

## Highlights from memorandum dated March 27, 2008

### Prepared by Former Chief Barry Baker

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Further staff reductions within the Fire Department will result in service delivery loss through extended response times and/or lack of needed personnel and equipment, which would be contrary to the City Commission's goals.

*Baker is clearly stating extended response times are a delivery loss. Having one less unit responding results in increased response times on overlapping calls.*

We fully depend on surrounding jurisdictions for additional resources when our units are committed, for additional alarms within our city, and for other specialized equipment and operations. Any reduction in personnel will require additional dependence on other jurisdictions for normal responses, resulting in increased response times to get adequate resources on incidents to safely conduct operations. That dependence on other jurisdictions may prove costly in accordance with the existing automatic aid agreement reimbursement schedule.

*Removing our fifth response vehicle has the same resultant increase in dependence.*

## Highlights from memorandum dated May 28, 2008

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Changes have been made, to date, that have saved over \$800,000 annually.

*This is more than any other department and is a recurring savings.*

Reduced staffing would extend response times, which would occur more frequently awaiting the arrival of adequate personnel to manage the emergency and/or awaiting for initial response personnel from more geographically remote locations due to the creation of more service voids (units displaced by other calls).

*This wait will also be incurred as a result of reduced number of response units in our department. Once again stating a decrease in service level.*

Any delay in providing critical care or actions, can have devastating results. Response delays of a single minute or two will have the greatest impact on people who are critically ill or injured.

*Less units responding means an increase in instances of delayed responses resulting from overlapping calls. Every second counts when it's your emergency.*

Having patients who are critically ill or injured is not a rare occurrence; it happens every day, and often several times a day.

*Overlapping calls also happen nearly every day and sometimes several times a day. Having one less unit to cover means an increased probability for delayed response to your emergency.*

## DEPLOYMENT CAPABILITIES REQUIRED IN NFPA 1710

4.1.2.1 *The fire department shall establish the following time objectives:*

1. *One minute (60 seconds) for turnout time*
2. *Four minutes (240 seconds) or less for the arrival of the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident and/or 8 minutes (480 seconds) or less for the deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression incident.*
3. *Four minutes (240 seconds) or less for the arrival of a unit with first responder or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident.*

*Our average response times do not currently meet this standard. Removal of an additional unit will only serve to take us farther away from ever hoping to achieve this goal.*

Although the City of Ormond Beach is not required to adopt NFPA standards, courts frequently rely upon NFPA standards to determine industry standards for fire protection and safety issues. *This statement requires no further insight.*

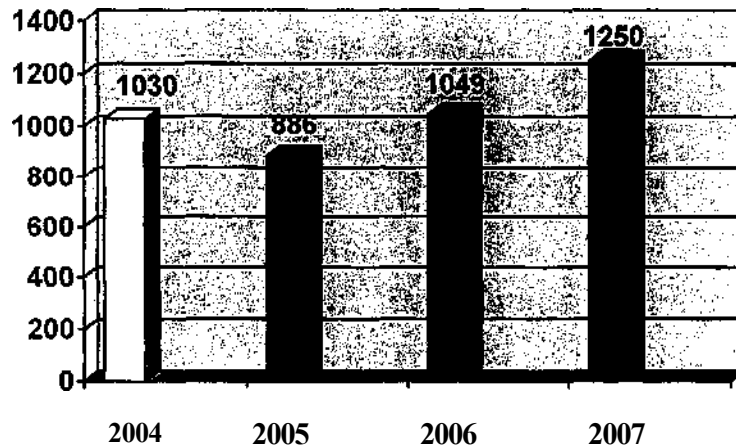
### SIMULTANEOUS ALARMS

The Ormond Beach Fire Department's call volume for 2007 was 5,602 alarms, including 788 fire calls with an estimated fire loss of \$2,318,160, and 3,841 for rescue/EMS. Simultaneous or overlapping alarms occur when we respond to more than one alarm at a time. When this happens, resources busy on an alarm are not available for subsequent calls.

Of the 5,602 alarms, 1250 (22.3%) overlapped with other alarms. 1,100 (19.6) had two simultaneous alarms; 144 (2.6%) had three simultaneous alarms; and on six (.1%) occasions we had four simultaneous alarms. 65 alarms were responded to while already responding to or working a structure fire. Many of these responses required multiple units. It is not uncommon to have all our units busy on alarms at the same time. Not only do overlapping calls drain our resources, but they also increase our response time by requiring responding units to travel from greater distances. The largest impact on response times is when the simultaneous alarms occur in the same district, which happened 199 times in 2007. When this happens we have to send a unit from another district or jurisdiction. In order for any unit to respond into another district, they must utilize at least one of our major roadways. These roadways become very congested, particularly during rush hour and special events, adding further to the response times.

