



Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors

SPECIAL MEETING
July 17, 2019

6:00 p.m. OPEN SESSION

PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING ADDRESS:

Sarge Littlehale Room
22 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA 94563

1. **OPENING CEREMONIES**

- 1.1. Call the Meeting to Order
- 1.2. Roll Call

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public is invited to speak on any matter not appearing on the agenda, and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District. Comments should be limited to three minutes. Please state your name and address for the record.

3. **SPECIAL CALENDAR**

3.1 **Discussion of Increased Suppression Staff**

Staff Recommendation: 1) Discuss

3.2 **Discussion of Third Ambulance Response and Provide Direction to Fire Chief**

Staff Recommendation: 1) Discuss; 2) Deliberate; 3) Provide Direction to Staff

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District ("District"), in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), requests individuals who require special accommodations to access, attend and/or participate in District Board meetings due to a disability, to please contact the District Chief's office, (925) 258-4599, at least one business day prior to the scheduled District Board meeting to ensure that we may assist you.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to a majority of members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspections at 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, during normal business hours.

I hereby certify that this agenda in its entirety was posted on July 12, 2019, at the Moraga and Orinda Fire Administration offices, Stations 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45. Agenda provided to the Moraga Town Office (Hacienda) and Orinda City Hall.

Interim District Secretary/Clerk



Moraga-Orinda Fire District

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Dave Winnacker, Fire Chief
DATE: July 17, 2019
SUBJECT: Item 3.1 – Discussion of Increased Suppression Staffing

BACKGROUND

At the June, 2019 meeting, President Danziger requested a special meeting to discuss increased suppression staffing.

During the FY20 budget process members of the board asked for information regarding increasing daily minimum suppression staffing from the current level of 17 to 19. The information below was included in the budget staff report presented to the board at the May, 2019 meeting:

INCREASED STAFFING

From 2007-2013 the District increased daily staffing from 17 to 19 and put a dedicated ambulance in service at station 45 in Orinda. The current cross-staffed model calls for the crew of engine 45 to staff the ambulance when responding to EMS calls. In FY2018, 62.9% of calls for service were EMS that required ambulance transport.

During 2018, MOFD responded to the following:

Total calls for service: 3762
EMS calls: 2308 (62.9%)

Total MOFD third ambulance response: 67
Total MOFD third ambulance transport: 29

As a general statement, the components of an EMS call can be characterized as:

Dispatch processing, turnout time, response time: 10 minutes
On scene time: 10-20 minutes
Travel time to receiving hospital: 20-30 minutes
Hospital wall time: 30+ minutes
Travel time returning to district: 20-30 minutes

The ambulance response summary from 5/7/19 is included below:

Medic Unit Call Log

All **Transport** Outcomes for the Last **36** Hours by Default from 5/8/2019 7:33:46 AM

Includes Code 2 & Code 3 Response Priorities. "Transport Time" = "Enroute Hospital" to "At Hospital" // "Wall Time" = "At Hospital" to "Clear Hospital" // "Return Time" = "Clear Hospital" to "AOR" or "AIQ" time // "Time on Task" = "Dispatched" to "Avail Time" (AOR in 1st Due or AIQ) // Time Fields that are "Null" or Blank are a result of no timestamp in CAD

Medic Unit	Incident Location	Dispatched	At Scene	Enroute Hospital	At Hospital	Clear Hospital	AOR or AIQ	Destination	Turnout	Response Time	Transport Time	Wall Time	Return Time	Disp to Avail. (hrs)
M141	13 Sanders Ranch Rd	5/7/19 16:09:25	16:19:46	16:44:52	17:44:36	17:53:33	18:09:51	John Muir Walnut Creek	1.22 min	10.35 min	60 min	9 min	16 min	2.00 hrs
	52 Ashbrook Pl	5/6/19 21:29:10	21:34:13	21:46:23	22:10:03	22:31:07	22:45:28	John Muir Walnut Creek	0.47 min	5.05 min	24 min	21 min	14 min	1.27 hrs
	189 Draeger Dr	5/7/19 18:45:07	18:51:13	19:21:05	19:41:33	20:04:54	20:22:58	John Muir Walnut Creek	1.18 min	6.10 min	20 min	23 min	18 min	1.62 hrs
M145	8 El Pulgar	5/7/19 03:52:13	04:01:49	04:18:04	04:31:02	04:43:40	04:56:21	John Muir Walnut Creek	1.85 min	9.60 min	13 min	13 min	13 min	1.07 hrs
	260 Camino Sobrante	5/7/19 11:37:09	11:44:49	11:56:29	12:13:54	12:26:06	12:39:00	Kaiser Walnut Creek	1.05 min	7.67 min	17 min	12 min	13 min	1.03 hrs
	564 Tahos Rd	5/7/19 13:44:56	13:52:23	14:00:07	14:15:44	14:36:01	14:45:46	Kaiser Walnut Creek	0.50 min	7.45 min	16 min	20 min	10 min	1.02 hrs

