

## MEMORANDUM

May 3, 2004

TO: Distribution

FROM: Gordon A. Aoyagi, Fire Administrator

SUBJECT: Final Rescue Squad Report

In February 2001, the Rescue Squad Work Group was appointed to address specific charges assigned by the FRC Operations Committee:

1. A review and update of the 1995 Rescue Squad report; and
2. To specifically address and provide recommendations on the following requests:
  - a) a request from the Kensington VFD to reconsider the staffing restrictions previously placed on the operation of Rescue Squad 21,
  - b) a request from the Silver Spring VFD to establish extrication service from Station 16,
  - c) a request from the Cabin John VFD to relocate Rescue Squad 30 to Station 10,
  - d) a request from the Takoma Park VFD to have Truck 2 dispatched as an extrication-equipped unit,
  - e) a request of the Hyattstown VFD to reclassify Engine 92 as Rescue Engine 92 on a permanent basis,
  - f) a request of the Silver Spring VFD to operate Aerial Tower 19 as an extrication-equipped unit, and
  - g) continuing to require that an air cascade system be an item in the FRC approved minimum inventory for rescue squads.

The Work Group was comprised of career and volunteer members of the MCFRS. After extensive analysis, including the use of 2000 U.S. Census data and the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) to track population trends and incident activity, the Work group completed a draft report in February 2003.

The Work Group distributed the draft report to the field in March 2003, and held an evening worksession to receive a presentation from the Work Group in April 2003 to allow field personnel to understand the rationale of the report recommendations prior to submitting their comments and suggestions in May 2003.

At the June 2003 Operations Committee meeting, the Committee was provided with a complete set of all comments received from the field review and comment period. The Committee considered the Work Group report at the July, August, and October 2003 Committee meetings prior to taking final actions to make recommendations to the FRC at the November 2003 Commission meeting. All four of these committee meetings were held in the evening.

At the December 11, 2003 FRC meeting, Commissioner Ogens, chair of the FRC Operations Committee, presented the recommendations of the Committee to the FRC concerning this report, and actions on these recommendations were deferred to the January 2004 FRC meeting.

At the January 8, 2004 meeting of the FRC, the Operations Committee recommendations were considered and some minor modifications were made. The FRC took final action on the Rescue Squad Report by approving recommendations concerning the deployment of rescue squad and extrication resources, staffing, response, response time goals, training, mission, and equipment. The FRC approved recommendations immediately follow this memorandum and are being officially transmitted.

The entire Rescue Squad Work Group Report is attached as a reference and source of background data and information. **The recommendations adopted by the FRC concerning the Rescue Squad Report are attached to this memorandum and supplant the recommendations of the Rescue Squad Work Group as reflected on pages 10-25 of the report.**

There are many issues involved with the implementation of the approved final actions taken by the FRC concerning the Rescue Squad Report. Some actions will be implemented in the immediate future, while others will take considerably more time to move forward. Information concerning implementation will be forthcoming separately.

#### Attachment

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