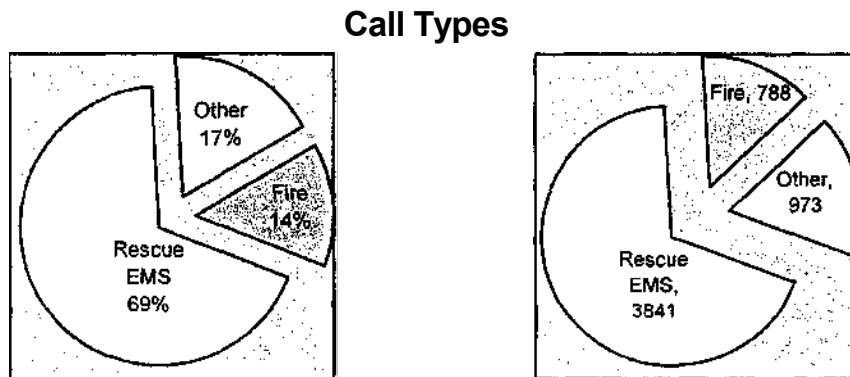
*These are the occurrences that result in delayed responses. Having one less response unit increases the number and length of the delays caused by simultaneous alarms. This is the main point of keeping Five units responding rather than four.*

The volume of overlapping calls is not an isolated situation. The chart below demonstrates a trend of overlapping calls.



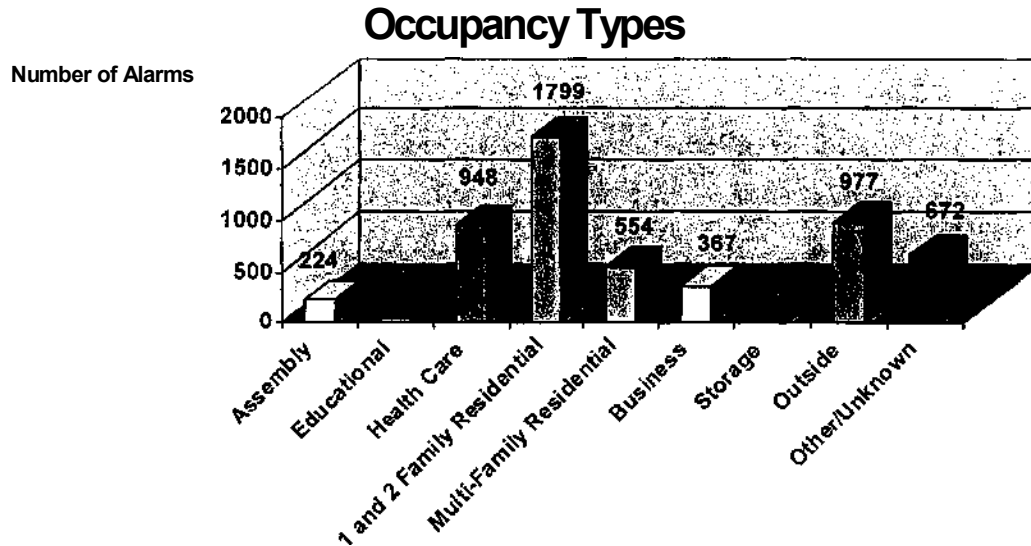
*As you can see the overlapping calls are increasing each year. This just reinforces the need to keep five response vehicles in service rather than four.*

The following chart represents the distribution of alarms by call type.



*These charts show that we do indeed run more EMS than fire calls. EMS responses are what will suffer the most from a reduction in the number of units we have responding.*

The following graph represents the distribution of alarms by occupancy types.



Any time a unit is busy working an incident, it leaves a gap in coverage and resources. Many alarms have a long duration, increasing our exposure to extended response times. The following chart represents the duration of our alarms.

INCIDENT TIME	OCCURRENCES
1-29 Minutes	5034
30-59 Minutes	449
60-89 Minutes	57
90-119 Minutes	21
2 hours and greater	41

*As you can see, the longer the call lasts, the chances of experiencing a delayed response to your emergency increases. Again the chances of this delay happening are increased with one less response unit.*

If our minimum staffing is reduced from three firefighters to two, we would have to increase the number of units that respond in order to have enough personnel resources to mitigate the emergency. Recently EVAC submitted their budget to the County Council for approval. That request reduced the number of in-service units to 15 from the normal 22 on the road. Fewer in-service ambulances will require our units to remain on medical incidents for longer durations awaiting medical transport. This would further increase the gap in coverage we currently experience. With the closest unit agreement in effect countywide, we can pull resources from other jurisdictions, although as we experience overlapping alarms, our surrounding jurisdictions experience them as well. In 2007 we received aid from other jurisdictions 707 times and we gave aid to other jurisdictions 657 times. The volume of automatic aid calls demonstrates how often coverage gaps need to be filled. These gaps occur because of either geographical boundaries or overlapping calls. The need for more units will require units to respond from much greater distances, and our reliance on other jurisdictions will increase. This may prove costly in accordance with the existing automatic aid agreement reimbursement schedule. This problem will be compounded if other jurisdictions begin reducing their staffing.

*Reducing our number of response vehicles has the same results as stated above. EVAC has been reducing their number of ambulances covering the county. As stated this increases their response times, which increases our on scene times, which keeps our units out of service longer, which increases the odds of overlapping calls, which increases our response times because now we have to have a unit come from another district to respond to your emergency. Keeping a fifth response vehicle gives us one more chance at not experiencing extended response times. Please help us give you a chance to maintain your current level of service. Contact your mayor and commissioners today.*