



Vision 20/20

MODELS IN FIRE PREVENTION

SYMPOSIUM 2012

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

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(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.





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





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





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





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





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

