



REGIONAL STANDARDS OF COVER

APRIL 2011

Submitted by:



Emergency Services Consulting *International*

25200 SW Parkway Ave. Suite 3 • Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

www.esci.us • 800-757-3724

Washoe County Regional Fire Services Nevada

**City of Reno
Washoe County Fire Suppression Program
Sierra Fire Protection District
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District**

Regional Standards of Cover

Prepared by Joe Parrott

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Emergency Services Consulting
International

Introduction

The following report serves as the Washoe County Regional Fire Services “Standards of Cover” document. The Center for Fire Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) defines the process, known as “deployment analysis,” as written procedures that determine the distribution and concentration of fixed and mobile resources of an organization. The purpose for completing such a document is to assist the agencies in ensuring a safe and effective response force for fire suppression, emergency medical services, and specialty response situations in addition to homeland security issues.

Creating a Standards of Cover document requires that a number of areas be researched, studied, and evaluated. The following report is based on research conducted by Emergency Services Consulting International for the City of Reno Standards of Cover Plan and for the Washoe County Regional Fire Services for this document. In addition, it uses research and information prepared by the Diamante Public Sector Group in the development of Standards of Cover plans for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Sierra Fire Protection District, and the Washoe County Volunteer Fire Agencies.

This document will provide a summary overview of the communities and agencies. It will describe current fire and emergency services delivery performance. It will offer service level alternatives and approximate costs for implementation. The report will conclude with additional recommendations.

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Executive Summary

This document identifies Washoe County Regional Fire Services Standards of Cover (SOC). Response resources, deployment strategies, operational elements, and overall community risks that have been evaluated in this and other referenced documents. Using data provided by the fire and life safety agencies, Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) completed analysis to determine current levels of response performance. From this analysis, ESCI also identified factors influencing response performance and identified opportunities for improvement. This document establishes response time goals and standards for measuring the effectiveness of resources within the agencies and the deployment of those resources.

In the typical SOC process, potential service area classifications are broken down into five categories:

- **Metropolitan**—Geography with populations of over 200,000 people in total and/or a population density of over 3,000 people per square mile. These areas are distinguished by mid-rise and high-rise buildings, often interspersed with smaller structures.
- **Urban**—Geography with a population of over 30,000 people and/or a population density of over 2,000 people per square mile.
- **Suburban**—Geography with a population of 10,000 to 29,999 and/or a population density of between 1,000 and 2,000 people per square mile.
- **Rural**—Geography with a total population of less than 10,000 people or with a population density of less than 1,000 people per square mile.
- **Wilderness/Frontier/Undeveloped**—Geography that is both rural and not readily accessible by a publicly or privately maintained road.

An analysis of the region's population density and defined land uses reveals that it is primarily of four classifications: urban, suburban, rural, and frontier. Thus, all four categories are recommended for analysis.

Response performance objectives for the services provided by the region's fire services have been developed. These further define the quality and quantity of service expected by the community and consistently pursued by the agencies. This document offers a base level of performance (Service Tier One) and an improvement level (Service Tier Two).

First-Due Service Tier One

- Urban: The first response unit capable of initiating effective incident mitigation should arrive within 8 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of the call.
- Suburban: The first response unit capable of initiating effective incident mitigation should arrive within 10 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Rural: The first response unit capable of initiating effective incident mitigation should arrive within 20 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Frontier: The first response unit capable of initiating effective incident mitigation should arrive as soon as practical based on the best effort of response forces.

Effective Response Force Service Tier One

- Urban: The full effective response force to a moderate risk incident should arrive within 10 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Suburban: The full effective response force to a moderate risk incident should arrive within 20 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Rural: The full effective response force to a moderate risk incident should arrive within 30 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Frontier: The full effective response force to a moderate risk incident should arrive as soon as practical based on the best effort of response forces.

First-Due Service Tier Two

- Urban: The first response unit capable of initiating effective incident mitigation should arrive within 6 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of the call.
- Suburban: The first response unit capable of initiating effective incident mitigation should arrive within 8 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Rural: The first response unit capable of initiating effective incident mitigation should arrive within 15 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Frontier: The first response unit capable of initiating effective incident mitigation should arrive as soon as practical based on the best effort of response forces.

