

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

*Rules, Policies, and Guidelines*

*K. W. Perkins*, Fire Chief

1205.020

### Fire Station Staffing

Implemented: 07-29-08

Revised:

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### **PURPOSE**

One of the most crucial issues regarding the response of an organized fire department is its ability to provide a rapid response to emergency incidents. In order to provide for a rapid response, a fire department must ensure that personnel are either staffing a fire station fulltime, have adequate personnel that are available for an immediate recall, or a combination of both.

### **OBJECTIVE**

Escambia County presents a wide variety of response areas. These areas include environments that represent high-rise, urban, suburban, and rural communities. Due to the varying call load and potential for emergencies within each area, fire stations in Escambia County are staffed in several different methods.

### **SCOPE**

All Personnel

### **AREAS OF OPERATION**

Escambia County is essentially divided into 4 different neighborhood environments. Those environments include; waterfront (gulf and inland waterways), urban, suburban, and rural. Each area presents its own set of unique challenges for the fire service; including, building design, land use, and available water supply. Also, the population density is directly related to the amount and types of emergencies that ECFR can expect to respond to in certain areas.

Firefighters assigned to urban and suburban areas should expect multiple calls for emergency assistance on a daily basis, while those that are responders in rural areas may go several days without a call. Due to the dramatic difference in call volume, the staffing needs of fire stations also vary.

### **FIRE STATION STAFFING**

District Chiefs, or the senior station officer shall be responsible for establishing a volunteer staffing plan that meets the needs of the area served. Those fire stations in the most populated and busy areas should create a plan that provides for continuous staffing. Rural areas, and those areas where emergency calls are less frequent, should have a staffing plan that provides for the immediate recall and response of firefighting personnel.

### **CAREER STAFFING**

Fire stations may be staffed full-time or part-time by career personnel. Career staffing is primarily based upon the availability of trained volunteer personnel; call volume, and regional response capability. If a fire station routinely demonstrates that it is not capable of

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providing a rapid response with adequate numbers of trained personnel, the Fire Chief shall confer with the District Chief to determine a plan of action to increase staffing levels as needed.

**ANNUAL STAFFING PLAN**

District Chiefs, or the senior station officer shall prepare a written annual staffing plan. This staffing plan shall be submitted along with their annual budget packet to the Fire Chief. The plan shall identify how adequate staffing will be accomplished for their particular station through the upcoming fiscal year, and if any additional staffing needs are anticipated.