

Savannah Fire Department



2020 Annual Appraisals



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/16/2020

Program Name: Fire Communications

Program Members:

Assistant Chief Operations W. Handy, Assistant Chief Logistics E. Kitchen, Battalion Chief C. Shelnett, Battalion Chief T. Leighty and Captain M. Wilson

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

Savannah Fire Department (SFD) operates within an Enhanced 911 Communications Center that dispatches SFD units for services that are both emergency and non-emergency. All personnel have portable radio capabilities assigned to them. SFD has implemented Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) in response apparatus to increase effectiveness and efficiency. Key personnel have assigned cell phones to maintain continuity of operations. Fire communications is supported by City of Savannah Information Technology (IT) department that services email, internet and logins to the City of Savannah servers. The current 911 center is operated by Chatham County.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Personnel have an assigned radio
- MDT's in all frontline apparatus
- Radios meet current NFPA standards
- Fire communications meet National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements
- Agency interoperability with local municipalities
- Member of **SEGRRN** South Eastern Georgia Regional Radio Network
- Policies are in place for fire communications
- Fiscal support for the communications system
- Use of technology in communications system
- Access to city email and city services from outside sources

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- 911 center is no longer under the control of the city, now under county control
 - Decreased access to the 911 center
 - Need to decrease call processing time
 - Lack of dedicated dispatchers for Fire
 - High turnover rate at the Communications Center
 - Needed implementation of Global Positioning Dispatching
 - Need to upgrade E911 software to meet growing demands
- Not having a redundant radio system



Program Plan:

- Actively participate on the 911 Board to communicate needs of SFD with the new upgrade to CAD and RMS
- Increase education for dispatchers on fire operations and resources
- Expand and educate personnel on internal communications through MDT's
- Add Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) to MDT's for dispatching

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/15/2020

Program Name: Community Risk Reduction Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Chief Fire Marshal W. Williams-Smith, Battalion Chief I. Harper, Chief Investigator F. Anderson, Fire Inspector R. Griffin, Fire Inspector C. Mason, Fire Inspector T. Irwin, Fire Inspector T. Simmons, Fire Inspector B. Mollenkamp, Fire Investigator McDonald
Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

The Community Risk program is a robust program that utilizes the operations and logistics divisions of the Savannah Fire Department (SFD). Within the operations division, fire suppression personnel conduct pre-fire plans, smoke alarm installations and conduct community outreach programs such as blood pressure checks and community canvassing of fire safety information materials. The Fire Prevention Office, a department within the logistics division, receives its authority under State Code Title 25 to enforce regulations under 120-3-3. The International Fire Code has been identified and is mandated under rules and regulations that are adopted by the State of Georgia. Through inspections, plan reviews and life safety checks, the Fire Prevention Office routinely supports Community Risk Reduction initiatives, adhering to local, state, and federal regulations and guidelines.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Completed Citywide Risk Assessment
- Meet local, State and Federal regulations
- Utilize International Code Council and NFPA standards to reduce fire risk
- Within Bureau, have staffed Fire Prevention and Investigations Division
- Smoke Alarm Installation program
- Conduct Life Safety checks on after hours assemblies (bars and nightclubs)
- Risk reduction program initiatives through Pre-Fire Plans, Title 25 Inspections/ Non-Title 25 Inspections and Tier II inspections
- Established Community Risk Reduction program
- Work with outside agencies ensure Risk Reduction Initiatives are met
- Participate in Special Event planning and permitting
- Issue Permits for fireworks and pyrotechnics displays
- SFD personnel maintain annual training requirements for Community Risk Reduction.



Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Operated with limited staffing
- Need to create a Community Risk Reduction Specialist position
- Limited Standard Operating Procedures for the Fire Inspection Division
- Improve automation of documents, forms, and surveys (online)
- Limited funding for social media, phone applications, and website to disseminate Community Risk Reduction information to the citizens.