Effective Response Force Service Tier Two

- Urban: The full effective response force to a moderate risk incident should arrive within 10 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Suburban: The full effective response force to a moderate risk incident should arrive within 15 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Rural: The full effective response force to a moderate risk incident should arrive within 25 minutes, 85 percent of the time from the receipt of call.
- Frontier: The full effective response force to a moderate risk incident should arrive as soon as practical based on the best effort of response forces.

Based on the analysis, additional response resources are needed to meet Service Tier One response time objectives. This includes the addition of five new fire stations (including one recommended in the City of Reno Standards of Cover Plan) and the relocation of two existing fire stations. To meet Service Tier Two, one additional fire station should be considered.

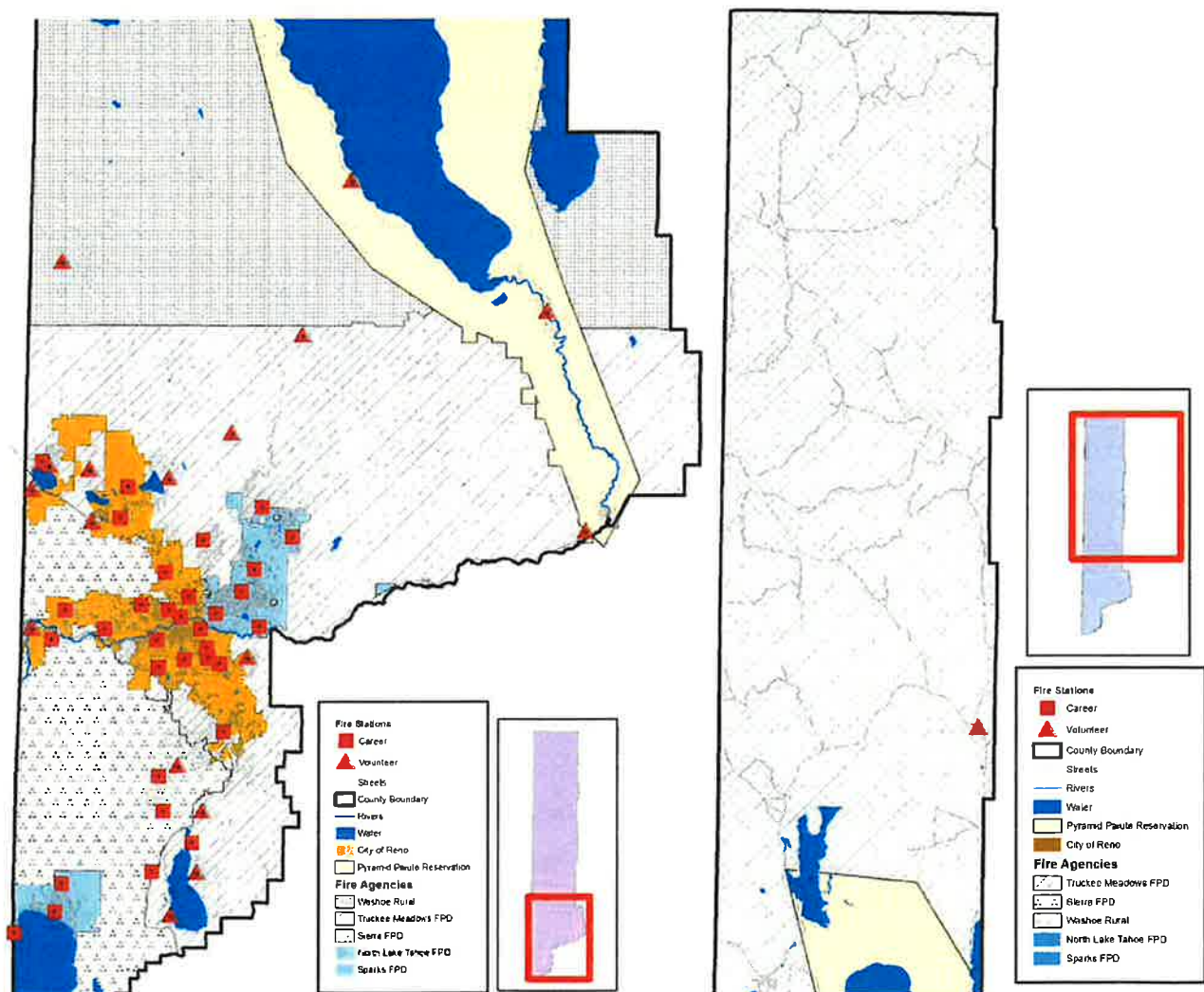
The analysis conducted during the evaluation phase of this process identified a number of other opportunities to improve service. The following are the additional recommendations offered for consideration.

