Category V

Criterion 5E: Fire Suppression

The agency operates an adequate, effective, efficient, and safe fire suppression program directed toward controlling and/or extinguishing fires to protect people from injury or death and reduce property loss. If identified risks are outside the scope of the agency’s capabilities, Category X performance indicators should address the agency’s ability to receive aid from mutual aid partners in those areas. The agency should conduct a thorough risk-analysis as part of activities in Category II to determine the need for specific fire suppression programs.

Summary:
Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical is comprised of 137 members, 131 uniformed personnel and 6 civilian staff employees. All agency activity falls under the responsibility of the Chief of Department. An executive staff of seven Division Chiefs who are responsible for overseeing their assigned division and one Accreditation Coordinator supports the Chief. The Operations Division comprises three Battalions, X, Y, and Z. Each Battalion includes a Division Chief, five Captains, eight Lieutenants, twenty-eight Firefighters, and extra-board Firefighters. Thirty-eight uniformed personnel on-duty each day is the established minimum staffing. This provides for five, four-person engine/quint/truck apparatus, one three-person rescue apparatus, and seven two-person medic units and one Operations Division Chief.

The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) directs the daily operations and activity of the department. These procedures are comprised of a variety of sections categorized by their respective area. Each section defines agency expectations and the minimum acceptable level of behavior and activity.
Performance Indicators:

CC 5E.1 Given its standards of cover and emergency deployment objectives, the agency meets its staffing, response time, station(s), pumping capacity, apparatus, and equipment deployment objectives for each type and magnitude of fire suppression incident(s).

Description
The department meets its baseline deployment objectives as identified in department SOP Response Performance and Outcomes Appendix A, Baselines (2013-2017). Response performance objectives are described to include staffing, response time, pumping capacity, and other capabilities of the first arriving unit (distribution) and the effective response force (concentration). The department is also working on a GPS traffic pre-emption system with the Public Works Department which enhances travel time to incidents based on control over all travel lights between a unit’s geographic position and the location of an incident.

Distribution
For 90 percent of all low risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the first-due unit, with a minimum of 3 firefighters and 1 officer, (4) total, is: 9 minutes and 42 seconds within urban areas and 15 minutes and 13 seconds in rural areas. The first arriving unit is capable of: establishing command; completing an initial size up; establishing water supply; and initiating fire attack and/or rescue. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

For 90 percent of all moderate risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the first-due unit, with a minimum of 3 firefighters and 1 officer, (4) total, is: 9 minutes and 39 seconds within urban areas and 14 minutes and 49 seconds in rural areas. The first arriving unit is capable of: establishing command; completing an initial size up; establishing water supply; and initiating fire attack and/or rescue. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.
For 90 percent of all high risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the first-due unit, with a minimum of 3 firefighters and 1 officer, (4) total, is: 8 minutes and 41 seconds within urban areas and 13 minutes and 58 seconds in rural areas. The first arriving unit is capable of: establishing command; completing an initial size up; establishing water supply; and initiating fire attack and/or rescue. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

Concentration / Effective Response Force
For 90 percent of all low risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the effective response unit (ERF), with a minimum of 3 firefighters and 1 officer, (4) total, is: 9 minutes and 36 seconds within urban areas and 14 minutes and 43 seconds in rural areas. The ERF is capable of: establishing command; completing an initial size up; establishing water supply; and initiating fire attack and/or rescue. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

For 90 percent of all moderate risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the effective response force (ERF), with a minimum of 7 firefighters and 3 officers; (10) total, is: 10 minutes and 42 seconds within urban areas and 14 minutes and 24 seconds in rural areas. The ERF is capable of: establishing command; providing a water supply; advancing an attack line and a backup line for fire control; complying with the requirements of two in-two out; searching and rescuing at-risk victims. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

For 90 percent of all high risk fire responses, the total response time for the arrival of the effective response force (ERF), with a minimum of 10 firefighters and 6 officers; (16) total, is: 13 minutes and 17 seconds within urban areas and 20 minutes and 31 seconds in rural areas. The ERF is capable of: establishing command; safety; providing an uninterrupted water supply; advancing an attack line and a backup line for fire control; complying with the requirements of two in-two out; establishing a rapid intervention team; completing forcible entry; searching and rescuing at-risk victims; evacuation; ventilating;
exposure protection; controlling utilities; and performing salvage and overhaul. These operations are performed utilizing safe operational procedures.

