APPENDIX A

SAMPLE COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PLAN

Community Risk Reduction for Longview, Washington

June 2015

Introduction

Through a grant received by the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals (WSAFM) that was made available through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) funds, the City of Longview has prepared a community risk assessment and reduction plan with the goal of improving public safety. The community risk reduction (CRR) plan for Longview will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will execute strategies identified by incident data collected by the Longview Fire Department (LFD) administration and deliverables identified in the grant for smoke alarm installation in homes. The second phase of the CRR plan will require each LFD engine company to assess risks in their first-due areas of response and develop a CRR plan to mitigate them. Phase one will begin approximately July 30, 2015, and end approximately December 30, 2015. Phase two will begin January 1, 2016, and be implemented indefinitely.

Community Risk Assessment

About Longview

Longview is located in Southwest Washington in Cowlitz County. It has a population of approximately 36,000 and is 14.5 square miles in size. The following is a list of land uses:

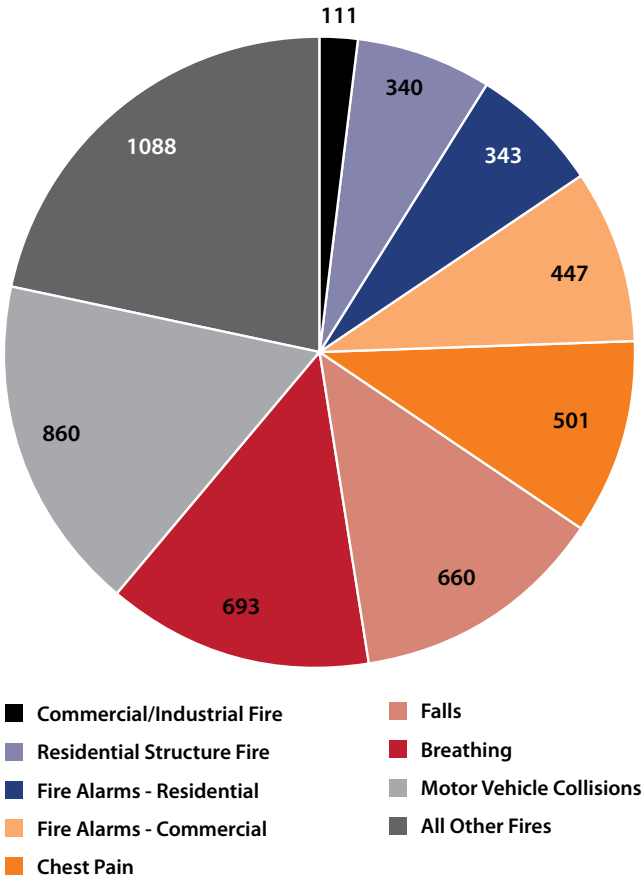
- Single family residential: 35%
- Multi-family residential: 4%
- Manufacturing/Industrial: 5%
- Commercial: 9%
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities: 7%
- Public: 10%
- Undeveloped/Vacant: 30%

The total assessed valuation is approximately two billion dollars, and the median family income is $44,000. The racial makeup is approximately 90% white, 6% Latino, and all others less than 2% each.

LFD serves the City of Longview with fire, EMS, special operations, and injury and fire prevention services. LFD has 49 full-time positions, including administration. There are two fire stations normally staffed with two engine companies and a ladder truck. Daily minimum staffing is 10 first responders (three per apparatus and a battalion chief) 24/7 per day with additional staff officers available. Our mission is: Maximize the safety and well-being of our community by reducing risk to life and property. Our essential priorities are prevention and education, preparedness, and emergency response.

Incident Analysis

Over the period between 2012-2014, LFD responded on average to 4,769 incidents per year. The most frequent incident responses types were as follows:



The top three causes for fire incidents were accidental cooking-related fires, intentionally set dumpster fires, and intentionally set alley debris/garage fires. Dumpster and alley debris fires are classified in the "All Other Fires" category. The top three fire incidents occurred most often in residential occupancies or property. A disproportionate amount of the dumpster and alley debris/garage fire incidents occurred in or adjacent to a neighborhood known as the Highlands.

Falls contributed to a significant amount of "preventable" EMS incidents.