1. Improve call processing times at the dispatch center so that response units are notified of the emergency within 60 seconds of receipt of the call.
2. Improve turnout times so that initiation of response occurs within 1 minute 30 seconds from time of dispatch 85 percent of the time.
3. Explore alternative fire protection capabilities, such as residential fire sprinkler systems, for the Red Rock and Gerlach communities
4. Explore opportunities to improve performance and reliability of the volunteer firefighter program

Description of Community, Services, and Resources

Washoe County is served by a number of fire agencies and volunteer fire departments. The focus of the Regional Standards of Cover Plan is those areas served by the City of Reno Fire Department (RFD), Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), and the Washoe County Fire Services. The following maps show the area under discussion and existing fire stations.

Figure 1: Washoe County



The emergency response forces operate under a seamless system of automatic and mutual aid agreements facilitating the sharing of resources between the several agencies. The only exception is the City of Reno's inability to use volunteer firefighters within the city boundaries due to the collective bargaining agreement with its firefighters. A single dispatch center operated by the City of Reno receives and dispatches requests for service. Detailed information about each agency can be found in the following documents:

- *City of Reno Fire Department Standards of Cover – 2011* (Emergency Services Consulting International)
- *Standards of Cover – Sierra Fire Protection District* (Diamante Public Sector Group)
- *Standards of Cover – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District* (Diamante Public Sector Group)
- *Standards of Cover – Washoe County Volunteer Fire Agencies* (Diamante Public Sector Group)

City of Reno

(Excerpted from *City of Reno Fire Department Standards of Cover – 2011*, Emergency Services Consulting International)

The Reno Fire Department is a direct operating department of City of Reno and provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the community. The department's jurisdiction encompasses all of the governmental boundaries of the community along with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (a contractual service area). In addition, the RFD administers the daily operation of the volunteer firefighter program and augments response in the area north of Township 22 also known as the County Fire Suppression program, again a contractual service area.

RFD provides emergency services to a city resident population of 218,143. Tourism increases the population by an average of 35,000 daily.¹ Daytime employment increases the population by 31,445.² Combined, the Reno Fire Department's service population is estimated to be 284,588 during the day and 249,588 at night. The department serves an area of approximately 105 square miles. The area served by the department had been experiencing light growth until the economic downturn. The department's services are provided from 13 city-owned fire stations. Currently, three are rarely staffed (browned-out) and one is operating with a two-person response crew. The RFD also operates and staffs six Truckee Meadows Fire Protection

¹ Extrapolated from the 2007 Reno-Tahoe Visitor Profile Study, Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority.

² Source: city-data.com.

District stations, some of which contribute to city deployment needs. RFD manages volunteer response forces from an additional ten Truckee Meadows and county fire stations. However, due to provisions in the department's bargaining unit contract, volunteer personnel cannot be used inside the city.

The department maintains a fleet of 115 vehicles and apparatus owned by the city, including engines, ladder trucks, brush engines, and specialty vehicles. The Reno Department of Communication and Technology provides emergency call receipt and dispatch service.

There are 295 individuals involved in delivering services to the combined City of Reno/Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District jurisdiction. The department's primary management team includes a Chief, five Division Chiefs, six Battalion Chiefs, a Fire Marshal, and a Senior Management Analyst. Staffing for emergency response is through the use of career firefighters on 24-hour shifts. For immediate response and at full staffing, at least 89 personnel would be on duty at all times. Due to economic conditions, typically only 74 personnel are on duty at all times, 49 at City of Reno fire stations plus an on-call division chief.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) reviews the fire protection resources within communities and provides a Community Fire Protection Rating system from which insurance rates are often based. The rating system evaluates three primary areas: the emergency communication and dispatch system, the fire department, and the community's pressurized hydrant or tanker-based water supply. The overall rating is then expressed as a number between 1 and 10, with 1 being the highest level of protection and 10 being unprotected or nearly so. As of the latest rating, ISO gave the service area a rating of Class 3 for properties within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant and Class 9 for all other areas. This rating was conducted in 2003.

The following chart provides basic information on each of the department's core services, its general resource capability for that service (at current typical staffing levels), and information regarding RFD staff resources for that service. This list includes only those services and resources available from the City of Reno; staffing and resources operated for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, and those provided via mutual and automatic aid from other agencies, are not included.