**Appraisal**

The effectiveness of the program has been measured based on historical response outputs, such as response time for the first arriving unit and the effective response force. Outcomes have been available, but have not been trended for quality in different planning zones across all service areas.

**Plan**

The accreditation manager will communicate with the fire chief identifying resources needs in order to mine outcome data more specifically in order to establish baseline outcome performances in different planning zones. These measure will lead to goals and focused areas for prevention or enhanced response strategies.

**References**

CC 5E.2  The agency uses a standardized incident command/management system, which is supported by agency policy and training programs.

Description
The department currently uses the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to manage units and resources at incidents. The NIMS Incident Command System (ICS) expands to fit the needs of each incident. The department uses ICS on every incident. The SOP for Command Procedures defines the department expectation for incident command and incident management. The department has trained all personnel to a minimum of ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800. In addition, the department requires company officer candidates to obtain ICS 300 and chief officer candidates to ICS 400 prior to applying for promotion per SOP 601.10. The department is in the process of becoming a Blue Card training site. All department Captains and operation division chief officers are becoming Blue Card certified.

Appraisal
Department members are well versed in the ICS system and it is an integral part of the department’s daily operations. Department members use the ICS for all incidents, medical and fire, large and small. Continually exposing department members to the ICS allows for easily expanding an incident without confusion. The department uses NIMS approved courses to fulfill training and incident management compliance objectives.

Plan
The department will continue to use NIMS ICS. The department will remain aware of any changes to NIMS or the ICS system and adapt to them as necessary. Blue card will be implemented within the next 12 months’ department wide. The department will continue to educate members on communication issues and how to minimize problems using standardized communications.

References
SOP 201.10 Command Procedures
Draft Blue Card SOP
SOP 601.10 Promotional Assessment Process

Member Training Records (Available on site)
CC 5E.3 The agency conducts a formal and documented appraisal, at least annually, to determine the effectiveness of the fire suppression program and its impact on meeting the agency's goals and objectives.

Description
The department strives to provide the most effective and efficient service possible to the community it serves. The Fire Chief provides monthly department activity reports on incidents and responses via email. Appraisals of the emergency response program are conducted during monthly manager meetings involving all Executive Staff members and Captains, as well as via post incident analysis. The department conducts a post incident analysis of all large-scale or significant incidents. A program appraisal guide for department programs assists program managers with key areas to review as part of the program review.

Annually, the Division Chief of Operations for each shift conduct a formal and documented program appraisal at the monthly manager’s meeting. The appraisal includes an analysis of standard operating procedures, equipment and training to determine the impact of the program. At least two goals and objectives are identified for the next program appraisal cycle.

Appraisal
Fire suppression activities are managed by the Operations Division Chiefs. The Operations Chiefs manage all aspects of the program and have developed several project teams to evaluate products that will assist in the effectiveness of the fire suppression program. A few of the project teams are Fire Streams Project Team, Engineer Project team, Fire Hose project team as well as the Training project team. Each of these project teams work separately however their efforts are in unison. Each project team goal is to make the suppression program more effective and more efficient. Operations Division Chiefs also perform Post Incident Analysis of large scale or significant incident.
The appraisal template has not incorporated department outcomes related to the risk classification of fire suppression.

**Plan**

The department will continue to perform Post Incident Analyses on large scale and significant incidents. The department will continue to evaluate opportunities to become more effective and efficient on the fire ground and those opportunities will be discussed during the manager’s meetings for feedback and input on continual improvement. All project teams will continue to evaluate products and processes within their scope to continually improve operations and become more efficient.

The department will work towards enhancing the program appraisal template to include outcome measurements by January of 2019.

**References**

SOP 501.20 Post Incident Analysis
Post Incident Analysis Form
Manager’s Meeting Review Calendar
Fire Suppression Annual Program Appraisal