

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FUND NO. 001
ACCOUNT NOS. 0901-08

DESCRIPTION

The Merced Fire Department endeavors to protect lives, assist citizens, and save property by adhering to the concept of the mission statement and the design of the Merced Fire Protection Master Plan. The Fire Department is divided into five spheres of responsibility and each operational area is committed to insuring that the goals and objectives are realized to the fullest extent possible within permissible guidelines. The areas of responsibility are Administration, Prevention, Training, Logistics/Support, and Operations.

MISSION

The Merced Fire Department strives to provide the highest level of life, environment, and property protection to the citizens of Merced through fire / rescue and emergency / disaster mitigation, emergency medical services, fire prevention, and related services.

ADMINISTRATION

GOAL

- ◇ Coordinate the efforts of the Fire Department to meet the expectations of the Community Fire Protection Master Plan and to effectively manage goals and objectives so that they meet the current and projected fire and life safety needs of the citizens.

OBJECTIVES

1. Insure the efficiency and direction in departmental growth and development.

***PERFORMANCE
MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS***

In coordination with the City General Plan, update the Community Fire Protection Master Plan, with emphasis on "Standards of Cover", for determination of future service delivery. Timeline will be in accordance with management directives.

FIRE

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| 2. Maintain response times and provide prompt emergency services. | Continue development and construction of a new fire station in northeastern Merced. Address operational changes and plan for opening in the first quarter of 2004. |
| 3. Increase the departments' ability to plan for providing future response, task, technological, and staffing needs. | Continue review and assessment of potential contract service areas for emergency response in line with city growth and the sphere of influence. Report of operational feasibility to be determined by discussions with state and local agencies. |

PREVENTION

GOAL

- ◇ Proactively diminish the potential for pain, suffering, and monetary loss from fire and injury, maintain inspection programs, and minimize the fire hazards by coordinating the systematic removal of weeds, trash, and other related dangerous conditions.

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

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| 4. Maintain a fire safe community with current and updated practices, information, and training. | Finalize development and delivery methods for various Fire Prevention activities, including "Adopt a School", and "Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams" by Spring 2004. |
| | Outfit and develop procedural guidelines for educational delivery of safety programs using the "Safe House" trailer by Fall 2004. |
| | Implement new fire inspection program changes through the use of the new Firehouse software by Fall 2003. |

FIRE

TRAINING

GOAL

- ◇ Prepare and maintain personnel with the skills necessary for delivering quality service to the citizens by- establishing and adhering to performance and safety standards, recognizing and implementing federal, state, and local training mandates, and providing direction for career growth and advancement .

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

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| 5. Increase the department's ability to recruit and retain personnel. | Develop a coordinated plan with Merced College and the personnel department to enhance our abilities to hire and retain local personnel as fire department employees by Fall 2003. |
| 6. Maintain or enhance the ability of the department to perform to state, federal, and local standards. | Pursue State Fire Marshal accreditation of the local Merced College Fire Technology program by Spring of 2004. |
| 7. Enhance the department's ability to provide formal education based training opportunities necessary for promotion. | Establish a plan for providing the state certified Fire Officer program on a two year rotation. Establish a plan for ongoing courses necessary for personnel to promote to Fire Engineer. Establish the framework for mentoring programs for promotion. Plans to be completed by October 2003. |

FIRE

LOGISTICS/SUPPORT

GOAL

- ◇ Promote the efforts of all other divisions by fulfilling logistical needs and by maintaining and enhancing facilities, services, and materials and assuring the effective use of resources and supplies while utilizing the latest equipment and technology.

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

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| 8. Maintain, repair, and replace emergency equipment in accordance with safety and manufacturers guidelines. | Develop specification and outfit a new command vehicle, upgrade and/or schedule for replacement of the existing breathing apparatus compressor, prepare the radio systems for future upgrades and modifications, perform specified ladder and hose testing and replace equipment as recommended by Spring 2004. |
| 9. Update equipment and support systems as necessary to stay in line with performance and technological growth and advancements. | Research communication needs to include the addition of Station 55, pursue wireless system integration with Computer Aided Dispatch and pursue grant funding to enhance and upgrade dispatch system capabilities. Measurements will be determined by grant awards, construction timelines and programming compatibilities. Expected by Spring 2004. Enter data and develop new tracking, planning, and inventory systems for apparatus and associated equipment utilizing the Firehouse software programs by Winter 2004. |

FIRE

OPERATIONS

GOAL

- ◇ Plan and provide for a maximum emergency reflex response time of 4-6 minutes citywide and manage operational objectives directly applicable to the primary mission of protecting lives and property.

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

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| 10. Insure the efficiency and direction in departmental growth and development. | Update the department's Official Action Guidelines by Winter 2003. Continue to coordinate departmental activities with other departments in relation to GIS, Web development and information sharing. Completion to be in line with committee timeframes. |
| 11. Enhance the departments' ability to achieve required training and operational effectiveness. | Pursue final bids, purchase, and construct a training tower at Company 51 by September 2003. |
| 12. Expand the capability of on scene personnel to manage emergency incidents involving high hazard occupancies. | Place developed pre-incident plans on computer systems accessible for field use by Spring 2004. |
| 13. Expand the departments' capabilities in confined space and trench rescue situations. | Place the rescue trailer in service with associated equipment and guidelines by January 2004. |

2003-2004 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- (1) In this fiscal year, the department will continue efforts to increase our service capabilities with the addition of fire station #55, a fire prevention education "Safety House" trailer, a rescue trailer with the capabilities of specialized confined space, trench, and high angle rescue. Changes will include: manpower and equipment needs and distribution, resource allocation for jurisdictional coverage and support operations to manage the rapid growth of the service area. Staffing for the new station is addressed in the City Managers' recommendations.
- (2) The development of U.C. Merced and changes within the Merced County Fire Department will require that continued consideration is given to the possibility of the City contracting services to both of the agencies.

FIRE

2003-2004 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

- (3) The city Fire dispatch and communication system needs significant upgrading in order to meet existing and future needs. Inter-agency communication, secondary and secure communications, and encrypted or adaptable radio systems are being proposed as necessary by federal and state agencies as part of the "Homeland" protection service delivery system. F.I.R.E. Act grant funding is being pursued to address the dispatch and communication system needs.
- (4) A state grant has been requested to assist with the revision and upgrading of the city and county disaster and emergency operational plans. This has become more of a priority due to the threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the establishment of a state Homeland Security Department. The process is expected to take six to eight months to complete and will provide a county wide integrated plan for response to natural or man made emergency events.
- (5) The initial budget request contained 9 personnel to staff a new Fire Station 55, and 3 Fire Captains to serve as truck officers. These positions are not being recommended at this time.