Figure 2: Core Services Summary

Service	General Resource/ Asset Capability	Basic Staffing Capability per Shift
Fire Suppression	9 staffed engines 2 staffed ladder trucks 2 command response units 1 two-person rescue 1 Safety officer Additional automatic and mutual aid engines, aerials, and support units available	49 suppression-trained personnel. Additional automatic and mutual aid firefighters available.
Emergency Medical Services	9 engines - ILS equipped 2 ladder trucks - ILS equipped 1 rescue – ILS equipped	No less 12 certified emergency medical technicians-Intermediate per shift.
Vehicle Extrication	2 trucks equipped with hydraulic rescue tools, hand tools, air bags, cutting torch, stabilization cribbing, and combination cutter-spreader hydraulic rescue tool. 2 light rescues with extrication tools. 5 fire engines with extrication tools.	All firefighters vehicle rescue trained.
High-Angle Rescue	1 cross-staffed heavy rescue equipped with rescue-rated rope and all associated hardware	All personnel trained to the operations level. 9 personnel per shift trained to the technician level in high-angle rope rescue.
Trench and Collapse Rescue	1 cross-staffed heavy rescue equipped with pneumatic shoring jacks, cribbing, limited lumber and hand tools for initial stabilization	All personnel trained to the operations level. 9 personnel per shift trained to the technician level in trench and collapse rescue.
Swift-Water Rescue	All engines and trucks equipped with throw bags, PFDs, and helmets. 2 cross-staffed water rescue vehicles with light boats	All personnel trained to the operations level. 6 personnel per shift trained to the technician level in swift-water rescue.
Confined Space Rescue	1 cross-staffed heavy rescue equipped with tripod, cribbing, pneumatic shores, air monitoring equipment, basket stretchers, rescue-rated rope	All personnel trained to the operations level. 9 personnel per shift trained to the technician level in confined space rescue.
Hazardous Materials Response	Hazardous Materials response vehicle equipped with personal protective equipment, gas and radiation monitoring equipment, containment supplies, non-sparking tools, and a decontamination trailer.	All personnel trained to the operations level. 9 personnel per shift trained to the technician level in hazardous materials.

RFD unit staffing is constant but station staffing is not. Because of economic conditions, three stations have been “browned-out” or unstaffed for significant periods of time and one reduced to two-person staffing. The following table lists each Reno station, staffed unit, and the staffing assigned to each when fully staffed and as has been typical recently due to brown-outs. Cross-staffed means that firefighters assigned to another response unit in the station may transfer to the cross-staffed unit as needed.

Figure 3: Minimum Staffing Complement – City of Reno Fire Stations

Station	Apparatus	Full Staffing	Staffing When Browned-out
Station 1	Engine 1	4	4
	Truck 1	4	4
Station 2	Engine 2	4	4
	Brush 2	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
	Safety Officer	1	1
Station 3	Engine 3	4	4
	Truck 3	4	4
	Rescue 3	0	In-service as staffing permits
	HazMat 3	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
	Decon 3	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
	Battalion 2	1	1
Station 4	Engine 4	4	4
Station 5	Engine 5	4	4
	Patrol 5	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
Station 6	Engine 6	4	4
	Brush 6	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
Station 7	Engine 7	4	0
	Brush 7	Cross-staffed	0
Station 8	Engine 8	4	4
	Brush 8	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
Station 9	Engine 9	4	0
	Brush 9	Cross-staffed	0
Station 10	Engine 10	0	0
	Truck 10	4	0
	Brush 10	Cross-staffed	0
Station 11	Engine 11	4	4
	Truck 11	0	0
	Heavy Rescue 11	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
	Boat 11	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
Station 19	Engine 19	4	0
	Brush 19	Cross-staffed	0
	Rescue 19	0	2
Station 21	Engine 21	4	4
	Brush 21	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
	Boat 21	Cross-staffed	Cross-staffed
	Battalion 1	1	1
Total Minimum Staffing		63	49

In addition, RFD staffs and operates six fire stations for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. These stations are under the direct control of RFD and regularly respond to emergencies in the city. Staffing for these stations is constant at four firefighters each (24 total), primarily staffing an engine in each station and cross-staffing other units such as brush engines and water tenders. Per the agreement between the city and district, these stations may not be browned-out.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

(Excerpted from *Standards of Cover – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District*, Diamante Public Sector Group)

The Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District was established in 1972. It entered into a mutual aid agreement with the City of Reno after its formation. Prior to the formation of the District the area was covered by Washoe County, the City of Reno and the City of Sparks. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Reno Fire Department have had an automatic aid agreement since 1991. Effective July 1, 2000 an INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT was entered into by and between the City of Reno, a municipal corporation and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District organized under NRS 474.460 to provide for consolidation of services and personnel. This Standards of Cover document focuses on the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and tried to evaluate the fire and life safety operations of Truckee Meadows.