Program Plan:

- Increase staffing to meet growing demands by community
- Enhance CRR program outreach through social media outlets
- Review and revise Community Risk Reduction Program to meet internal and external customer expectations
- Research new and updated technology that is compatible and will increase efficiency and effectiveness of Community Risk Reduction initiatives
- Create a service enhancement request for a Community Risk Reduction Specialist position

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/15/2020

Program Name: Emergency Management Program

Program Members:

Emergency Management Director D. Donnelly; Assistant Chief E. Kitchen; Battalion Chief J. McCutchen; Special Operations Chief J. Bandy
Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

Savannah Fire Department (SFD), through the Emergency Management Director, is responsible for developing and maintaining the Savannah Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP). This "All Hazards" plan was developed to ensure prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities from natural and man-made hazards that may affect the residents of Savannah, are carried out in an efficient, effective and professional manner. This is performed by the various City Departments and Divisions assigned to each functional area. In addition, the plan addresses external agencies that carry out roles and responsibilities. These include Emergency Medical Services (EMS) which is a county contracted service, environmental and public health which is a shared function between county, regional districts, and state public health officials. Also works with Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) to obtain additional resource needs. City of Savannah is supported by volunteer organizations that are active in disaster, particularly the American Red Cross.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Staff has responded and recovered successfully from several significant incidents to include the Covid-19 pandemic
- Incident Management Team was involved in multiple activations and the US Army Cyber Exercise Jack Voltac
- Dedicated Emergency Management Director Position within the City
- EM Director facilitates the City-wide Emergency Preparedness Team that meeting as needed
- Have updated and implemented the Savannah Emergency Operations Plan and several annexes
- Robust inventory of equipment for disaster response
- Incident Management Team has access to WebEOC/ MS Teams for tracking resources and developing Incident Action Plans
- Dedicated and professional staff ready to respond to incidents
- Training is provided to ensure compliance with the National Incident Management System
- Critical Workforce personnel has been clearly defined

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Critical Workforce personnel and new employees get baseline and maintain refresher training
- Need to acquire universal check in/out system to accurately track resources on incidents
- Not all personnel on Incident Management Team have been trained to specific level position



- Incident and functional specific response annexes need updating
- Each department needs to develop a Continuity of Operations Plan and relevant job aids
- Develop specific funding for training and exercises
- Participation of employees in emergency management functions and training
- Lack of local buildings that meet disaster requirements for critical workforce.

Program Plan:

- Engage departments in developing internal emergency response plans (2021)
- Provide position specific training to Incident Management Team personnel (2021)
- Assign personnel credential for Incident Management Team positions (2021)
- Conduct appropriate exercises, proper funding, for Incident Management Team to reinforce knowledge and skills (2021)
- Deliver ICS 402: Incident Command System Overview for Executive/Senior Leaders for Council and Policy Group (2021)
- Apply for grants to build disaster resistant buildings for critical workforce (2021)

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

12/7/2020

Program Name: EMS Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Battalion Chief, Medical Services Officer Joseph T. Shaw, Captain Kenneth Baker, Captain Michael Vandercook, Fire Engineer Christopher Hanks, Fire Engineer Timothy Doherty, Fire Engineer Tyler Hall, Advanced Firefighter Shane White

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. McCutchen

Program Overview:

Under the direction of the Operations Chief, Savannah Fire Department (SFD) has identified a Battalion Chief to lead the Medical Services that are provided to the citizens and visitors of Savannah. This program has state certified Level II EMT instructors who deliver all initial education courses. On December 1, 2020 Savannah Fire Department began responding to critical medical calls in addition to motor vehicle accidents with injuries.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Dedicated budget line for EMS
- Dedicated Medical Services Officer
- State certified Level II EMS Instructors
- EMT-B certification training for all new recruits
- Annual Emergency Medical Responder refresher training
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) in place
- Medical Director with signed EMS Protocols

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Need to incorporate culture change regarding EMS
- Need to develop a strategic plan for the new EMS program
- Need dedicated Health and Safety Officers to assist with Quality Control of EMS reports
- Need to incorporate a Learning Management System (LMS) for continuing education.
- Unknown increased call volume due to added critical EMS calls
- Need to incorporate Quick Response Vehicle (QRV's) to alleviate the added stress put on apparatus

Program Plan:



- Develop a strategy and vision and assign team members to assist with quality control of EMS reports.
- Make Health and Safety Officers position at Fire Captain rank.
- Acquire LMS program to meet distributive educational needs for all departmental EMT, AEMT, Paramedic's for continuing education needs by 2022
- Acquire Quick Response Vehicles and added personnel by 2025

Jack R McCutchen Jr.