As a result, an average EMS call takes an ambulance out of the district for 90 minutes with the potential for extended absence due to long hospital wall times during peak periods. When medic 45 is out of district, station 45 is not covered thus requiring a response for station 43 or 44 if there is a call for service in that service area. This can result in extended response times as units are traveling farther to reach the scene and delayed transport times awaiting the arrival of the District's second primary ambulance from Station 41 in Moraga. In an alternative scenario, when engine 45 is committed to an incident, a subsequent EMS call for service requires medic 41 to respond.

When the primary medic units are not available, the district responds one additional ambulance, taking another fire engine out of service and creating additional gaps in coverage. On average, these ambulances are dispatched 5 times per month and transport 2 times per month. The difference between the dispatch and transport numbers is based on either a patient refusing or not requiring transport or one of the primary medic units becoming available and taking the call.

MOFD M142 & M143 Responses 2018 - 2019

Date Range: 1/17/2018 12:00:00 AM to 5/2/2019 4:14:25 PM

Responses as a result of M141 & M145 being committed on another a request for service.

		Response Totals	Transports
M142	2018	44	18
	2019	8	2
	Total	52	20
M143	2018	23	8
	2019	6	1
	Total	29	9
Grand Total		81	29

Ambulances are normally staffed with a crew of two, however the cross staffing model means that medic 45 responds with a crew of three, thus decreasing efficiency by sending an additional member to the hospital.

The fully burdened cost of increasing daily staffing to 19 is \$1.44M. This change will also require an increase in authorized safety positions from 57 to 63. The additional authorized positions will then need to be hired and trained, which can take up to a year.

At the June 2019 meeting, additional information was requested regarding increasing staffing without adding additional authorized suppression positions. Staff calculated that increasing daily minimum staffing from 17 to 19 while maintaining the current total authorized positions of 57 would result in an increase of overtime costs of approximately \$1.0M. This calculation was derived from FY19 leave usage and FY20 pay rates.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discussion only



Moraga-Orinda Fire District

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Dave Winnacker, Fire Chief
DATE: July 17, 2019
SUBJECT: Item 3.2 – Third Ambulance Response

BACKGROUND

During the May, 2019 meeting, the Board requested a report on MOFD's practice of responding a third ambulance to medical incidents when the two primary ambulance units are unavailable.

At the June 2019 meeting, the Board requested an action item to be presented at the July 2019 meeting to provide direction on this issue. The attached staff report was presented to the board at the June 19 meeting and contains detailed information regarding response times and frequency.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Allocation of limited resources is a zero sum process, where resources dedicated to one task are not available to carry out other tasks. With the exception of Medic 41, the District cross-staffs ambulance units with the same firefighters that respond on the engine assigned to that station. With an average medical transport call lasting 90 minutes, the crew responding on a cross-staffed ambulance is taken out of district for an extended period, creating a gap in first responder coverage.

In these cases, there is a competition for resources between two compelling uses of district units:

1. Maximize engine based first responder coverage for the possibility of a subsequent call for service.
2. Provide ambulance transport to a receiving facility.

The question of how to prioritize the two items above, as they relate to third ambulance response, is a policy question on which the board can provide direction.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide policy direction regarding the prioritized allocation of resources as they relate to ambulance transport.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A – June 19, 2019 Staff Report Item 7.6



Moraga-Orinda Fire District

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Dave Winnacker, Fire Chief
DATE: June 19, 2019
SUBJECT: Item 7.6 – Third Ambulance Response

BACKGROUND

During the May 2019 meeting, the Board requested a report on MOFD's practice of responding a third ambulance to medical incidents when the primary units are unavailable.