The District is governed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) who serves as the TMFPD Board of Fire Commissioners.

The Volunteer Fire Departments in the County are separate federal 501-C non-profit corporations or associations and each are [sic] governed by their own Board of Directors. The District and the VFDs have a contract for services. The contract specifies the District provide funding, apparatus, insurances, and equipment in return for qualified volunteers and response. Those Volunteer Fire Departments are Cold Springs, Lemmon Valley, Pleasant Valley, Silver Lake, and Wadsworth Volunteer Fire Departments.

There are two auxiliary units (these are Truckee Meadows units not autonomous to all) which are Hidden Valley and Palomino Valley. The Volunteer Fire Departments have no statutory ability to provide fire protection on their own and need a recognized local government unit to provide the umbrella, hence their affiliation with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

The legal relationship between a *[sic]* NRS 474 Fire District and volunteers is defined in NRS 474. The law states the District has a responsibility to “support” but does not provide direction regarding authority. The TMFPD and the VFD jointly developed a contract defining each party's obligations.

The District provides liability and workers compensation insurance, vehicle repair, maintenance of apparatus and facilities, facility insurance, utility payments, uniforms, personal protective equipment and training. In return, each VFD agrees to follow District policy and provide trained and qualified volunteers.

Accountability in meeting training standards has been an area of conflict between the VFD's *[sic]* and their respective Districts. The TMFPD has implemented training levels allowing for additional opportunities for volunteers in support roles.

Fire District	Parcels	Assessed Total	Estimated Population	Tax Rate
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District	34,628	2,989,721,676	89,895	0.4713

There are many communities within the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District which are identified by Truckee Meadow Fire Station area. Detailed information is not available for all geographic areas, and due to the Interlocal Agreement it is difficult to determine what areas are considered within the City of Reno and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Fire Station Locations

Station Designation	Station Name	Address	City/Area	State	Zip
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (Paid)					
TMFPD 13	TMFPD Station 13	10575 Silverlake Rd	Reno	NV	89506
TMFPD 14	TMFPD Station 14	12300 Old Virginia Rd	Reno	NV	89433
TMFPD 15	TMFPD Station 15	130 Quartz Lane	Reno	NV	89511
TMFPD 16	TMFPD Station 16	1240 Eastlake Blvd	Carson City	NV	89704
TMFPD 17	TMFPD Station 17	500 Rockwell Ave	Sparks	NV	89441
TMFPD 18	TMFPD Station 18	3680 Diamond Peak Drive	Reno	NV	89506
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (Volunteer)					
TMFPD 220	Cold Springs VFD	3405 White Lake Parkway	Reno	NV	89506
TMFPD 221	Silver Lake Fire Department Sta 221	11525 Red Rock Road	Reno	NV	89508
TMFPD 223	Lemon Valley Station 223	130 Nectar St	Reno	NV	89506
TMFPD 225	Wadsworth 225	400 Stamp Mill Rd	Reno	NV	89442
TMFPD 226	Hidden Valley Auxiliaries	3255 W Hidden Valley Dr	Reno	NV	89502
TMFPD 227	Pleasant Valley Station 227	3010 Lakeshore Dr	Carson City	NV	89702
TMFPD 229	Palomino Valley Station 229	6015 Ironwood Rd	Reno	NV	89510
TMFPD 237	Pleasant Valley Station 237	12300 Old 395 South	Reno	NV	89511

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Apparatus

Station 13 Engine 13, Water Tender 13, Brush 13
 Station 14 Engine 14, Brush 14, Medium Rescue
 Station 15 Engine 15, Truck 15, Brush 15
 Station 16 Engine 16, Water Tender 16, Brush 16
 Station 17 Engine 17, Water Tender 17, Brush 17
 Station 18 Engine 18, Water Tender 18, Brush 18

