

Chief Responsibilities of the Fire Department

Overview

The motto of the Gilroy Fire Department is “*First in Service to the Community*” and the Department mission is “*To Serve, Save and Protect Lives and Property*”

The Fire Department works to carry out the mission by practicing our stated core values of integrity, customer service, teamwork, trust, honesty, open communications, respect for others and community.

Core Services

- The Gilroy Fire Department is an “all risks” department that responds to fires of all types, emergency medical incidents, rescue situations of any type, hazardous conditions and other related emergencies such as public assists and water removal. In an effort to improve emergency response effectiveness and efficiency, the Department maintains mutual and auto aid agreements with local fire departments and is a participant in County and State-wide mutual aid programs.
 - Emergency Response Operations services to the community are provided through our three fire stations at Chestnut, Las Animas and Sunrise. Emergency Response is a 24 hour service 365 days a year staffed by three rotating 24 hour shifts.
 - Three Fire Engines are staffed on a daily basis, one at each Station. The Chestnut and Las Animas Engines are each staffed by four personnel and the Sunrise Engine is staffed by three personnel. Additionally, each of the 24 hour operations shifts has an on-duty Battalion Chief to provide incident command at emergencies and to manage the day-to-day operations of each work shift.
 - The Fire Department also maintains additional specialized apparatus resources that can be staffed on an “as needed” basis. We have an aerial ladder truck that can be placed in service instead of an Engine, or it can be placed in service using call-back personnel or Paid Call Firefighters. Wildland fire apparatus are placed in service as companion vehicles to the engine companies during wildland season.
- In addition, the Department provides fire prevention and life safety services to the community through the fire inspection program and a community public education program.
- The operational responsibilities of the Department stated above are supported by the Administrative Division and the Training and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division.
 - Administration provides management oversight to the Department as well as planning and directing the current and future activities of the Department. Additionally, Administration supports the organization with services such as planning, statistical analysis, records management, and department level support for purchasing, accounts payable, timekeeping and a variety of human resource functions such as recruitment, hiring, testing promoting, performance evaluation, and discipline.
 - The Training and EMS Division is responsible for assuring that emergency response personnel are well trained to provide a response force that effectively mitigates the emergency and provides for the safety of the community and for the firefighters. The EMS Division assures that personnel maintain appropriate skill training and certifications and serves as the liaison to the County-wide emergency medical services program to maintain Gilroy’s support and participation in the partnership.

- The workload of the Fire Department is most readily viewed by looking at the number of emergency responses over a period of time. The past five years of Fire Department emergency responses are 2003 (2,619); 2004 (2,771); 2005 (2,916); 2006 (3,206) and 2007 (3,470). This data reflects a 33% increase in emergency call volume over the past five years.
- Effectiveness of the Fire Department can be measured in a number of ways and the most common measure is the fractile response time performance. The Fire Department response time performance goal is to respond to 95% of code 3 calls in 5 minutes or less. Response is measured from receipt of dispatch from Communications to arrival at the incident address. Actual response time performance in 2006 was 73.8% and for 2007 it was 76%.

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