

Fire-Rescue Department Engine Brownout Plan and Lifeguard Reductions Update



Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
November 17, 2010
Fire Chief Javier Mainar

Statistical Summary of Brownouts

- Out-of-Service Time for Participating Engines = 31% - 100%
- Compliance with 5 min. First Unit Arrival Response Time
 - National Standard = 90% Fire-Rescue Interim Target = 55%
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = 55%
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = 54%
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = 27% - 87%
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = 23% - 81%
- Average Response Times (minutes/seconds)
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = 5:02
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = 5:08
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = 3:47 - 6:15
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = 3:49 - 6:42

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 = **70%**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **72%**
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **38% - 100%**
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **0% - 100%**
- Average Effective Fire Force Response Times
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **7.89 minutes**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **7.69 minutes**

Analysis of Response to Residential Structure Fire

- Residential Structure Fire in North Encanto on October 22, 2010, at 3:38 p.m.
- 7:24 engine response time
 - 2:24 longer than 5 minute goal
- 10:16 effective fire force assembly
 - 1:16 longer than 9 minute goal
- Delayed response due to
 - Brownout of Engine 12 (Lincoln Park)
 - Brownout of Engine 10 (College)
- An earlier arrival would have reduced \$75,000 fire loss

Non-Emergency Impacts and Adjustments

- Reduced Manipulative Training Opportunities
 - Fewer units makes it difficult to go out-of-service for training
- Training Adjustments Made
 - Units allowed out-of-service at one time increased from 12 to 14
 - Units in Department-wide training sessions decreased from 5 to 3
 - More training delivered at fire stations or online
- Delays in Completing Fire Inspections
 - Fewer units are busier with emergency responses
 - Unable to keep up with fire inspection workload
 - 90-day overdue inspections up from 12% (April) to 27% (Oct.)
 - Results in greater risk and revenue collection delays
- Inspection Adjustments Made
 - Light duty staff assigned when available

Lifeguard Reductions

■ Personnel

- 8 Lifeguard FTEs
 - 4 filled (demoted to LGI)
 - 4 unfilled
- 1 Lifeguard II Training Coordinator
- Reduction of Hourly LG Budget
- Reduction of Overtime Budget



■ Non-Personnel

- Overlap Training Wednesdays Eliminated
- River Rescue Team Training Budget Cut by 50%

Impacts of Reductions

- Loss of Beach Coverage at Torrey Pines
 - 2 fulltime LGs in Fall, Winter and Spring/1 fulltime LG in Summer
 - 3 hourly LGs on weekdays in Summer and 4 hourly LGs on weekends
 - Hourly LG positions during Spring Break and Spring/Fall weekends
- Operational Adjustments Made for Beach Coverage
 - 2 hourly LGs patrolled Torrey Pines Beach in summer
 - Standard Operating Procedure for Torrey Pines Beach responses
- Loss of Training Opportunities
 - Only minimum training required for safety being provided
- Adjustments Made for Training
 - Pre-shift and in-service training modules developed
 - Winter training plan implemented

Incidents at Torrey Pines Beach (10/7 thru 10/31)

- City Portion of Beach
 - 3- Medical Aid
 - 0- Water Rescues
 - 0- Cliff Rescues
 - 11- Preventative Actions
 - 2-Enforcement
 - 2 - Other calls for service

- Non-City Portions of Beach
 - 1- Medical Aid
 - 0- Water Rescues
 - 0- Cliff Rescues
 - 10- Preventative Actions
 - 0-Enforcement
 - 0 - Other calls for service

Questions?