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City of Santa Paula

970 Ventura Street • Santa Paula, California • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 569 • 93061 • Phone: (805) 525-4478 • Fax: (805) 525-6278

July 26, 2004

RECEIVED
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

JUL 28 2004

Honorable Bruce A. Clark
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

This is my response as Santa Paula Fire Chief to the 2003-2004 Grand Jury Report entitled "Santa Paula Firefighter Utilization," dated April 29, 2004.

I have been directed to respond to the Findings and the Recommendations.

Response to Findings

F-01. Concur in part; disagree in part. Firefighters are not required to be certified in emergency medicine if they are not Emergency Medical Technicians. However, classes must be taken bi-annually to maintain EMT certification. Terrorism response training has recently been mandated for EMTs.

F-02 Concur

F-03 Concur in part; disagree in part. It was being considered at the time of the Grand Jury's report, but as of the date of this response it is not being considered.

F-04 Concur in part; disagree in part. The staffing goal for E-81 is three full time employees around the clock. However, part time/paid call personnel are eligible to fill open shift positions resulting from vacations, absences, etc., so there are occasions, particularly on one of the three shifts where there is a current vacancy, when the three-person crew includes part time/paid call personnel. In addition, during evenings and weekends, a fourth crewmember (part time/paid call) is added to E-81.

F-05 Concur in part; disagree in part. Station 82 (also called Station 2) is unstaffed except on Saturdays from 0800 to 1800 under a current pilot program utilizing part time/paid call personnel, and if needed, available full time personnel. The rest of the week Station 82 is unstaffed and in the event of an emergency off duty part time/paid call and off duty full time personnel respond when available to staff equipment out of Stations 82 and 81.

F-06 See F.05

F-07 Concur

F-08 Concur

F-09 Concur in part; disagree in part. If a part time/paid call firefighter is filling one of the three "full time" positions, E-81 is not dispatched on "automatic aid" to a County incident; however, the County IC, which can be a Captain, may request E-81 immediately under the terms of the existing mutual aid agreement. Some part time/paid call personnel have expressed dissatisfaction with this arrangement.

F-10 Concur

F-11 Concur

F-12 Concur

F-13 Concur

F-14 Concur

F-15 Concur

F-16 Concur

F-17 Concur

Response to Recommendations

R-01 Recommendation will be implemented by the Santa Paula Fire Chief no later than August 25, 2004

R-02 Recommendation will be implemented by the Santa Paula Fire Chief or his designated representative by September 30, 2004.

R-03 Recommendation will be implemented (to review the Agreement and give closer scrutiny to the use of part time/paid call personnel and E-82 assignments) by December 31, 2004.

I thank the Ventura County 2003/2004 Grand Jury for its report and recommendations.



Paul Skeels
Fire Chief
City of Santa Paula