

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Klum, John
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:34 AM
To: Fritz, Amanda; Leonard, Randy; Adams, Sam; Saltzman, Dan; Fish, Nick
Cc: Kovatch, Ty; Ames, Betsy; Finn, Brendan; Jimenez, Warren; Bizeau, Tom; Exec. Staff-Core Team (PF&R Email); Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: RE: Council Information

Commissioner,

I have taken the liberty to break out your questions.

Thank you for your questions and I hope this helps. I would be happy to meet with you if you so wish.

Currently, the four person fire station team goes out to medical calls, with the big truck. If a fire call comes in, either the four person team leaves the medical call, or the four person team stays and a different station's team covers the fire.

This is correct.

If one or two members of the team were off in the small truck attending to a medical issue, the outcome for fires would be no different.

This is correct if you consider the remaining two-person engine not included in the response to the fire. The response time for an adjacent company responding from farther away would be the same. If the two-person engine responds to the fire, the arrival time would be the same as a four-person crew, the difference is that the time it takes to make entry into the structure and fight the fire is increased due to either waiting for the other two-person crew or the crew from the adjacent Fire Management to arrive on scene.

If the medical issue is problematic enough that the two fire fighters can't say, "we need to go to a fire" and meet the engine and the other two staff at the fire, then a different station's crew and engine would be dispatched, same as now. Right?

This is correct, but you would have the same issue with increased response time for the adjacent unit to arrive.

Do we have data on how often staff are out on medical calls when fire calls come in? Perhaps this information could be part of the study being proposed?

Yes, we can run this data but it will take a few days.

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From: Fritz, Amanda
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:53 AM
To: Klum, John; Leonard, Randy; Adams, Sam; Saltzman, Dan; Fish, Nick
Cc: Kovatch, Ty; Ames, Betsy; Finn, Brendan; Jimenez, Warren; Bizeau, Tom; Exec. Staff-Core Team (PF&R Email); Moore-Love, Karla
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Thank you for your reply. I still don't understand entirely, except I get the point about changing into protective gear en route. Here's why:

Currently, the four person fire station team goes out to medical calls, with the big truck. If a fire call comes in, either the four person team leaves the medical call, or the four person team stays and a different station's team covers the fire. If one or two members of the team were off in the small truck attending to a medical issue, the outcome for fires would be no different. If the medical issue is problematic enough that the two fire fighters can't say, "we need to go to a fire" and meet the engine and the other two staff at the fire, then a different station's crew and engine would be dispatched, same as now. Right?

Do we have data on how often staff are out on medical calls when fire calls come in? Perhaps this information could be part of the study being proposed?

Amanda

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner, City of Portland

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From: Klum, John
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:54 PM
To: Fritz, Amanda; Leonard, Randy; Adams, Sam; Saltzman, Dan; Fish, Nick
Cc: Kovatch, Ty; Ames, Betsy; Finn, Brendan; Jimenez, Warren; Bizeau, Tom; Exec. Staff-Core Team (PF&R Email); Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: RE: Council Information

Commissioner,

All of PF&R's large fire apparatus are staffed with a team of four persons. The basis for four-person staffing is the OSHA two-in two-out requirement. What that means is you need to have a two-person structural firefighting entry team and a two-person rescue team in place prior to entering the structure. In addition, the recent National Institute of Safety and Technology (NIST) studies support the 4-person crew configuration

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for dual fire and EMS response agencies.

If a four-person team is split, sending two of them to respond to an EMS call and a fire occurs, the two remaining staff responding to the fire call would not be able to do any interior fire suppression resulting in delaying entry and increasing the possibility of loss of life or property.

A four-person unit also allows two firefighters to don the personal protective equipment en route and be ready to make entry upon arrival. One- or two-person units cannot don protective equipment en route and be ready to make entry upon arrival.

Additional staffing is needed for the proposed quick response units to prevent delays in fire suppression that could result in the loss of life or property.

Regarding non-urgent medical calls, the majority of the time, non emergency medical calls are not identified as such until PF&R staff arrives at the scene. These calls are dispatched as Code 3, which indicates that at that time they are medical emergencies.

