

MEMORANDUM

February 22, 2010

TO: Public Safety Committee
FROM: Minna K. Davidson, Legislative Analyst *MKD*
SUBJECT: Update on Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) four-person staffing

This update will provide an opportunity for the Committee to review the current deployment of four-person staffing, the current and planned deployment of positions funded with Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants, volunteer participation in four-person staffing, and the impact of four-person staffing on the delivery of fire and rescue service over time.

The table on © 1 shows current four-person units, and units planned for four-person staffing if the County's application for a 2010 SAFER grant is approved. A summary of the amended implementation schedule from the Update of the Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan is on © 2-3. (The Committee will receive an overview of the Master Plan amendments on February 24, Item 3.)

Currently, 21 engines and one ladder truck have four-person staffing. Three additional engines are approved to be staffed with four persons, in part with positions funded by a 2009 SAFER grant. If the County receives the 2010 SAFER grant, five additional engines would be staffed with four persons, in part with positions funded by that grant.

Staffing a four-person unit with all career personnel requires 18 positions (4 seats x 4.5 shift relief factor = 18 positions). SAFER positions provide a portion of the total staffing for their assigned units. Where volunteer staffing is available, less career staffing is needed.

For the February 24 update, MCFRS staff was asked to discuss:

- The extent to which volunteers are participating in current four-person staffing, and how much they will be expected to participate in future phases.
- Any new information about the advantages or disadvantages of four-person staffing and the 1 + 1 ALS model.
- Any new data about improvements in response times as a result of four-person staffing.

fire&res\misc\100224 pspac 4- person staffing.doc

Four-person Staffing Implementation to Date			
Station	Station #	Unit	SAFER pos.
Phase 1			
Gaithersburg - Russell Ave.	8	Engine 708	
Upper Montgomery	14	Engine 714	
Laytonsville	17	Engine 717	
Rockville - Rollins Ave.	23	Engine 723	
Gaithersburg - Muncaster Mill	28	Engine 728	
Germantown - Town Center	29	Engine 729	
Rockville - Darnestown Road	31	Engine 731	
Gaithersburg - Russell Ave.	8	Aerial Tower 708	
Phase 2A			
Silver Spring	1	Engine 701	3
Silver Spring - Four Corners	16	Engine 716	3
Kensington - Parkland	21	Engine 721	
Hillandale - Colesville	24	Engine 724	3
Phase 2B			
Bethesda	6	Engine 706	
Hillandale	12	Engine 712	3
Kensington - Glenmont	18	Engine 718	
Silver Spring - Montgomery Hills	19	Engine 719	
Other - Implemented			
Rockville	3	Engine 703	
Chevy Chase	7	Engine 707	
Burtonsville	15	Engine 715	
Germantown - Kingsview	22	Engine 722	
Kensington - Aspen Hill	25	Engine 725	
Clarksburg Interim Station	35	Engine 735	
Planned and Approved- 2009 SAFER grant			
Germantown - Milestone	34	Engine 734	5
Cabin John - Potomac (partial)	30	Engine 730	3
Rockville - Falls Road	33	Engine 733	4
Pending 2010 SAFER grant			
Cabin John - Potomac	30	Engine 730	1
Bethesda - Democracy (partial)	26	Engine 726	5
Sandy Spring	4	Engine 704	4
Bethesda - Cedar Lane	20	Engine 720	4
Takoma Park	2	Engine 702	4

ALS FOUR-PERSON STAFFING IMPLEMENTATION

Update Recommendation #32 to specify the order in which units will receive ALS four-person staffing:

- Phase 1: Engines 708, 714, 717, 723, 728, 729, 731;
AT708 IMPLEMENTED
- Phase 2A: Engines 701, 716, 721, 724 IMPLEMENTED
- Phase 2B: Engines 706, 712, 718, 719 IMPLEMENTED

ALS FOURTH-PERSON STAFFING IMPLEMENTATION (cont.)

- **Phase 3: Engines 702, 704, 710, 713, 720, 726, 730, 733, 734**
- **Phase 4: E711, E740, T702, T712, T731, AT718, AT729, AT35, RS729**
- **Phase 5: Trucks 706, 710, 725, 740; AT19, AT23, EW709, RS703**
- **Phase 6: Rescue Squads 715, 717, 742; E705, E715, T715, AT703**

NOTE: Phases 3-6 of the staffing strategy also call for providing dedicated drivers for Tankers 704, 709, 714, 717, 722, 730, and 731