The Highlands Neighborhood

2010 census statistics for the Highlands neighborhood shows the following information:

- Population: 4,858 (13.5% of the city)
- Housing units: 1,778
- Youth under age 18: 33% (city's highest)
- Elderly persons: 6% (city's lowest)
- Latino population: 21% (city's highest)
- Family households with children: 47% (city's highest)
- Single parent households: 24% (city's highest)
- Poverty rate: 44% (city's highest)
- Median household income: $24,000 (city's lowest)
- Unemployment rate: 18% (city's highest)
- 25+ years old without a high school diploma: 36% (city's highest)

The majority of the properties in the Highlands are one-story, single-family, residential homes built in the mid 1920s and less than 1,000 square feet in size. Most of the properties have a detached garage located on a rear alley. The alley is also the location for garbage dumpster collection. Because there were no code requirements for smoke alarms in the 1920s, LFD is assuming that most homes are provided at a minimum with a single battery-operated smoke alarm in the area outside the sleeping rooms, which was required by code in Washington State (RCW 43.44.110) since approximately 1981 for retroactive homes with no original smoke alarms.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

The lack of properly working smoke alarms poses a serious threat to public safety. The death rate per one hundred reported fires is twice as high in homes without working smoke alarms as it is in homes with working smoke alarms. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) statistics indicate that 94% of households in the United States have smoke alarms, but 30% of those alarms are inoperable primarily due to dead or missing batteries.

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, and colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, during the period from 1999-2010, a total of 5,149 deaths from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning occurred in the United States; an average of 430 deaths and several thousand injuries per year. A working carbon monoxide alarm can greatly reduce the chance of death or injury from carbon monoxide poisoning. Because of the lower-income demographics in the Highlands neighborhood, having the electrical power turned off to homes is common. When this occurs occupants tend to use non-conventional heating devices that increase the chances for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Community Risk Reduction Plan: Phase I

Overview: Based on risk assessment data and grant deliverables, phase one of the LFD CRR plan is to conduct home safety visits in the Highlands neighborhood beginning on approximately July 30, 2015. The home safety visits will focus on smoke and carbon monoxide alarm inspection and/or installation, preventing cooking fires, mitigating alley dumpster/debris fires, fall prevention, and ensuring visible address numbers are posted. All home safety visits will be performed by LFD engine company crews. The goal of the plan is to improve life safety, reduce property loss, and engage our first responders with our most at-risk community members in a positive way. Phase one of the plan will end on approximately December 1, 2015.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms: Existing home smoke alarms will be inspected for expiration dates and tested for functionality. If they are found to be defective, a new battery-operated, long-life, tamper-resistant combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarm will be installed in the area outside of the sleeping rooms. The occupants will be educated on the type of alarm they have, how it functions, how and when to test it, and its expiration date.

Cooking fires: Occupants will also receive information about cooking fires being the number one cause of accidental home fires, have the area where they cook inspected for hazards, be encouraged to watch what they fry, and be given instructions about what to do if they have a cooking fire.

Alley dumpster/debris fires: An inspection of the exterior alley-side of the home will be conducted to evaluate potential mitigation strategies for reducing intentionally set fires. These will include debris cleanup, vegetation management, dumpster storage location, and security measures.

Fall prevention: Fall prevention activities will be evaluated based on an occupant risk analysis such as age and mobility. If it appears the occupant could be at risk for falls, prevention strategies such as identifying home hazards, adding assistive devices, and shoe selection will be discussed.

Visible address numbers: An inspection will be conducted on both the street and alley sides of the home to ensure visible address numbers are posted. If address numbers are missing or deficient, the occupant will receive information about proper address identification for emergency response purposes.

Implementation Steps

- The first step for implementation will be educating our first responders about CRR, sharing risk assessment data with them, and getting organizational buy-in for executing the CRR plan.
- The second step will be organizing the logistics of the plan to include areas of responsibility and timeframes, program marketing, training, and starting the home safety visit activities.
- The third step will be to monitor progress, collect data, record and compare relevant program data, and make adjustments to the plan as needed.

Community Risk Reduction Plan: Phase 2

The second phase of the CRR plan will require each LFD engine company to assess risks in their first-due areas of response and develop a CRR plan to address them. This will be done at the grassroots level of the organization with administrative support and assistance.

Implementation of the engine company plans will be similar to phase one implementation and will be evaluated and executed based on each plan's specific needs. Phase two will begin on approximately January 1, 2016, at the conclusion of phase one and be implemented indefinitely.