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (Volunteer)		
TMFPD 220	Cold Springs VFD	E 220 Type 3 Brush Engine Light Truck
TMFPD 221	Silver Lake VFD	E 221 Type 3 Brush Engine Type 6 Brush Engine Water Tender 221
TMFPD 223	Lemon Valley VFD	E 223 Type 3 Brush Engine
TMFPD 225	Wadsworth VFD	E 225 WT225 Type 3 Brush Engine
TMFPD 226	Hidden Valley Aux	E 226 Type 3 Brush Engine
TMFPD 227	Pleasant Valley VFD Station 227	Engine 227 Type 3 Brush Engine Patrol
TMFPD 229	Palomino Valley Auxiliary	E 229 Type 3 Brush Engine Water Tender Patrol
TMFPD 237	Pleasant Valley VFD Station 237	E 237 Patrol

Sierra Fire Protection District

(Excerpted from *Standards of Cover – Sierra Fire Protection District*, Diamante Public Sector Group)

The SFPD provides fire and emergency medical (paramedic level) service and response to a 214-square mile narrow ribbon of territory on the eastern slope of the Carson and Sierra Nevada Mountain range. The SFPD is located between federal and the unincorporated lands of Washoe County. The District is a wildland urban interface area served by a combination of 39 shift employees and 95 volunteers. There are three staffed stations and five volunteer stations. The District daily staffing level is 13, including three paramedic/firefighters and a Battalion Chief. The District has one fire Prevention Captain, one Training Captain,³ a Fire Chief, and an Administrative Secretary. The SFPD has a seasonal fire crew of 20 who complete fuels management projects and fight wildland fires. They are rated as a Type II Initial Attack (IA) Hand Crew.

³ ESCI update - There are now three Training Captains who also provide shift relief.

The Sierra Forest Fire Protection District (SFFPD) was established in 1949 with the passage of Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 473. The legal name of the NRS 473 Statute is *Fire Districts Receiving Federal Aid*. The original District was formed to enable federal funds authorized through the Clark/McNary Act to be utilized for watershed protection and wildfire suppression along the eastern slope of the Carson and Sierra Nevada Mountains. The District's 1949 boundaries included Carson, Douglas and Washoe County. The District was designed to provide rural fire protection for counties unable to provide protection and to serve as a fuel barrier between the U.S. Forest Service lands and the privately owned lands of each county.

At the time the District was originally formed, only states were eligible for Clark/McNary federal funds and not the counties. As a result the SFPD was operated by the Nevada State Forester/Fire Warden. The State Forester submitted budget requests for county tax dollars through each County Board of Commissioners to supplement the federal Clark/McNary funds

Similar to the other western states, significant changes occurred throughout the SFFPD since its creation in 1949. The U.S. Forest Service acquired much of the once private timber lands. The federal aid authorized through the Clark/McNary Act expired in 2000. Urban development pushed out of the Truckee Meadows valley into the foothills coining a new term called the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). These changes caused the SFFPD to become fractured and more difficult to manage.

The Washoe County portion of the SFFPD is called the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD). It extends along the eastern slope of the Carson and Sierra Nevada Range and appears on the map as a rectangular 214-square mile thin ribbon of territory. The District is located between the U.S. Forest Service and privately owned lands of unincorporated Washoe County.

Washoe County experienced the largest population growth in the area served by the Sierra Fire Protection District according to SFFPD officials. With the increased growth came an increased demand for urban level fire and emergency medical services. The State expanded service delivery and transformed the District from a wildland only fire suppression agency to an "all risk" fire agency capable of responding to structure fires, wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, emergency medical services at the paramedic level, and rescues. A Fire Prevention Division was also added.

The NDF⁴ transfer from wildland to all risk was evaluated in a 2004 statewide study completed by a consultant company called TriData, which is a division of Systems Planning. The report made statewide recommendations regarding the future NDF mission. One of the 34 recommendations included:

Make an orderly transition out of the all-risk emergency service (non-wildland fire) mission in the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District. Devolve responsibility for non-wildland fire services to local government entities capable of providing service. In particular, transition out of all-risk emergency services provided to Verdi, Bowers, and Galena.

Before this study ended, the NDF already had taken action on this recommendation, setting a target date for transition of January 2006. The transition was completed in July of 2006.