MOFD currently staffs a dedicated ambulance at Station 41 and a cross-staffed ambulance at Station 45. When a medical call for service is received, one of these ambulances responds with the nearest fire engine/truck. Due to the distance from the District to receiving hospitals with an Emergency Department, the full life cycle of a medical call is between 60 and 90 minutes with occasional responses that run to several hours due to extended wall time at the hospital. In the event that both primary ambulances are committed, the District responds an ambulance from either Station 42 or Station 43. If three ambulances are committed, the District requests mutual aid from ConFire (via AMR, the contractor for ambulance services) for any subsequent medical calls for service that occur prior to one of the District's ambulances becoming available.

General Information

For FY20, staff recommends the board approve a base fee for ambulance transport of \$2500. By policy, residents do not pay beyond what their insurance will cover and the district waives any fees beyond that amount. Over the last 12 months, MOFD's average cost recovery per transport is \$697. Details by payment category and frequency are listed below:

MediCare: \$469 (394 incidents)
MediCal: \$149 (888 incidents)
Private Insurance: \$2,221 (394 incidents)
Private Payer: \$1,763 (116 incidents)
Other: \$874 (148 incidents)

Total Resident Write-Down: (\$325,191)

Total Ambulance Revenue: \$1,150,118

In CY2019, secondary ambulances, either from MOFD or AMR have transported patients the following number of times:

		Incident Totals	Avg. Dispatched to @Scene	Distinct count of Transports
2019	M142	10	14.19 Min	3
	M143	11	13.96 Min	2
Grand Total		20	14.10 Min	5

The table above shows that M42 and M43 have been dispatched 20 times this year with five transports to a receiving facility. The delta in dispatches and transports is a result of a combination of primary ambulances coming available and taking the call, patient refusing transport, or other infrequent circumstances. Average response time to the scene for secondary ambulances is 14.10 minutes. This is extended compared to front line ambulances due to both delays in transferring equipment from the engine and extended travel time when responding to distant portions of the district.

AMR Responses to MOFD from January 1st to June 12th 2019

Column 1 - Is a distinct count of the Incident Number which includes multiple units dispatched. The Unit may have been cancelled prior to arrival.

Column 2 - The overall count when a Unit was dispatched, this includes multiple units dispatched to an incident regardless whether they arrived 'On Scene' or not

Column 3 - The overall count when a Unit actually arrived 'On Scene'.

Column 4 - Average Response Time for Location Type and Response Priority when an "On Scene" time stamp was recorded in the CAD System

			Distinct Response Count by Incident Number	Overall Response Count by Incident Number	Overall Count When Unit Arrived On Scene	Avg. Response Time
2019	All Other Locations	Code 3	19	21	7	14.24
		Code 2	5	5	3	21.56
	Hwy 24 Responses	Code 3	5	8	4	16.64
Grand Total			29	34	14	16.49

The table above shows AMR being dispatched to the district 34 times in response to 29 incidents. Of these, AMR units arrived on scene 14 times with an average response time of 16.49 minutes. It is important to note, that four of the 14 were Hwy 24 responses that do not typically involve a district resident and require multiple fire apparatus due to lane blocking requirements.

					Incident Totals	Avg. Dispatched to @Scene	Distinct count of Transports
2019	Code 2	M141	Lafayette	656 Moraga Rd # a	1	9.43 Min	1
	Code 3	M141	Lafayette	3849 Mt Diablo Blvd	1	37.10 Min	0
				On Campolindo Dr at Paseo Grande	1	8.48 Min	1
				3630 Mosswood Dr	1	6.25 Min	1
		M145	Lafayette	On SR 24 E at Oak Hill Rd	1		0
				SR 24 E	1	8.85 Min	1
	Grand Total					6	14.02 Min

The table above shows that MOFD ambulances responded into ConFire's jurisdiction four times during the same period.

AMR currently responds on automatic aid when needed and District is not involved in the billing process for their responses. Changing the District's response will require a discussion with ConFire and may require further discussions with the Contra Costa County EMS Agency.

The District currently operates four ambulances that were purchased in 2015 and 2017. These vehicles were purchased with financing and the remaining payments total \$88,015 for the 2015 vehicles and \$250,532 for the 2017 vehicles.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Information only.