Once a one- or two-person unit is at the scene and it is determined the call is a non emergency medical call, the one- or two-person units cannot always leave a noncritical patient after contact is made. The staff responding will be carrying a substantial amount of equipment away from their apparatus and by the time the one- or two-person unit has completed attending to the noncritical patient, reloaded equipment on the apparatus, responding to fire call would delay the fire response to an unacceptable amount of time.

Regarding leaving two persons at a medical scene performing CPR, currently two-person units do not respond alone to critical calls such as cardiac events due to the need for the additional staffing necessary to render required aid to increase patient survivability, this type of medical response requires at least a four-person team.

If PF&R were to split four person units, we would be sending multiple two-person units to a fire. This would increase the number of apparatus responding to a structural fire in order to have adequate staff to mitigate the incident. This would also increase wear and tear on the larger apparatus.

Finally, PF&R's one- and two-person response model has these units covering several adjacent Fire Management Areas thus placing these units significant distances away from their primary station and the two-person apparatus they are assigned to.

I hope this addressed your questions, if not please let me know.

Thank you.

From: Fritz, Amanda
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:29 PM
To: Klum, John; Leonard, Randy; Adams, Sam; Saltzman, Dan; Fish, Nick
Cc: Kovatch, Ty; Ames, Betsy; Finn, Brendan; Jimenez, Warren; Bizeau, Tom; Exec. Staff-Core Team (PF&R Email); Moore-Love, Karla
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Yes, thank you, that's helpful.

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So if and when we purchase smaller vehicles and have smaller teams (either one or two people) staffing them, why couldn't there be a similar triage system? If two of the team are out in a smaller vehicle on a medical call, and a fire call comes in, either the two stop helping the non-urgent medical call and meet the other two with the big truck at the fire, or the two keep doing CPR at the medical call and another close fire station responds to the fire possibly with the two remaining fire fighters and the truck from the station that also has the small EMS vehicle?

I am not seeing the need for more staff for the new vehicles, since already fire fighters (all four of them, in the big vehicle) stop attending to non-emergency medical calls and/or call out a full team from a nearby fire station, in the event of a fire. Please help me understand how adding a smaller vehicle at a few fire stations changes the staffing needs or fire response.

Thank you,

Amanda

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner, City of Portland

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From: Klum, John
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Commissioner,
If the four-person company is responding to a high priority EMS call such as a cardiac event, the company will continue on that EMS call and the fire will be addressed by other companies geographically close to the fire call. If it is a non-critical call such as a sick person, commercial alarm etc. the company will ask dispatch if they can be replaced with another available unit from an adjacent Fire Management Area and respond to the fire. Dispatch may also redirect the company on its own based upon the type of call.

Please let me know if this answers your question.

Thank you.

From: Fritz, Amanda
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 12:07 PM
To: Klum, John; Leonard, Randy; Adams, Sam; Saltzman, Dan; Fish, Nick
Cc: Kovatch, Ty; Ames, Betsy; Finn, Brendan; Jimenez, Warren; Bizeau, Tom; Exec. Staff-Core Team (PF&R Email); Moore-Love,

4/11/2011

Karla

Subject: RE: Council Information

Thank you for your response, Chief Klum.

Under the current provision of services by PF&R, if the four members of the station team are responding in the big vehicle to a medical call, what happens when a fire call comes in?

Amanda

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner, City of Portland

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From: Klum, John
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:35 AM
To: Leonard, Randy; Adams, Sam; Fritz, Amanda; Saltzman, Dan; Fish, Nick
Cc: Kovatch, Ty; Ames, Betsy; Finn, Brendan; Jimenez, Warren; Bizeau, Tom; Exec. Staff-Core Team (PF&R Email)
Subject: Council Information

Council members,

In response to the Council Session on March 30, 2011, PF&R has developed a document that will provide Council with a better understanding of how PF&R would implement a Quick Response Unit program. The attached document provides the current side-by-side comparison of PF&R's EMS Response program and TVF&R's Quick Response Unit program. In this document, PF&R outlines a proposed Quick Response Unit program for the City of Portland, the rationale for that program, and the challenges that must be addressed prior to implementing it. Also included is a proposed timeline for implementation and total resources needed.

If you have any questions regarding this document, I am available to meet with you prior to the April 6th Council Session. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to you.

4/11/2011