




Pinellas County
Charter Review Commission

Fire and Fire Rescue
Service Study

Findings and Issues

August 1, 2005




MGT of America, Inc.



Study Parameters

- Fire and Fire Rescue Response
- Fire and Fire Rescue Training
- Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention
- Specialized Response Teams
- Ambulance (EMS) Services




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Overview of Fire/EMS
Services –
Documents & Agreements

- 73-600 Laws of Florida
- Automatic Aid Agreement
- Firefighter Certifications
- EMT-Paramedic Certifications
- Medical Director Rules and Regulations
- Ambulance Contract
- EMS Authority – 80-585 Laws of Florida
- EMS First Responder Contracts
- Dependent Fire District Agreements

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Overview of Fire/EMS Services –

Fire/EMS Service Providers

- Fire Departments – 20
 - 15 City
 - 4 Fire Districts
 - 1 Airport
- Sunstar (Paramedics Plus)
- EMS Medical Director
- County EMS and Fire Administration
- County 911 Dispatch

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Overview of Fire/EMS Services –

Finances

City/District	\$90.6
Unincorporated Dependent County Fire Services	14.5
EMS First Responder, County Funded	27.6
County EMS/Fire Administration	8.3
Sunstar Contract	22.4
911 Emergency Comm	13.7
TOTAL	\$177.1

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Overview of Fire/EMS Services –

Fire Dept/District Services

- Number of Stations63
- Paid Staffing (2003)1,346
- Contractual Response Requirement7:30 90% of time
- Average Response Time< 5 minutes

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Overview of Fire/EMS Services –

Sunstar Services

- Ambulance Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Emergency dispatch related transports
- Non-emergency related transports
- Two static stations
- Operations Model – Flexible Deployment
- Daily Operating Configuration
 - Max Equipment50
 - Min Equipment14
 - Avg Equipment31

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Overview of Fire/EMS Services –

Sunstar Services, cont

- Daily Operating Configuration, cont.
 - Contractual Response Requirement10 minutes
92% of time
 - Current Experience10 minutes
94% of time
- Staffing
 - Ambulance Staffing483
 - Administrative Personnel37
 - Total520

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911 Fire Dispatches

RESPONSE CATEGORIES	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
AUTO CRASH	15,553	15,090	14,696	14,468	15,851
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	7,910	7,759	7,864	7,145	7,253
MEDICAL	101,649	101,128	100,053	102,443	108,566
MOVEUP - COVERAGE	1,546	1,155	1,046	1,097	842
SINGLE ENGINE Fire	8,309	8,251	7,373	7,601	9,064
STRUCTURE RESPONSE	4,172	3,978	4,042	3,178	3,447
ALL OTHER RESPONSES	3,244	3,671	2,908	3,161	7,859
TOTAL	142,383	141,032	137,982	139,093	152,882 ^g

Sunstar Dispatches

SUNSTAR SERVICES

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

Emergency Calls

105,471

105,163

102,755

104,346

111,507

Non-emergency Calls

28,875

29,739

27,261

27,734

28,214

Transports

106,767

107,122

105,651

106,138

110,680




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Total Emergency Dispatches

DISPATCHES	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Fire Activity	142,383	141,032	137,982	139,093	152,882
SunStar	105,471	105,163	102,755	104,346	111,507

Preliminary Findings and Observations




- Highly effective fire and EMS operating system
- Extraordinary level of service being provided
 - This extraordinary level of service requires significant resources
- Substantial duplication of response
- BLS response equally effective as ALS response in patient survivability
- Service is provided by twenty fire jurisdictions plus a County contracted ambulance service



Preliminary Findings and Observations

- Historical demand for fire and rescue services is undefined
- Coordination of fire activities occurs significantly at the Fire Chiefs' Association level than at the County Level
- Many fire departments have limited capability and must rely on neighboring and larger fire jurisdictions for support in the case of a major event.
- Various funding mechanisms throughout the County




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Preliminary Findings and Observations

- Nearly 100% response by fire services to medical 911 calls
- Centralized planning and management of fire and rescue services is severely lacking, and where present, fragmented
- Relationships between the Fire Chiefs' and County Administration are severely strained in many cases due to differing agendas




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Preliminary Findings and Observations

- Tension between the Fire Chiefs' Association and County Administration hampers administration of Fire and EMS services
- Automatic aid agreement provides effective use of resources
- Computer Aided 911 Dispatch System is respected




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Preliminary Findings and Observations

- Computer Aided Dispatch has a robust amount of information which is not being effectively used to plan, monitor, or manage Fire Services
- Many major jurisdictional dispatch centers utilize priority dispatch system and protocols
- Fire dispatches from 911 Dispatch, Sunstar dispatches from Sunstar Dispatch and law enforcement dispatches from individual jurisdictional dispatch or PCSO




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Primary Issues

1. Needed vs. Actual
2. Priority Dispatch
3. ALS vs. BLS Response




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Secondary Issues

1. Modifications to Building Code
2. Ambulance Controls for Traffic Signals
3. Specialty Teams
4. Countywide Fire Training Curriculum
5. Review of Run Cards
6. County Public Safety Organization
7. -- to be determined




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Next Steps

- Continue to Conduct Research
- Share Preliminary Findings with Stakeholders
- Finalize findings
- Develop recommendations
- Produce report
- Presentations, as appropriate

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Questions / Comments

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