

## Kurt Spitzer

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**From:** Tom Jons [TJons@mgtamer.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 04, 2005 3:38 PM  
**To:** Kurt Spitzer  
**Subject:** Fire and Fire Rescue Services Improvement Study Changes  
**Attachments:** 1.0 -modifications.pdf; 2.0 -modifications.pdf

Mr. Kurt Spitzer -

Attached are two files that contain changes to the Fire and Fire Rescue Services Improvement Study that was sent to you earlier this week. The changes relate to the mutual aid provided by the fire departments of Pinellas County. The changes reflect recently updated information provided by the County Administration and Fire Chiefs. The files are replacement pages for pages currently in the report.

On Monday, hardcopies of the report will be provided to the members. The changes in the attached files will be included in that report.

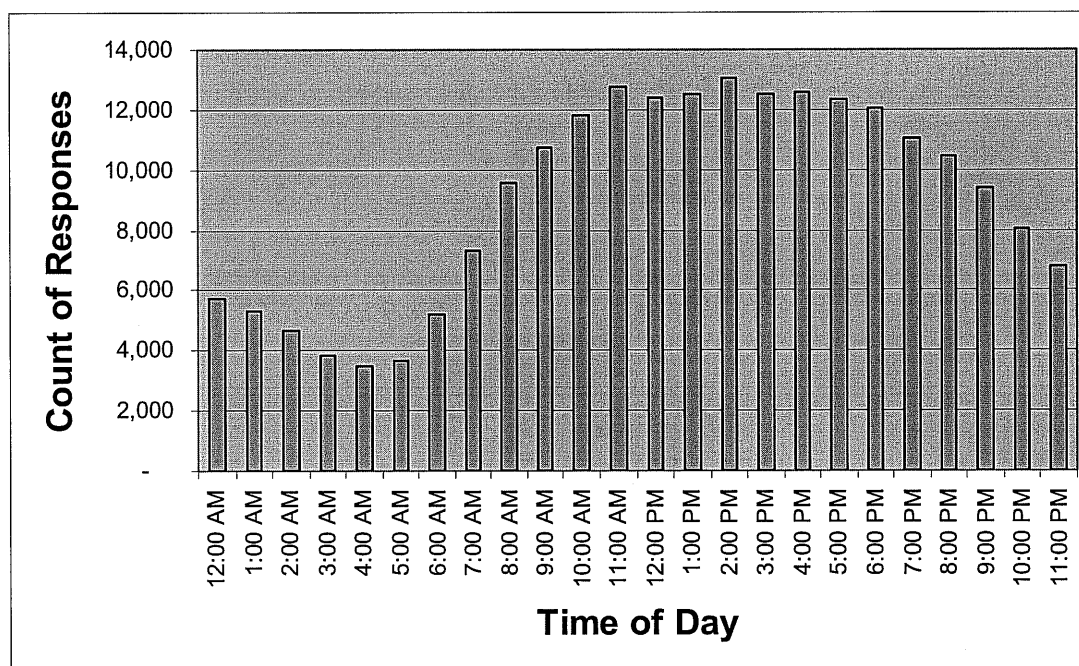
Please call me if you have any questions.

Tom Jons  
MGT of America, Inc.  
360-866-7303 (O)  
360-866-7337 (F)  
360-790-3102 (C)

711 Capitol Way S, Suite 608  
Olympia, WA 98501-1236

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**EXHIBIT 1-6**  
**TOTAL RESPONSES BY HOUR FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2004**



Source: Pinellas County 911 Dispatch Data: Analyzed by MGT of America, Inc.

### **1.6 Mutual Aid Analysis – Pinellas County**

Mutual aid between fire departments in Pinellas County operates very well. In fact, it is often referred to as “automatic aid” because the closest unit to the incident is dispatched, regardless of in which jurisdiction the incident occurs. In analyzing the mutual aid responses by fire department, it is apparent that several jurisdictions receive substantially more aid than they give, and several fire departments send to other jurisdictions substantially more than they receive.

The results of an analysis of automatic aid are displayed in Exhibit 1-7. For 2004, the jurisdictions of Clearwater, Largo, and St Petersburg each received more than 1,000 responses from other fire departments to incidents in their jurisdictions. On the other hand, Dunedin, Lealman, and Safety Harbor each sent 500 more responses to other jurisdictions than they received.

# EXHIBIT 1-7 AUTOMATIC AID ANALYSIS OF CALENDAR YEAR 2004 FIRE/MEDICAL CALLS FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

