Golden Gate Fire Protection District

The Golden Gate Fire Protection District covers 55 square miles and serves a resident population of 1200 while also serving 4 parks that continue to supply many visitors for hiking and biking adventures on a daily basis. Golden Gate Fire Protection District was established in 19?? And has been the provider of emergency services. These emergency services include but not limited to fire, medical, motor vehicle accidents, hazmat, technical rescue and wildland type calls. Mutual aid agreements and a working relationship continues to grow with neighboring departments. In 2014 GGFPD responded to 83 emergency calls. While every call is an emergency a few calls to note were two structure fires, numerous small wildlland fires and multiple motor vehicle accidents off the side of the road. These calls take hours to complete and were responded to by your Volunteers who give their time to protect the GGFPD.

The members of the Golden Gate Fire Protection District include a part time paid chief, part time administrative assistant and volunteer firefighters. GGFPD responds with equipment from two stations, Station 1 on Robinson Hill Road and Station 2 on Crawford Gulch. Currently GGFPD has two type 3 fire engines, two water tenders, a type 6 brush truck, 6 wheeled EUV and a donated ATV. An old brush truck in need or replacement also sits outside at the station 1 location and is used to transport personal at times and is able to pull our trailer to transport the off road vehicles.

The Volunteer members at a minimum spend 36 hours training, respond to 20% of the yearly call volume and pass a wildland pack test (45 minutes to walk 3 miles with a 45lb pack) to be a member in good standing. Starting in 2013 a requirement that new members attend a Firefighter 1 Academy was implemented which is an extensive training program with over 300 hours of basic knowledge of entry level firefighting basic skills. This academy teaches them about the gear, equipment, ladders, extrication, fire attack, lifesaving searching techniques, incident command and helps to prepare the member to respond to your needs. You may also notice that on Tuesday nights the fire station may be full of life as we host weekly trainings all year long to maintain skills and learn new or advance knowledge. These training are at least two hours long and move each week from station to station. Sometimes weekend trainings are needed for sessions that take longer periods of time to accomplish and members also attend outside trainings with other departments and take classes. Your members continue to learn and polish skills to be prepared for the call of help.

GGFPD volunteer members participate in a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) in which by meeting yearly requirements a small amount of money is placed into an account which serves as an incentive plan and retirement plan for the time they give up with families and friends to help others. To reward members who continue to learn and take extra time to learn knowledge may receive additional rewards for certifications. Volunteers are also covered with a work comp insurance in case of injury and a yearly dinner is provided by the district as a way to invite the family members to join, meet the other members and show our support for all the time the members have given up and that they are appreciated.

The Board for the GGFPD consists of five elected members who reside within the GGFPD boundaries. The Board positions are made up with a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and a Secretary and an at large member. The board members are split in elected years so that not all five members are up for re-election in any given year. This position is also a volunteer position and members of the board host a monthly meeting in which business is conducted and bills are paid. These meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month and alternate between the two fire stations.

The Fire Chief is responsible for overseeing and directing the department to maintain a safe and effective service within the district. The Board oversees the Chief and provides direction and the means for the Chief to keep the Department moving forward. The Fire Chief attends trainings, runs emergency calls, responds to public assists, driveway inspections, burn permits, new construction questions, department questions, grants, department visions and maintains communication with members of the district. The Fire Chief oversees the administrative assistant and provides the direction and job duties in all aspects of paper work and tracking of fire department documents.

Below you will find the recommendations from the Fire Chief to implement for the future of the GGFPD. While the department is a fluid operation at any time a new direction may need to be taken in place of another. The public that is served is first and foremost while we also realize the volunteers make the department and its greatness. We must continue to provide a safe working environment while providing for the public we serve today and for many years to come. We must continue to look ahead and do our best to notice problems and work to eliminate them or reduce them to the best of our ability.

Year 2015 goals:

* Maintain a positive volunteer force to respond to emergencies
* Reduce response times, improve membership response
* Provide for the volunteers
* Provide quality trainings above the normal Tuesday night training
  + Burn house (required for maintaining fire skills)
  + Wildland class
  + Extrication
  + Driving and pumping of fire trucks
* Recruit new members (21 max department members)
* Auxiliary implementation and working relationships with neighbors
* Recognize a Fire Code, agree to driveways and promote new safe building practices within reason
* Cistern for Station 2 (get bids, future installation)
* Gear and equipment replacement program continuation and planned future
* Added benefits for Volunteers.
  + Additional rewards for service
  + Cardiac insurance for members with 5 years of service(state law for paid members but offered to volunteers at a reduced price and is an additional benefit)
  + Physicals medical evaluations
* ISO lowering (insurance service office)
  + Reduce the departments rating, currently a 9 (may take up to 3 years)
* Dispatch changes and communication updates
  + Jefferson County Dispatch will be merging in the future
  + Be part of the future with input for such things as;
    - Repeaters
    - Cell service
* Open space communication about new parks and partnerships
  + What is required for fire department responses
  + What can be provided for public safety

In order to maintain and provide a quality balanced budget and better emergency response for many years listed below are items that the district should save and plan for the future of the Golden Gate Fire Protection District. The items listed below are in no particular order of preference but are all worthy of discussion, understanding and knowledge of the future of the department.

* De-Bruce from the Tabor law
* Continued equipment replacement program
* Fire Station remodeling
  + Living quarters for resident program
  + Holds appropriate equipment
  + Provides a training environment
* Type 1 Fire engine
  + ISO and capability of response
* Community cisterns of large size
  + Station 2
  + North end of District
  + Other areas as indicated by growth and response
* Improved training program

As the Chief of the department I continue to look at the future while providing for the public in emergency response. The last two years I have maintained a balanced budget while starting some of the processes and continue to look for ways to better our budget, use our funds and obtain grants to assist with program implementation. I bring the above listed items to the boards attention as capital expenditures are a big expense and need to be planned for. The future of the department cannot be looked at year by year, we need to look to the future and provide for our members of the district with open communication while decisions must be made and acted upon.

Please review and bring your ideas as to what this department should look like next year as well as ten years from now and longer.

Thank you

Chief Dan Roozen