The Tri-data [sic] study also recommended the “transition should be guided by a plan to devolve municipal fire, medical and rescue service to the TMFPD by contract.” A Washoe County Commission study conducted by Walker and Associates in 2006 recommended a series of options to achieve that goal. Efforts to implement those options were unsuccessful.

One of the findings of the 2006 Walker and Associates report was the impending financial crisis the District would be facing in the next three years (2009-2010). The Walker report recommended the District seek a merger or additional funds as an alternative to reducing current service delivery levels.

The transition from NDF to local control was completed through an interlocal agreement, which transferred personnel and equipment effective July 1, 2006. The state retained ownership of the Bowers Mansion Fire Station and transferred ownership of the Joy Lake Station to the District during the 2007 Legislative Session.

Once the transfer from state to local control was complete, the District began a long-term strategic planning process. A financial analysis completed by Walker and Associates confirmed the earlier predictions of three to five-year period to reach financial instability was actually going to occur in the FY 2007/08 budget. Ms. Walker estimated the District would face a \$500,000 revenue shortfall. The strategic planning committee evaluated the upcoming shortfall and concluded the District would have to reduce service levels by closing one station and eliminate up to nine positions unless additional funding or a merger occurred.

⁴ Nevada Division of Forestry.

The District worked with local citizen groups to develop long-term options and present them to the Board of Fire Directors. The planning committee recommended a merger or consolidation with either the City of Reno or the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District. Those options were opposed by Reno and NLTFPD because of financial instability and concern over subsidizing the SFPD. The planning committee recommended to the Board of Fire Commissioners a series of 20 goals that could be achieved and the necessary funding required to achieve the goals.

The 2007 Nevada State Legislature made changes to the statutes pertaining to NRS 473 and NRS 474 Fire Districts. The changes authorized procedures to establish a new District, alter boundaries for inclusion or exclusion of territory, establish budgets including the levy and collection of taxes, and authorize the issuance of bonds. The State Committee on Local Government Finance concluded that if the Washoe County Commissioners were to dissolve the SFPD NRS 473 District, replace it with a NRS 474 District, and increase the tax rate, the first year of revenue would not be subject to the tax caps enacted by the 2005 Nevada Legislature.

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners dissolved the NRS 473 Fire District and created a NRS 474 District effective July 1, 2008. As part of this change the SFPD Board of Commissioners increased the tax rate from 42 cents to 52 cents to assure on-going service delivery.

After stabilizing service delivery, the District recommended the Board of County Commissioners, acting as the Fire Commissioners of SFPD and TMFPD, embark on long-term strategic planning effort to address the future of fire and fire based emergency medical service delivery in the entire unincorporated area of Washoe County including the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the areas outside of any established fire district.

The District is governed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) who serves as the SFPD Board of Fire Commissioners. The BCC also serves as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

The Volunteer Fire Departments in the County are separate federal 501-C non-profit corporations or associations and each are governed by their own Board of Directors. The District and the VFDs have a contract for services. The contract specifies the District provide funding, apparatus, insurances, and equipment in return for qualified volunteers and response.

The contract with the Washoe Valley VFD is unique in which SFPD is funding a Department that is physically located in the neighboring Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

The relationship between the Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) and the SFPD is complex. The VFDs are separate 501-C non-profit corporations. There are five VFDs in the SFPD: Cold Springs, Galena, Peavine, Verdi, and Washoe Valley. Each VFD is governed by its own Board of Directors. The Chief of each VFD is elected by the membership. The geographical areas of each VFD overlaps portions of the TMFPD and the geographical boundaries have been impacted by annexation by the City of Reno.

There is an overlap in response to the TMFPD. The Washoe Valley VFD's only station is located in the TMFPD. The Cold Springs VFD has two stations; one station is located in the TMFPD and the second is located in the SFPD. The Cold Springs VFD area within the SFPD is less than one square mile while the Cold Springs VFD within the TMFPD is 75 square miles. Approximately 1,400 acres of Cold Springs is located in the City of Reno and the Cold Springs VFD are *[sic]* not allowed to respond. The same situation exists in Verdi where the Verdi VFD is not authorized to respond to the 2,400 acres of the Verdi area that has been annexed into the City of Reno.

The legal relationship between a NRS 474 Fire District and volunteers is defined in NRS 474. The law states the District has a responsibility to "support" but does not provide direction regarding authority. The SFPD and the VFD jointly developed a contract defining each party's obligations.

