Vision 20/20

MODELS IN FIRE PREVENTION

SYMPOSIUM 2012

Art and Science of Creating Prevention Culture in FD and City Councils

Chief Nyle Zikmund
Spring Lake Park – Blaine – Mounds View
(MN) Fire Department

Goals

- To be Efficient
  - Cost Per Capita
  - Low Injury Rate for FF
- To be Effective
  - Reduce Calls and measure Per Capita
  - Reduction in Fires (focus on structure)
  - Comprehensive all hazard approach
    - Fire, Falls, Bike Safety, Auto Safety (children), etc.

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FORMATIVE EVALUATION

SBM Master Plan.ppt

- Research – National, State, Local
  - Call volume and type of calls
    - Focus on alarms and fires
      - Close to 50% of calls were alarms or good intent
  - Injuries
    - Average of more than 9 per year in 1995, now 2.3
  - What others were doing
    - Mostly international, very little domestic findings
  - Risk Assessment
    - Led to staffing plan

Obtained Council/Board Support

- Substantive Research
- Production and Presentation of a Written Plan
- Recognition and Statement that Suppression is a costly and ineffective solution
- Rebalance of resources

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PROCESS EVALUATION

Process

- Conduct research, communicate findings, develop plan
- Hire prevention volunteers
- Hire fire inspectors
- Implement changes to emergency response
- Refocus hiring – quality vs. quantity
- Institutionalize prevention advocacy

Evaluation

- Prevention Staff
  - 1 full time, 4 fire life safety educators, 2 permanent part time, 6-10 Fire Corps
  - From 2 full time to 7 full time inspectors
  - 19 Prevention Programs
- Investigation Division
  - Internal SBM Team
  - Part of County Team also

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IMPACT EVALUATION

Measurable Outcomes

- Juvenile Fire Problem
  - 80% reduction in referrals
- Sprinklers
  - All educational property (18 – 2 Senior High, 3 Middle and 13 Elementary Schools)
  - All townhomes
  - All high hazards
  - Zero interest sprinkler loan program
- Code Adoption and Enforcement
  - All high hazards yearly (includes assembly and multi-family)
  - All others on 3 to 5 year rotation

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OUTCOME EVALUATION

2010 FRI Presentation Final.pptx

- Call volume decreased 28% when adjusted for population, 39.5% when adjusted for market value growth.
- Lowest per capita fire expense for any similar size department (down to 30,000 population) in State of Minnesota.
- Injuries
  - From 9 per year to 2.3 per year (despite increase in activity)
- Commercial Fire Incidence
  - Negligible – 1 to 2 sprinkler controlled events per yer
- Multi-Family Fire Incidence
  - Negligible – Zero incidents in last decade
- Manufactured Home Fires
  - From 30+ a year to less than 5 per year
- Community acceptance/embracement
- Increased activity amongst suppression members

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Change the Environment

Environment - Councils/Managers

- Are looking for change
  - Fire Departments are/can be:
    - Costly and inefficient
    - Political animals
- Recognize
  - You can balance prevention and emergency response
  - Discontinue something and use savings to fund prevention activity

Environment - Crew

- Suppression/Response Crew
  - Crews “embrace/love” not going to alarms
  - Exchange “fire calls” for high quality training
  - Add value to the “job” by providing rewarding positive experiences
- Prevention (Suppression or Prevention Hire)
  - Valued same as suppression
  - Experiences can be equally as rewarding

Environment - Evaluate

- Evaluate and make changes
  - If it is not working or meeting the established objective – STOP
  - True for suppression or prevention activities
  - This includes exchanging quantity for quality whenever and wherever possible – more is not better. Better is Better.

Change Examples & Outcome

- Changes
  - Reduced response crew from 93 volunteers to 55
  - Consolidated two stations into new one
  - Hired prevention volunteers
  - Hire full time and permanent part time prevention staff
  - Changed alarm response to duty chief
  - Working structure fires – first rig on red until confirmed, all others routine
  - All members considered firefighters
  - Prevention Chief same level rank as Operations and Training Chief
  - Fire Corps

- Outcomes
  - New $7.1 million station
  - 10 Full time staff
  - Five new engines in last 5 years
  - One budget reduction (3% in last five years) and 2.3% increase for 2012