



MONTHLY REPORT

From: Chief Dennis Mason

To: Mayors, Council Members and Commissioners

Date: August, 2014

GENERAL INFORMATION

RFA Moves Closer to a Vote

At its August 26th meeting the Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Planning Committee settled on the name of the RFA and the official start date. *Clark County Regional Fire Authority* doing business as (dba) *Clark County Fire & Rescue* was the preferred name. July 1, 2015 would be the formation date and January 1, 2016 would be the start date for the new RFA.

The plan will be presented to residents in the 2 fire districts and the City of Woodland at a series of community workshops over the next few months to get their input.

Voters living in Clark County Fire and Rescue, Clark County Fire District 2, and the City of Woodland will have the opportunity to vote on the formation of the RFA next spring.

Auditor Completes Review

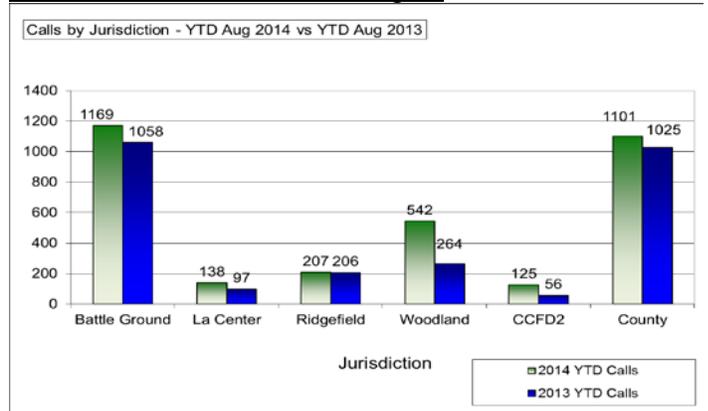
The State Auditor's Office has completed its annual review of the fire district. The district received over \$1.2 million in grants during the 2013 budget year which triggered a Federal audit in addition to the District's regular scheduled audit. A copy of the final audit report will be posted to the District web site.

New Web Page

Just a reminder that the District's web page has a new look. Check it out at www.clarkfr.org and let us know what you think.

OPERATIONS

Year to Date Total Calls – August



TRAINING

Nothing new to report

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ambulance Contract Negotiation

The City of Vancouver is finalizing negotiations with American Medical Response (AMR) for ambulance service under a new contract scheduled to begin January 1st of 2015.

Response time requirements will change from 8 minutes to 10 minutes for the City of Vancouver and areas of the county out to Battle Ground. The remainder of the county including Ridgefield, La Center, and Woodland will increase from 12 minutes to 20 minutes. The specific effects of the response time changes will not be fully known

until next year when data becomes available on actual ambulance response times.

The City of La Center has asked Clark County Fire and Rescue to provide a cost estimate to provide the City with a paramedic-staffed first response on a 24/7 basis. The fire district already provides paramedic staffing on several of its engines on a limited basis.

EMS District 2 was unable to negotiate quicker response times for ambulance service to the remaining areas outside the City of Vancouver due to the relatively low number of transports. Maintaining the current standards would have resulted in ambulance charges in excess of \$2,500 per transport.

The Fire District continues to encourage our communities to take a wait-and-see approach for a number of reasons. First, while the difference between 12 minutes and 20 minutes seems significant, we anticipate the actual ambulance response times will end up being much closer to the current 12 minute timeframe for a vast majority of the calls. Secondly, the skill set and capabilities of today's EMTs are vastly improved from a few years ago. Basic equipment such as AEDs, limited medication administration, and improved overall training have raised the level of care provided to the community. While EMTs do not have the same skills and abilities of Paramedics, they do provide a much higher level of emergency care today than was available a few short years ago. All of the District's firefighters are certified at a minimum of EMT and several are currently Paramedics.

911 COMMUNICATIONS

Radio Committee Recommends Motorola

Following an extensive review of the 5 proposals to replace the county-wide radio system, and following presentations by the 5 respondents, the review committee has recommended Motorola as the winner. Final

approval was given by the CRESA Board and formal negotiations with Motorola have begun.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

The District conducted 3 station tours during the month of August.

REGION IV HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL

Nothing new to report