Jack McCutchen Jr.

Battalion Chief

Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/14/2020

Program Name: Fire Suppression Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Battalion Chief J. Dent, Captain J. Brigdon, Captain E. McKenna, Captain M. Wilson, FE T. Doherty, FE I. Bladergroen, FE J Hinton, FE T. Jaha, AFF C. Osterlund and AFF J. Alamillo

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts Accreditation Team Members: Captain M. Taylor, FE S. Johnson, AFF J Goldberg, AFF S. Hartl,

Program Overview:

Savannah Fire Department (SFD) has appropriate policies, procedures, infrastructure, and resources in place to provide fire suppression activities. A state certified department that operates in compliance with local, state, and national standards. SFD is also Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class I and CFAI Accredited department. All personnel prior to entry into the profession are certified to state and national standards at the completion of a recruit school and validated by state recognized evaluators. Annually, personnel are recertified to said standards via a reevaluation process. Beyond personnel, all apparatus are certified annually to a national standard. Currently, SFD responds to a coverage area of 111 sq. miles and an annually call volume of approximately 8,000 with 1000 fire calls and 200 being structure fires annually. The current fire suppression division consists of 15 Engines, 5 Aerials and 2 Heavy Rescues which are managed by nine (9) Battalion Chiefs.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Equipment is modern and up to date in accordance with NFPA standards
- PPE is purchased and cleaned in accordance with NFPA Standards
- Water supply meets or exceeds required fire flow
- Surplus inventory of Firefighter equipment
- Resource location and deployment meet risk demands
- Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) in all frontline apparatus
- Train National Professional Qualification (NPQ) standards
- Industrial Firefighting Equipment to supplement large scale fires and water supply
- Updated City Risk Assessment for asset deployment
- Ability to respond appropriately to all fire risk demands in initial response phase
- Upgraded Class A Pumpers from 1000 to 2000 gpm pumps
- Nozzle repair program at designation station



Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Need to update on Fire Suppression policies
- Increase cross training, live fire drills and multi-company drills to include training with outside agencies
- Currently personnel only have one set of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which is not inline with Firefighter Cancer Initiatives
- Calendar conflicts due to overscheduling of units for activities
- Increase staffing to meet NFPA 1710 recommendations
- Increase ERF capabilities to be equitable to all portions of the city
- Update response packages to meet service demands and overage due to implementation of EMS practices
- Lack of AVL usage to respond closet unit to incident
- Lag time by Fleet Maintenance to perform preventative maintenance on fire apparatus
- Fire Personnel only have one set of Personal Protective Equipment which does not correspond with Fire Cancer Initiatives

Program Plan:

- Enhancement of policy update and rewrite on fire suppression SOP's
- Continue to monitor response times and conduct deployment analysis
- Implement AVL pilot program
- Apply and use grants to expand and obtain equipment for fire suppression training props
- Establish resources and capabilities in newly annexed areas
- Begin utilization of time captures using the MDT for increased accuracy of response through training on the capabilities of the MDT
- Outsource Preventive maintenance of fire apparatus
- AFG grant awarded to in 2020 to purchase all operational personnel a second set of PPE

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/22/2020

Program Name: Fleet Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Fire Chief D. Minard, Assistant Chief Logistics E. Kitchen, Assistant Chief Operations W. Handy,
Captain M. Wilson, and MFF S. Johnson
Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