Jurisdiction Responses	St. Petersburg	Crash Fire Rescue	Gulfport	Lealman	South Pasadena	St Pete Beach	Treasure Island	Madeira Beach	Pinellas Suncoast	Seminole	Pinellas Park	Largo	Belleair Bluffs	Clearwater	Safety Harbor	Oldsmar	East Lake	Dunedin	Palm Harbor	Tarpon Springs	Unknown	Total
St. Petersburg	44,105		277	926	320	80	28	3	2	24	145	15		24	10	3		6	4	7	3	45,982
Crash Fire Rescue		1												5								259
Gulfport	897		1,776	2	21	5	5	1	2	2	2	1				1						2,713
Lealman	1,452		1	7,399	3	1		3	1	145	492	4							1			9,502
South Pasadena	519		288	1	1,750	60	21	1	1	1								1				2,643
St Pete Beach	96		8		152	2,012	97	1	2	2	1											2,371
Treasure Island	98		2		2	101	976	134	5													1,318
Madeira Beach	8			2	1	3	89	1,055	179	253	2	2		24								1,594
Pinellas Suncoast				1		2	7	165	2,568	273	3	521						2	1			3,567
Seminole	69		1	116		2	14	214	204	9,154	148	671		18	4	4	1	4	7	3		10,634
Pinellas Park	555			523		4	2	3	5	73	11,399	134		50	6	1		3	4	4	3	12,769
Largo	34			1		3	1	6	145	375	448	17,986			997	3	2	2	7	4	3	20,017
Belleair Bluffs									25	1		920			82							1,028
Clearwater	8			2	2	1		1	83	3	49	767		23,225	424	59	15	384	68	11		25,100
Safety Harbor	7									1	4	3		1,054	2,185	255	44	23	255	8		3,839
Oldsmar												2	1		18	151	1,537	30	2	13	3	1,759
East Lake															16	74	169	5	190	102	47	2,887
Dunedin	1					1						6		1,229	21	15	4	6,083	225	31		7,596
Palm Harbor	18		1	1		1		2	1	1	8	14		174	63	108	123	308	7,073	294	9	8,199
Tarpon Springs	2										2				2		51	1	264	3,799	2	4,113
Events Occurring in Jurisdiction	47,870	-	2,354	8,975	2,249	2,276	1,240	1,589	3,223	10,309	12,954	21,044	-	26,918	2,943	2,154	2,554	6,809	8,109	4,255	65	167,890
Responses by Jurisdiction	45,982	259	2,713	9,502	2,643	2,371	1,318	1,594	3,567	10,634	12,769	20,017	1,028	25,100	3,839	1,759	2,887	7,596	8,199	4,113		
Automatic Aid Sent	1,877	259	937	2,103	893	359	342	539	999	1,480	1,370	2,031	1,028	1,875	1,654	222	603	1,533	1,126	324		21,554
Automatic Aid Rec'd	3,765		578	1,576	499	264	264	534	655	1,755	1,555	3,058		3,893	758	617	270	745	1,036	466		21,489
Variance	(1,888)		359	527	394	95	78	5	344	325	(185)	(1,027)	1,028	(1,818)	896	(395)	333	787	90	(142)		

Source: Pinellas County EMS/Fire Administration and MGT Analysis

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the entire county allows for transparency among firemen and between fire stations. For ISO purposes, the type and extent of training provided to fire personnel and the number of people who participated in training are the elements included in ISO reviews.

In determining potential savings associated with reductions in supervisory and/or administrative positions under a single fire district, two scenarios were developed. One scenario allowed for the reduction of 15 supervisory/administrative positions, while the other scenario reduced up to 25 supervisory/administrative positions. At an estimated savings of \$75,000 per supervisory position, the two scenarios produced savings of \$1,125,000 and \$1,875,000 respectively.

In the previous chapter, Exhibit 1-7 identifies the receiver/sender status of the fire departments of the 20 fire departments/districts in Pinellas County in supporting the mutual aid agreement, often referred to in the County as automatic aid. Through this agreement, the 20 fire departments attempt to operate in the mode of a single fire district. However, individual jurisdictions control and fund their fire departments. The jurisdictions dictate, for the most part, where fire stations are located. As the display in the previous chapter indicates, three jurisdictions, Clearwater, Largo, and St. Petersburg, received more than 3,000 calls in their service area by fire departments from other jurisdictions (Clearwater-3,693; Largo-3,058; and St. Petersburg-3,765). The largest providers of service were Safety Harbor, Dunedin, and Lealman (at 896, 787, and 527 respectively). Based on this information it is apparent that the smaller fire departments send more support to the larger fire departments than they receive from the larger fire departments.

The sender/receiver issue raises several concerns. The first concern deals with smaller jurisdictions providing more support to larger jurisdictions than they in turn receive from larger jurisdictions. In one sense the smaller jurisdictions appear to be subsidizing the larger jurisdictions through the support provided. Since the majority of calls are in

response to medical incidences, the larger fire districts, in many respects, are receiving support for medical responses without having to pay for it. In addition, smaller fire departments may be basing requests for staffing and equipment increases on their number of calls, even though the increases in calls may be in support of incidences in other jurisdictions. Other questions relate to whether fire stations are located where they can provide the best coverage and response. Under the current dispatch method, the closest available unit is dispatched, regardless of jurisdiction. The implementation of a single fire district and the analysis of the response from each fire station will allow for the proper placement of fire stations and quick response without potential jurisdictional issues. The result of identifying and placing fire stations properly will improve the efficiency of the response and eliminate any issues associated with jurisdictions sending more support to nearby jurisdictions than they receive, which as stated above is in essence funding the services of another jurisdiction.

The exhibit below, Exhibit 2-8, displays the potential cost savings associated with the closure and/or combining of fire stations and the reduction in the number of supervisory and/or administrative positions under different scenarios. The exhibit highlights two Modification Scenarios. The first Modification Scenario contains the closing of 3 stations, combining of 8 stations, and the reduction of 15 supervisory personnel. Modification Scenario 2 contains the closing of 8 stations, combining of 3 stations and the reduction of 25 supervisory personnel. The potential cost savings for the Modification Scenarios are \$14.4 million and \$19.9 million, respectively.