inspections) are being addressed where possible
- Plan will continue to be monitored daily and beneficial adjustments will be made where possible
- Plan performance and significant adjustments will be reported to PS&NS monthly

Lifeguard Beach Coverage Update

- Staffing Reductions Made to Achieve Budget Savings
 - 2 fulltime LGs in Fall, Winter and Spring
 - 1 fulltime LG in Summer
 - 3 hourly LGs on weekdays in Summer
 - 4 hourly LG son weekends in Summer
 - Hourly LG positions during Spring Break and Spring/Fall weekends
- Operational Adjustments Made for Beach Coverage
 - 2 hourly LGs patrol Torrey Pines Beach in summer
 - Standard Operating Procedure for Torrey Pines Beach responses
- LG Resources are Shifted in Response to Emergency Incidents and Peak Service Demands

Incidents at Torrey Pines Beach (4/1 – 5/14)

- City Portion of Beach (8 incidents)
 - 0- Medical Aid
 - 0- Water Rescues
 - 4- Cliff Rescues
 - 1- Preventive Actions
 - 0-Enforcement
 - 3 - Other calls for service

- Non-City Portions of Beach (14 incidents)
 - 6- Medical Aid
 - 3- Water Rescues
 - 0- Cliff Rescues
 - 3- Preventive Actions
 - 1-Enforcement
 - 1 - Other calls for service

Wind n' Sea Beach Coverage

- Pre-Budget Reduction Staffing at Wind 'n Sea Beach
 - Guarded on a seasonal basis only
 - No year-round staffing provided
- Staffing Reductions Made to Achieve Budget Savings
 - 1 fulltime LG in Summer
- Operational Adjustments Made for Beach Coverage
 - Hourly LGs will patrol in summer
 - Standard Operating Procedure will be developed prior to summer
- To Date – No Unusual Impacts to LG Operations at Wind 'n Sea due to Budget Reductions

Lifeguard Training Activities

■ Prior to Budget Reductions

- All lifeguards scheduled for duty on Wednesdays
- 1/2 assigned to training for 10 hours/1/2 assigned to normal duty
- Assignments alternated each week
- Training plan conducted during six months with least activity

■ Budget Reductions

- Wednesday training activities terminated
- Personnel assigned to work relief positions to save OT (\$236k)
- River Rescue Team training cut by 50%
- LGII training coordinator position reduced (\$69k)

■ Adjustments Made to Training

- Training now conducted via in-service and start of shift modules
- Training is sufficient to maintain basic skills

Lifeguard Personnel Impacts

■ Reductions

- 8 Lifeguard II FTEs
- 4 filled
- 4 unfilled

■ Impacts

- 4 Lifeguards II demoted to Lifeguards I (\$256k savings)
- Demoted lifeguards granted priority for OCA to LGII
- Used as needed to fill LGII positions (sick leaves, vacations)
- Granted priority to return to fulltime FTE as vacancies occur

Questions?