The Savannah Fire Department (SFD) Fleet program is responsible for coordinating the maintenance operations for a mixed fleet of service vehicles and their equipment ranging from fire apparatus, automotive vehicles, trucks, emergency vehicles, power generation equipment, pumps, small gas and diesel engines. The City of Savannah Fleet Maintenance department performs the actual maintenance functions such as DOT and NFPA required inspections, annual preventative maintenance, and other requested maintenance. Additional responsibilities of the Fleet division include writing apparatus and equipment specifications for new and replacement vehicles/ equipment, purchasing new vehicles, and the disposal of obsolete vehicles through GovDeals surplus program.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Vehicle and Equipment accountability program in RMS
- Purchasing Apparatus meeting SFD national standards and risk requirements
- Established internal SFD positions to manage the program
- Utilize outside vendor relationships to maintain, service, and repair apparatus
- Programs managed include: SCBA's, Ladder and Fire Pump testing, Nozzle and Appliance repairs, Small engine repairs, and preventative maintenance
- Specialty trained SFD personnel that work on specialized equipment that assists with fiscal management and reduced out of service times

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- City growth and increased repair demands have increased stressors on COS Vehicle maintenance personnel
- Lack of hiring to fill vacant Emergency Vehicle Technician vacancies (2 vacancies all of 2020) and lack of training progression
- Lack of outside vendor utilization for reduced fire apparatus down times
- Vehicle maintenance shop needs updating with modern and computer interface equipment for faster job performance capabilities
- Fleet position within SFD needs to be elevated to a Chief Officer position
- Deviation of replacement plan in 2020 for first time
- Create training class to educate the importance of public safety vehicles to essential services.



- City established a vehicle maintenance facility and enlisted technicians who were trained specifically to service Fire vehicles and equipment
- Apparatus and equipment replacement plan signed off in 2016 for 10-year progression

Program Plan:

- Continue to refine current apparatus specifications to ensure apparatus meet industry safety and best practices standards
- Provide documentation based on NFPA guidelines showing need for additional mechanics and repair staff in the Fleet Services maintenance division for aging fire fleet
- Monitor replacement plan to ensure continuity of apparatus and equipment replacements through the next decade
- Establish outside vendors to ensure annual maintenance requirements
- Provide class to program directors on the importance of needs of public safety vehicle maintenance.

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/20/2020

Program Name: Hazardous Materials Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Special Operations Chief J. Bandy, Captain P. Grant, Captain R. Hansil, Captain J. Hannah, MFF S. Newton, MFF B. Harris, MFF A. Payne, AFF B. Boyce, AFF T. Powell, AFF McClendon
Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

Savannah Fire Department (SFD) currently has established SOP's in place for the response of personnel and apparatus to a hazardous materials emergency incidents. All SFD personnel will follow the established SOP's when responding to a HAZMAT scene. The established SOP's will ensure that adequate staffing and equipment will arrive on scene to meet the initial phase of any type or magnitude of hazardous materials emergency incident.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- The Haz Mat Team has a core group of instructors
- Developed relationships with local industry
- County Ordinance to conduct Tier II inspections and pre fire plans
- Maintains a large number of available resources
- Current equipment is in good working order and the department conducts annual currency checks
- Hazardous Materials are funded by local, state and federal entities
- Annual currency training is captured in RMS
- Team responds to local and region Haz Mat incidents through mutual aid
- Team currently meets FEMA Type I requirements

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Make Haz Mat Team smaller to intensify training and effectiveness
- Update Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)
- Do not have dedicated and functional reserve Haz Mat Response Vehicle
- Lack of Cross Training with TRT
- Increase the number of Haz Mat Specialists
- Lack of procedures for equipment to ensure they are current with latest updates
- Not utilizing UAS technology
- Increase the utilization of onsite training scenarios with the industry standard
- Not all frontline apparatus have meters and/or monitors for Haz Mat incidents



Program Plan:

