

Fire Safety Committee

Master Plan and Risk Assessment Sub Committee

Executive Summary

Alarm / Fire Statistics & Improvement Suggestions

Objective

1. Provide input and guidance for assisting the Garden City Fire Department in developing a formal Master Plan and Risk Assessment.
2. Summarize improvement suggestions for discussion with the sub committees, fire department, and board of trustees.

Alarm Statistics from GCFD (% = False Alarms / Total Alarms)

Service demand over the years has been :

- 2013 - 978
- 2014 - 978
- 2015 – 1,043
- 2016 - 1,033
- 2017 – 1,020
- 2018 – 1,107
- 2019 – 1,137
- 2020 – 896
- 2021 (as of 8/28/2021) – 629

False Fire Alarms

- 2013 – 493 (50.41%)
- 2014 – 506 (51.74%)
- 2015 – 593 (56.86%)
- 2016 – 554 (53.68%)
- 2017 – 658 (64.51%)
- 2018 – 706 (63.78%)
- 2019 – 694 (61.04%)
- 2020 – 533 (59.49%)
- 2021 (as of 8/28/2021) – 398 (63.28%)

Fire Statistics from GCFD (% = False Alarms / Total Alarms)

Fire (structural, car fires, brush fires, cooking fires, outside rubbish fires, brush / grass fires, chimney fires, fuel burner fires)

- 2013 – 69 (7.06%)
- 2014 – 59 (6.03%)
- 2015 – 55 (5.27%)
- 2016 – 67 (6.49%)
- 2017 – 36 (3.53%)
- 2018 – 43 (3.88%)
- 2019 – 34 (2.99%)
- 2020 – 39 (4.35%)
- 2021 (as of 8/28/2021) – 19 (3.02%)

Executive Summary – Improvement Suggestions

1. Expand Fire Prevention and Public Education Programs
2. Strengthen GCFD Master Planning, Administration, and Reporting
3. Invest in Recruitment and Retention Programs
4. Strengthen Emergency Action and Response Plan
5. Improve Apparatus, Training, and Equipment
6. Update and Modernize Fire Houses in Compliance with Current Code and Safety Standards

1. Expand Fire Prevention and Education Programs

- a. ***Increase extent and frequency of fire prevention education news and social media articles*** with specific focus on fire safety, smoke detectors, CO detectors, and exist drills in the home using materials readily available from NFPA.
- b. ***Expand extent and frequency of training and education*** including scheduling classes at schools, senior center, adult education programs, and other village venues / events.
- c. ***Incorporate fire safety and smoke / co detector feedback*** as part of alarms with check list provided to residents at completion of alarm with phone / email contact information for office of fire prevention.
- d. ***Continue to emphasize compliance with village building and fire safety code*** and encourage more wide adoption of smoke detectors linked up with central alarm monitoring for earlier notification of alarms for residents to evacuate and fire department for response.

2. Strengthen Governance Master Planning, Administration, and Reporting

- a. ***Complete Development of Comprehensive Master Plan and Risk Assessment*** identifying short, intermediate, and long-term improvements to be implemented in phases.
- b. ***Strengthen administrative leadership and support for Fire Prevention, Training, and Administration*** to support fire prevention, education, training, and timely emergency response, as well as to oversee capital improvement projects. (*GCFD to Consider Expanding LIFT fire prevention company contract to cover additional administrative areas*)
- c. ***Establish and communicate fire prevention, personnel status, training, and fire response performance measurements and reporting dashboard*** for periodic updates to Fire Commissioners and Board of Trustees.

3. Invest in Recruitment and Retention Programs

- a. ***Expand budget and resources for supporting volunteer fire fighter recruitment and retention.*** Consider a combination of Stipend and Length of Service Award Programs (LOSAP) targeted to increase volunteer firefighter response, training, certification, apparatus operator qualifications, and membership.
- b. ***Consider expanding a college program for students*** living in / near the village that attend college locally.
- c. ***Consider changing attendance requirements moving away from a strict percentage / length of service model*** to factoring in time for duty crews, certifications, apparatus qualifications, and supporting training / recruitment.
- d. ***Explore expanding Fire Department membership*** by targeted recruiting to former members, fire fighters from other towns that have moved in the village, active / retired professional fire fighters that live in the village, college graduates returning to village, and interested residents that have recently moved in the village.

4. Strengthen Emergency Action and Response Plan

- a. ***Consider Expanding Automatic Mutual Aid for General / Phone Alarms to include an engine company*** beyond a truck company currently included in the mutual aid plan.
- b. ***Increase cross training of engine and truck company fire fighters and expand training of Motor Pump Operators (MPO's)*** to increase Engine / Pumper response time to calls (*GCFD has 21 firefighters in process of apparatus training / qualification*).
- c. ***Formalize duty crew scheduling for volunteer firefighters*** i.) at station and/or ii.) members who can respond from home for day & night-time to ensure coverage and identify any gaps. (*GCFD already in process of implementing using Red Alert scheduling features*).
- d. ***Consider Implementing a Stipend Program*** for meals, refreshments and other expenses related to staffing firehouses with volunteer firefighter duty crews.
- e. ***Establish response time goals and ensure sufficient fire fighters are available for response per NFPA 1720*** through a combination of GCFD volunteer members, Village employees (GCFD or other LI FD's) and monitor to determine if hiring of additional firefighters is need to meet goals.

5. Improve Apparatus, Training, and Equipment

- a. ***Improve Fire Department Training Facilities & Resources*** by investing in a new training facility such as the Fire Training Structures (FTS) Manhattan or Sable system recommended by the Facilities / Apparatus Subcommittee to provide a more comprehensive, effective, and safe training facility.
- b. ***Re-establish reserve engine*** to ensure all fire houses have an available engine when first line engine is out for maintenance or repair. (*GCFD Planning to Restore with Next Engine Purchase*)
- c. ***Standardize engines and equipment*** to promote interoperability, increased efficiency and streamline training for operators.

6. Improve Apparatus, Training, and Equipment

- a. ***Remediate Fire House Safety Issues identified by Facilities and Apparatus Sub Committee*** to create a safer working environment for fire department personnel.
- b. ***Modernize Firehouses for Company 2 & Company 3*** to increase efficiency, create a safer / more productive work environment for duty crews, and expand space for equipment and training.
- c. ***Expand Apparatus Bay for Company 2 and 3*** to allow storage of first line and reserve engines with a deep enough bay to house the heavy rescue or ladder company for storm standbys.
- d. ***Provide for a training room with proper technology*** for networking, computers, projectors, and white boards is available for training / classes for firefighters and fire prevention classes for residents.

More Comprehensive Analysis and Information follows within 1) the Draft Strategic Plan / Risk Assessment and 2) Sub Committee Reports.