



STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

TO: Commission on Fire Accreditation International

FROM: Chief Greg Chesser

DATE: August 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Review of the annual compliance report for Arvada Fire Protection District, CO

INTRODUCTION

As the designated representative for the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc., I reviewed the Annual Compliance Report (ACR) for the Arvada Fire Protection District. The purpose was to review this ACR to ensure the agency has maintained compliance with all core competencies and document any changes that have occurred in the previous year. Finally, to evaluate the agencies performance data and strategic recommendations for improvements in accordance with the 9th Fire and Emergency Service Self-Assessment Manual (FESSAM).

FINDINGS

Agency Information

Jen Sliemers is the Accreditation Manager for the agency. The information presented is well prepared and complete.

Agency/Jurisdiction Description

A career fire department of 198 full time personnel in eight fire stations, covering a population of approximately 135,743. This is ACR #2 for the agency. The agency has an ISO Rating 1.

Agency/Jurisdiction Changes

The agency cited changes in resources noting a replacement ambulance was put into service; and significant budget changes citing 2020 revenue increased sufficiently to cover the increase in costs, with property tax increasing 13.6% (\$3.5

million) due to rising property values in the local market. Compared to the 2020 budget, revenue was \$1.2 million higher than anticipated due to a full year of the state supplemental EMS reimbursement program, and expenditures were \$3.7 million lower than anticipated due to the delay in construction noted above.

Compliance with Core Competencies

The agency indicates it compliant with all core competencies stated in the 9th edition of the FESSAM.

The agency provided all required exhibits for core competencies stated in the 9th edition of the FESSAM.

Compliance with Non-Core Competencies

The agency indicates the following changes to non-core competencies and/or specific recommendations.

2D.9 It is recommended that the district report the findings on performance gaps to the fire district board on a quarterly basis.

Identify and explain: The district was reporting performance gaps annually to the board. The agency had undergone multiple changes in the last accreditation cycle. The district had a change of both computer-aided dispatch systems and records management systems. The district also noticed a negative deflection in the alarm handling of calls since moving to a regional communications center. Since a usable reporting mechanism was not in place and a full-time data analyst with the appropriate level of expertise was not on staff, formal review of metrics was only done annually which proved challenging for the district to react to changes in services.

Implemented: This recommendation has been implemented. The data analyst provided the first quarterly report to the board at the April 2020 board meeting and has continued since. Monitoring performance metrics regularly by reporting to the board quarterly, and operation personnel reviewing metrics monthly and quarterly, has improved the awareness and ability of the district to identify gaps sooner. At the end of 2020, the district re-evaluated the frequency of performance reports and agreed a quarterly model is still beneficial to keep the board informed in a consistent manner.

6F.3 It is recommended that the district clearly label expired bunker gear issued to the fire marshal office (FMO) and community risk reduction (CRR) personnel to ensure they are not used in immediately dangerous to life and health environments.

Identify and explain: In reviewing PPE records during the November 2019 site visit, the peer team identified two sets of expired bunker gear on the list (non-frontline personnel). The district explained that historically expired gear was issued to fire investigators and public information officers (FMO and CRR personnel) on an as needed basis for personnel not authorized to enter immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environments. The expired gear was used to identify authorized district personnel on an incident scene and to repel dirt and debris for fire investigation and inspection activities.

Implemented: The district is compliant with updated gear for FMO and CRR personnel. The community risk reduction battalion chief was issued new gear components Q1 2020, and the fire marshal and deputy fire marshal received new gear components Q2 2020.

Performance Monitoring

The agency indicates it is in compliance with 2d.8, 9, and 10, and provided explanations, exhibits, and plans for improvement for each.

Performance Tracking

The agency has submitted performance data for the past two years. The data indicates the agency is progressing towards benchmarks or there are low data points. No issues were noted during this review.

Strategic Recommendations.

Of the six strategic recommendations, all have been accepted and met with implementation or near implementation.

Other Information

No information was addressed in this section.

Exhibit List

All applicable exhibits were provided and verified.

Verification

Fire Chief Mike Piper signed the annual compliance report.

CONCLUSION

The Arvada Fire Protection District has demonstrated that it is in compliance with all stated standards and core competencies. The agency is in compliance with the most current version of the FESSAM.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the Commission on Fire Accreditation International accept the Arvada Fire Protection District Annual Compliance Report and that the Agency retain their Accredited Agency Status.