- Develop Continuity Book for Haz Mat Program
- Assign and Update Hazardous Materials SOP's
- Place Haz Mat equipment into RMS to ensure proper replacement schedule
- Continue to send personnel to the Specialist level training in various disciplines
- Continue to evaluate and purchase modern Haz Mat equipment
- Continue to foster the relationship with industry to promote real life training scenarios
- Add E-Plan to all MDT's
- Research restructuring of Haz Mat Team
- Research and develop UAS program
- Place meters and monitors on frontline apparatus

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/15/2020

Program Name: Health Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Battalion Chief N. Gaskill, Captain J. Crain, Captain W.S. Howard, Captain S. Emberton, FE B. Muenzenmeyer, FE C. Hanks, FE W. King, AFF T. Carlson and AFF J. Hoffman

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts **Accreditation Team Members:** Captain M. Taylor, FE S. Johnson, AFF S. Hartl and AFF J. Goldberg

Program Overview:

Under the direction of the Logistics Chief, Savannah Fire Department (SFD) has identified a Health and an Incident Safety Officer (HO and ISO). Battalion Chiefs are responsible for coordinating the risk management program however, Captains and Fire Engineers conduct the day to day operations. These Chief Officers, with assistance from the safety officers and members of the department safety committee, assures that risk management topics are reviewed, accidents and incidents are investigated and incidents have a dedicated ISO present. The safety officers, using input from the safety committee, take appropriate actions and publish reports in order to reduce risks to all department members.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Dedicated budget line for Health initiatives
- National Fire Academy (NFA) certified Health and Safety Officers
- Utilization of NFPA 1500 in fire operations
- Annual physical and bloodwork assessments for all personnel
- Partnership with Candler Hospital to include records management
- Contracts with local workout facilities
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) in place
- Three PPE laundry facilities to maintain clean gear and decrease contamination
- City Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and department's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team
- Cancer Reduction Initiative (CRI) (Hood Exchange Program, After the Fire Decon, personal wipes and increased cancer screening)
- Maintain dedicated Health and Safety Officer each shift
- All PPE is exchanged and/or replaced within NFPA and manufacturer's recommendations
- Tracking of Injuries and exposures in RMS

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Need to develop vision and strategy at all levels to support Health Initiative



- Health program budget that is in addition to the annual physicals and workout contracts for training and program development
- Need to enter physical fitness activity into RMS for tracking purpose
- Need to incorporate culture change in regard to wellness
- Lack of continuing education programs for trained Health and Safety Officers
- Lack of dedicated position for certified Health and Safety personnel
- Need to create Peer Fitness/ Wellness program
- Need knowledge campaign on CISM and EAP

Program Plan:

- Develop a strategy and vision and assign team members to the various health categories
- Create a policy on implementing physical fitness training into RMS
- Incorporate Health and Wellness class into recruit school and Peer Fitness Trainers
- Research gym contracts with other fitness companies to ensure workout stability long with equipment feasibility study on station gyms
- Create Peer Fitness/ Wellness Program through AFG grant
- Purchase second set of Personal Protection Equipment through AFG Grant
- Make Health and Safety Officers position at Fire Captain rank

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/21/2020

Program Name: Marine Firefighting and Rescue Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Special Operations Chief J. Bandy, Captain C. Fennel, Captain J. Shaw, Captain S. Novak, Captain T. Horne, MFF C. Lamb MFF S. Sokolowski and AFF R. Scott
Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

Savannah Fire Department (SFD) operates an adequate, effective, and efficient program directed toward Marine Firefighting and Water Rescue operations. These incidents include shipboard fires and/or endangered persons that need rescued or removed from maritime environments. These advanced firefighting and search techniques are conducted with highly trained personnel who receive specialized training in Marine Firefighting (NFPA 1005), search patterns, water rescue, and boat operations. Moreover, SFD utilizes a variety of modern pieces of equipment to ensure an effective and efficient response is conducted.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Maintains a sufficient number of resources to respond to a wide variety of maritime incidents
- Established strong relationships with local, state and private maritime partners
- Highly trained personnel in boat operations
- Ability to increase water supply along waterways

