



City of Port Angeles Clallam County Fire District #2

Volunteer Sub- Committee Introduction



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February 26, 2009



Why Consolidate?

Provides a synergistic effect

- In 2007, functionally consolidated volunteer firefighter programs



Combines the strengths of both departments, providing an outcome that exceeds what could be accomplished individually



Current Volunteer Challenges

- Increasing work load
 - In the past 10 years, CCFD #2's calls for service increased by an additional 78%
 - In the past 10 years, PAFD's calls for service increased by an additional 33%
- Initial training requirements
 - EMT course – 120 hours
 - Firefighter Recruit Academy – 180 hours
- On-going training requirements
 - 2 hours each Monday evening, including occasional weekend classes



National Trend

- It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters
 - Increasing time commitment
 - Changing societal values
 - Two-wage earners are more prevalent
 - Busier life styles
 - Family priorities



**We are all fishing for the volunteers
time from the same pond**



Standardized Training

- Training is more consistent between the two departments
 - Increased familiarity with personnel and equipment
 - More effective operations
 - Safer operations
- Recent examples where standardization played a critical role:
 - 2004 - Elks fire
 - 2005 - Interfor Pacific fire
 - 2009 – Marine Drive commercial fire



Volunteer History

Port Angeles and District # 2

- In 1891, the Gate City Fire Company was created in Port Angeles
 - Initially, the firefighters were all volunteers
 - Due to growth, both commercial and residential, career firefighters were added
- In 1943, Clallam County Fire District #2 was created
 - Original volunteers were housewives who's husbands were supporting the war effort
 - With increasing requirements and mandates, administrative staff was added



Early Response

- Port Angeles
 - First career firefighters handled the routine day-to-day calls
 - Major incidents required a call-back of all personnel
 - Both Career and Volunteers
- District 2
 - First responders were all volunteer firefighters
 - No emergency medical services were provided



Today

- City of Port Angeles Personnel
 - **Career** – 23 uniformed career personnel
 - **Volunteer Personnel** – 24 volunteer positions (sponsored)
- District 2 Personnel
 - **Career** – 2 uniformed career personnel
 - **Volunteer Personnel** – 60 volunteer positions (sponsored)



Impacts to Volunteers

- Introduction of Paramedics in 1984 (City)
- Addition of Emergency Medical Services in 1984 (District)
- Increased Workload for both Career and Volunteers
- Functional consolidation of City and District volunteer programs



Today's Existing Volunteer Roles

Port Angeles

- Station manned by a minimum 4 career personnel, including 2 paramedics
- Career responds to first call
 - simultaneous calls are generally handled through call-back of volunteers and off-duty career
 - 1st level – Eastside or Westside callback
 - 2nd level – Side not previously summoned
 - 3rd level – General alarm, call-back of all personnel
 - 5th call usually triggers request for Mutual Aid from District 2.
- *Current call volume – 3,600*



Today's Existing Volunteer Roles

District #2

- First 2 calls handled by volunteers, and Olympic Ambulance when available
 - Volunteers staff squads 24/7, when available, which contain EMS supplies with AEDs
 - Volunteers staffing squads, determine level of response for most situations
 - Olympic Ambulance provides BLS in City and inter-facility transports
 - 3rd & 4th calls handled by other station or request for mutual aid from Port Angeles Fire
- *Current Call Volume – 1,100*



Existing Duties

- In 2007, District & City volunteers provided approximately 20,000 hours of service
 - 80% is EMS
 - Arrive at scene with personal vehicle or at station to staff the ambulance
 - Provide BLS, and assist with ALS transport
 - For District, often depends upon Olympic Ambulance's availability
 - Provide mutual aid when requested
 - Request mutual aid when needed



Existing Duties

- 20% is fire & rescue
 - Respond to fires; structural, wildland and motor vehicle
 - Arrive at scene with personal vehicle or at station to staff fire apparatus
 - Provide vehicle extrication as needed
 - Provide mutual aid when requested
 - Request mutual aid when needed



Role Post-Consolidation

“We have every expectation that we will continue to be utilized once the consolidation is completed. We see ourselves providing the same services to the same customers in the same basic manner as we do now”.

“We strive to further enhance an already very Good working relationship with the career staff”.



Volunteer Benefits

- Receive a stipend for training & responses equal to minimum wage to assist with personnel vehicle costs and misc. expenses
 - Slight increase in stipend for certifications and promotions
- Issued uniforms and sweatshirts for responding to calls and for public education activities
- *Volunteers recommend continuing stipend and uniforms*



Volunteer Benefits

- Port Angeles provides volunteer preference points through Civil Service
 - 1% for every 6 months, up to 10%
- *Volunteers recommend the ability to advance to a career position without having to go through Civil Service*
- NFPA identifies sudden cardiac arrest as the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths for firefighters
 - The majority are volunteers
- *Volunteers recommend a wellness & fitness program as part of consolidation*



Volunteer Benefits

- Both the City & District volunteers are covered by the Volunteer Firefighter's Disability & Pension Board
 - Provides modest pension after 25 years
 - Provides basic disability coverage
 - Port Angeles provides supplemental disability coverage
- *Volunteers recommend that pension plan options and supplemental disability coverage be investigated*



Conclusion

- The volunteers are excited about the prospect of being an integral part of a consolidated department
- Volunteers are cost-effective, saving the jurisdiction valuable tax dollars
 - Requires a significant commitment on part of the volunteer
 - There should be a continued commitment on the part of a new consolidated jurisdiction
- *The average service span of a volunteer is 9.5 years, and is continuing to decrease. We can do better!*



Questions ?