The District provides liability and workers compensation insurance, vehicle repair, maintenance of apparatus and facilities, facility insurance, utility payments, uniforms, personal protective equipment and training. In return, each VFD agrees to follow District policy and provide trained and qualified volunteers.

Accountability in meeting training standards has been an area of conflict between the VFD's *[sic]* and their respective Districts. The SFPD District has implemented training levels allowing for additional opportunities for volunteers in support roles.

The VFD's [sic] are working with both Districts to provide a consistent program between the VFDs and SFPD and the TMFPD.

Fire Department or District	Parcels	Assessed Land	Assessed Buildings	Assessed Total
Sierra Fire Protection District	8,434	539,559,723	672,712,426	1,212,272,149

There are five areas within the SFPD. They include Washoe Valley, Galena, Verdi, Peavine and Cold Springs.

Sierra Fire Protection District Stations and Apparatus

Sierra Fire Protection District	Station Name	Address	City/Area	State	Zip Code
SFPD 30	SFPD Station 30	3905 Old Hwy 395	Washoe Valley	NV	89704
SFPD 301	SFPD Station 301	345 Bellevue Rd	Washoe Valley	NV	89704
SFPD 321	SFPD Station 321	250 South Ave	Reno	NV	89506
SFPD 331	SFPD Station 331	11005 Longview	Reno	NV	89506
SFPD 35	SFPD Station 35	100S Garson Rd	Reno	NV	89439
SFPD 351	SFPD Station 351	165 Bridge St	Reno	NV	89439
SFPD 38	SFPD Station 38	16255 Mt Rose Hwy	Reno	NV	89511
SFPD 381	SFPD Station 381	16133 Mt Rose Hwy	Reno	NV	89511
SFPD 39	SFPD Station 39	4000 Joy Lake Rd	Reno	NV	89511
SFPD HQ	Headquarters	3905 Old Hwy 395	Reno	NV	89511

Apparatus assigned to Stations

Station 30	Engine 30, Brush 30, Water Tender 30
Station 301	Engine 301, Brush 301, Water Tender 301, Rescue 301
Station 321	Patrol 321, Brush 321
Station 331	Brush 331, Patrol 331, Water Tender 331
Station 35	Engine 35, Brush 35
Station 351	Engine 351, Water Tender 351, Brush 351
Station 38	Engine 38, Brush 38, Tender 38
Station 381	Engine 381, Brush 381, Rescue 381

Service Delivery Zones and Response Objectives

The community's risk designations should influence how response resources are distributed now and in the future. Areas of higher fire risk and high incident activity require greater numbers of personnel and apparatus to effectively mitigate emergencies. Staffing and deployment decisions for different regions of the service area should be made in consideration of the level of risk.

Most communities contain areas with different population densities and property risk allowing the community's policy makers to specify different response performance objectives by geographic area. The categories are identified as:⁵

- **Metropolitan**—Geography with populations of over 200,000 people in total and/or a population density of over 3,000 people per square mile. These areas are distinguished by mid-rise and high-rise buildings, often interspersed with smaller structures.
- **Urban**—Geography with a population of over 30,000 people and/or a population density of over 2,000 people per square mile.
- **Suburban**—Geography with a population of 10,000 to 29,999 and/or a population density of between 1,000 and 2,000 people per square mile.
- **Rural**—Geography with a total population of less than 10,000 people or with a population density of less than 1,000 people per square mile.
- **Wilderness/Frontier/Undeveloped**—Geography that is both rural and not readily accessible by a publicly or privately maintained road.

The Washoe County region contains urban, suburban, rural and frontier categories. In the Reno Standards of Coverage report, urban and suburban performance zones were identified and response performance objectives for each recommended. The following First Due Response Performance Objectives were recommended for the City of Reno:

1. The first fire department response unit will arrive at a fire emergency in the urban area within six minutes from time of dispatch 85 percent of the time.
2. The first fire department response unit will arrive at a fire emergency in the suburban area within eight minutes from time of dispatch 85 percent of the time.
3. The first fire department response unit will arrive at a medical emergency in the urban area within six minutes from time of dispatch 85 percent of the time.
4. The first fire department response unit will arrive at a medical emergency in the suburban area within eight minutes from time of dispatch 85 percent of the time.

⁵ CFAI *Standards of Cover*, 5th edition, pages 20-21.

The following map illustrates the two response performance zones recommended for the City of Reno.

Figure 4: City of Reno Urban and Suburban Zones