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Define and implement Dispatch protocol for Marine incidents
- Limited number of Boat Operators for marine platforms
- Have only one (1) marine firefighting vessel
- Need to develop a vessel replacement plan
- Need for a Firefighting Shipboard simulator or vessel contract (MOU) to conduct Marine Firefighting Level II and recertification.
- Maintenance and inventory program for marine assets

Program Plan:

- Train department to the Marine Firefighting Level 1
- Research and develop a vessel replacement plan



- Research and develop a plan or MOU for a simulator or vessel contract
- Need to increase Marine 1 Operators to a minimum of 12 personnel
- Sustain the asset for future deployment
- Research the feasibility of super staffing Engine 3 and Rescue 1 for boat maintenance and day to day ERF response operations

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/15/2020

Program Name: Public Fire Safety Education Program Appraisal

Program Members:

PIO J. Few, Chief Investigator F. Anderson, Fire Inspector R. Griffin, Fire Inspector C. Mason, Fire Inspector T. Irwin, Fire Inspector T Simmons, Fire Inspector B. Mollenkamp and Fire Investigator K. McDonald.

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

Specific audience requirements are met through the delivery of a variety of program offerings, such as smoke alarm installation and home fire safety inspections. Department personnel work with various groups, businesses and organizations to provide targeted and appropriate fire safety education offerings in the community. The department's public fire safety education program touches all segments of the jurisdiction from pre-school to senior citizens through classroom, virtual, and group presentations. The department maintains a relationship with the Safe Kids Savannah Coalition and the Savannah Chatham County School System which is dedicated to childhood injury prevention. The department participates in the Safe Place program which is a national youth outreach endeavor that allows youth easy access to immediate help in times of personal crisis. Firefighters also conduct community risk reduction activities at all department facilities and through regularly scheduled arrangements with numerous senior citizen and faith-based organizations.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Increased accuracy in event tracking in RMS
- Wide spectrum of educational outreach alternatives (Social Media Platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and web-based)
- Participation in numerous community activities virtually to educate all segments of the community
- Partnership with Savannah Chatham County Public School System, Safe Kids Savannah, Red Cross and other public/ private organizations
- Increased demand in virtual fire education activities to the community
- Updated PFSE materials

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Lack of educational specialist position to manage and perform program activities.



- Inadequate website
- Limited funding for all PFSE programs; program is supplemented by grants
- Dual role, PIO acts as PFSE coordinator
- Fire Safety House upgrade is not complete.
- Outdated process for PFSE enrollment for services/participation

Program Plan:

- Apply for public fire safety education grants
- Launch newly upgraded Fire Safety House
- Diversify PFSE educational material to include virtual presentations
- Redevelop the PFSE program to meet current trends and needs
- Research website alternatives to meet expanding PFSE program
- Develop PFSE services brand and educate both internal and external customers
- Research feasibility of create and hiring educational specialist and staff.
- Research new options for PFSE enrollment or services/ participation.

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/20/2020

Program Name: Safety Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Battalion Chief Kitchen, MFF C. Hanks, MFF K. Baker, MFF J. Sturgis, MFF T. Doherty, MFF M. Dodd, MFF Henry and MFF A. Payne.

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

Under the direction of the Logistics Chief, Savannah Fire Department (SFD) has identified a Health Safety Officer (HSO). Battalion Chiefs are responsible for coordinating the risk management program. However, Captains and Master Firefighters conduct the day to day operations. A Chief with assistance from the safety officers and members of the department's safety committee, assures that risk management topics are reviewed, accidents and incidents are investigated, and incidents have a dedicated ISO present. The safety officers, using input from the safety committee, take appropriate actions and publish reports in order to reduce risks to all department members.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Have dedicated Health Safety Officer (HSO) to respond to incidents and accidents
- ISO's are trained to a national level in order to respond and document safety issues
- Have dedicated vehicle and equipment
- Have Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place to support Safety Program
- Improve the Cancer Reduction Initiative (CRI) to department members
- SO's conduct monthly safety inspections of stations to maintain safe working environment
- Tracking of injuries and exposures in Records Management System (RMS)
- Compliant with OSHA 1910.1200 program on Hazard Communications

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Limited drying system for wet gear after a fire
- Need for permanent Safety Officer Position to assist with response and incident requirements
- Currency Checks for all Safety Officers in the program
- No established Safety Officer refresher program within RMS to track training hours
- Utilize structural firefighting gear for all types of responses and weather conditions
- Specific Safety Officer capabilities such as TRT and Haz Mat
- Improve ability to track exposures using new software
- Need for training safety officers in EMS operations



- Limited injury prevention for fire personnel

Program Plan:

- Update Safety SOP's to meet industry best practices
- Annual currency checks for HSO's
- Research different types of Personnel Protective gear to meet weather and incident response requirements
- Research and develop program to have hazard specific (TRT/ Haz Mat) Health Safety Officers
- Research ability to track exposures using new software
- Re-institutionalize the Peer Fitness Program for injury prevention education
- Develop training program to ensure HSO's are EMT's
- Research addition of PPE dryers

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/16/2020

Program Name: Self Contain Breathing Apparatus Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Captain M. Wilson, Captain J. Nutter Captain S. Waugh, Captain S. Floyd, Captain S. Miller, MFF S. Johnson, MFF J. Payne, AFF J. Chancey and AFF A. Barnes.

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

Savannah Fire Department (SFD) operates an adequate, effective, and efficient Self Contain Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) program. This program is a one of a kind program which utilizes the relationship of our vendor and the personnel directly involved in the SCBA program. SFD has completed transition into a new NFPA compliant SCBA. Moreover, the program has produced certified personnel to repair and inspect SCBA's internally. All of the SCBA's are managed through the Logistics Division and are being recorded into the department's RMS.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Dedicated trained personnel to the program
- Maintaining NFPA compliant SCBA's
- Multiple SCBA filling stations - portable and fixed
- Program is a cost savings to the department (maintenance and repairs)
- Direct relationship with the vendor
- Program has operated without a catastrophic failure or major malfunction since its inception
- Assist other city departments with SCBA services
- Redundant systems for SCBA testing to limit disruption in services

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Lack of notification system to identify when repairs are completed
- Loss of SCBA vendor in 2024
- Consistent scheduling is needed to meet annual SCBA compliance
- Lack of uniformed system across the department to properly identify and track maintenance issues
- Lack of a parts cache for repairing SCBA's

Program Plan:

- Develop an invoice in Firehouse that tracks repairs and supplies



- Create a SCBA Technician Task Book to train additional personnel
- Develop a uniform method for implementing, tracking and inventory control system for SCBA's
- Air packs refitted with new re-engineered J-1 cable

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



**Annual Program Appraisal
Savannah Fire Department**

10/18/2020

Program Name: Technical Rescue Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Special Operations Chief J. Bandy, Captain R Howard, Captain B. Smith, MFF Levinson, MFF Davis, MFF Vaughan, MFF Winsor, AFF Boudreau AFF Carlson and AFF Duray.

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts

Program Overview:

Savannah Fire Department (SFD) operates an adequate, effective and efficient program directed toward rescuing trapped and/or endangered persons from life-endangering causes, ie. structural collapse, vehicle accidents, swift and submersion in water, confine space, high angle and trench collapse. These advanced life saving techniques are conducted with highly trained personnel who receive specialized training in each of the disciplines SFD responds to. Moreover, SFD utilizes two (2) heavy rescue apparatus with a variety of modern pieces of equipment to ensure an effective and efficient response is conducted.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Utilization of Mobile Data Terminal during response
- The Special Operations Division has a large number of available resources
- Department has qualified Rescue Technicians
- Established SOP's in place for Technical Rescues
- Equipment is in good working order
- Technical Rescue capabilities meet City of Savannah risk hazards assessment for our region
- SFD is a member of the Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Task Force
- Updating and modernizing TRT equipment
- More advanced and progressive training to update TRT program

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Additional need for Trench and Structural Collapse courses
- Limited budget for training
- Improve and update TRT training props
- The 911 communication center need reoccurring training on Technical Rescue responses
- Improve cooperation with other GSAR units for area response capabilities and add Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program
- Lack of Instructors and instructor task book for credentialing and development
- Lack of standardized TRT training schedule



Program Plan:

- Analyze increased TRT training opportunities to include outside training classes
- Develop Instructor Task Books for TRT
- Have personnel attend outside TRT training classes
- Apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for updated Training Center and props
- Develop consistent TRT Training Schedule
- Increase capabilities with regional recruitment efforts

Jeff Alberts

Jeff Alberts
Battalion Chief
Annual Appraisal Facilitator



Annual Program Appraisal Savannah Fire Department

10/14/2020

Program Name: Training and Recruitment Program Appraisal

Program Members:

Asst. Chief Logistics E. Kitchen, Battalion Chief W. Ifill, AA Battalion Chief J. Croslen, Captain H. Lopez, Captain J. Thomson, Captain M. Gutierrez, FE M. Dodd, AFF T. Smalls and AFF C Saylor.

Facilitator: Battalion Chief J. Alberts, Accreditation Team Members: Captain M. Taylor, FE S. Johnson, AFF J. Goldberg and AFF S. Hartl.

Program Overview:

Savannah Fire Department (SFD) incorporates a multi-faceted approach in identifying training needs for the Department. The training needs reflect the mandatory requirements set forth by the Georgia Fire Standards and Training Council and the Insurance Services Office. Moreover, training is implemented from post incident analysis where training issues have been identified on the fire ground. Training needs are also identified through course content reviews that identify changes within the industry in regards to mitigation techniques. To overcome these identified training issues, an annual training calendar is developed and issued to the SFD. Lastly, the Training Division is also responsible for the Department's recruitment and promotional processes. This involves interaction with potential candidates and coach through Candidate Physical Ability Testing (CPAT) practices prior to the test event. The recruitment efforts are used largely through Human Resource announcements and advertising on social media outlets along with Pandora Radio.

Program Strengths (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Training Staff includes a Training Division Chief, three (3) Training Captains and one (1) Administrative Assistant.
- Ability to conduct Recruit Classes, Pro Board National Professional Qualification (NPQ) Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, NIMS classes and EMT internally
- Professional development pathway to include education and skills development
- Electronic tracking of training hours and program development located in the Record Management System (RMS)
- All training classes are taught to a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard or certified curriculum
- Training Division is supported with a budget
- Training facility with burn building, tower with multiple props, and storage building

Recruitment

- Recruitment Team is diverse and represents community served
- Implementation of Candidate Physical Abilities Test (CPAT)



- Ability to screen new applicants with Professional Standards Unit (Fire Investigators)
- Internet testing for new applicants
- The cooperation of Human Resources with the applicant new hire process
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Diverse recruiting opportunities to include military, civilian, and educational institutions

Program Liabilities (Equipment, Staffing, Training and Response)

- Recruitment Team needs specialized training in recruitment techniques
- Dedicated budget for recruitment
- Need for Recruitment Coordinator
- Updated and established training SOP's
- Incorporate inventory control mechanism in RMS for training equipment
- Continuity Book for Training Captains
- Dedicated apparatus at Training Center to reduce dependency on frontline apparatus
- Update computer equipment
- Update Training Facility with new modern training system (container)
- Limited Training Props
- Increase investment into internet advertising
- Fixed facility for CPAT to protect equipment and generate revenue
- Needs to be a separate division
- Access to Training Facility due to geographical location

Program Plan:

- Assess NFPA and State for standard and rule changes that will affect SFD
- Work with Fleet division to secure dedicated apparatus for training
- Research training opportunities for recruitment team to include social media training
- Verify data for annual budgets for recruitment and training props
- Update website to enhance recruitment
- Promote internet advertising for recruitment
- Implement Training Sop's
- Apply for grants to update Training Center
- Become a regional training and testing facility

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