Coventry Municipal Fire Commission: NFPA 1710 Report

**Summary:**

This report is to advise how each individual districts are not meeting NFPA 1710 minimum requirements. The Coventry Municipal Commission has been tasked with transitioning from individual fire districts into a municipal department to increase and stabilize the Fire/EMS services for the Town of Coventry.

Currently there are four fire districts in the Town of Coventry; Coventry Fire District, Central Coventry Fire District, Hopkins Hill Fire District, and Western Coventry Fire District. There are 49-line firefighters in total for all districts. On shift numbers are; Coventry (3), Central Coventry (6), Hopkins Hill (2) and Western Coventry (2). Those are the line firefighters available if all apparatus were in quarters. **The responding apparatus are; Engine 1, Engine 4, Engine 7, Quint 1 Rescue 4, Tanker 8.** There are other models of response, this is the first line response.

Each fire district has its own governing body of directors with each its own charters as a stand-alone district (department).

**NFPA 1710 Standard**:

The NFPA Standard is the National Fire Protection Association standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments. It outlines the **MINIMUM** requirements for staffing and response times for career fire departments.

The purpose of NFPA 1710:

* To ensure effective, efficient, and safe fire and emergency services.
* To minimize RISKS to life and property by providing timely and adequate response.
* To guide the deployment of fire department resources based on risk and hazard assessment.
* To provide a framework for consistent and standardized emergency response.

To note, NFPA standards are not laws unless adopted by a jurisdiction, they are often used in legal proceedings and considered benchmarks in the standard of care in the fire service.

**Coventry Fire Districts vs NFPA 1710:**

In referencing the standard, **each** district, as a stand-alone entity, does not meet the NFPA 1710 standard if responding to a single-family dwelling fire. The districts rely on an automatic aid agreement established in past years to assist in response. This agreement has been taxed over the last few years and has created tensions between the districts with respect to protecting their own districts, maintenance of vehicles, and injuries to fire personal. Issues like those mentioned have placed apparatus out of service and districts lacking of manpower.

Minimum Fire Suppression Services.

C.5 Company Staffing (Crew Size) On Duty.

Engine: 4 minimum

High-volume/geographic restrictions: 5 minimum

Tactical hazards dense urban area: 6 minimum

Truck: 4 minimum

High-volume/geographic restrictions: 5 minimum

Tactical hazards dense urban area: 6 minimum

**C.5.1**

**Initial alarm deployment (number of firefighters including officers):**

**Low hazard: 15**

**Medium hazard: 28**

**High hazard: 43**

**Each** district is **not** capable of following the standard due to inadequate personnel and apparatus. The districts have to rely on outside agencies to handle some of the tasks. The result is the overtaxing use of assets from other towns from protecting their own.

**Emergency Medical Services**

As it stands, each district provides EMS services to their respective areas. The Coventry, Central Coventry, and Hopkins Hill are staffed 24 hrs with Advanced Life Support personal. Western Coventry has a staffed EMS unit but not ALS 24 hrs. Central Coventry is the only district that will send an Engine with an EMS unit because that is the minimum level of service set in that district. The other districts cannot meet this standard due to lack of manpower. In recent years the Coventry District provided the same and budget cuts reduced their manpower from 4 per shift to 2. However, the Coventry Fire District added a third man to their shifts over the last year increasing to 3 per shift.

**Accomplishment of Consolidation**

The accomplishment of consolidation and eliminating the district models shall

* Increase the minimum manning to within the standard required
* Decreases the liabilities of having short-staffed departments with respect to injuries to personal.
* It allows the department Chief to assign staffing and apparatus where needed to cover the areas with longer response times.
* The department will have one (1) table of organization under one (1) central dispatch.
* It shall assist in organizing response to, all fires, EMS calls, natural disasters, special hazards and mass casualties. For example, the Central Coventry is joined with the Hopkins Hill Fire District for the southern regional Decon Team. Coventry, Central Coventry and Hopkins Hill are part of a Rapid Intervention Team that responds to active shooter incidents.

The Commission met with the Town of Coventry Grant Writer that stated there are multiple opportunities to grants when a Fire Department is better organized under a municipal government. These grants can be utilized to add personal and replace aging apparatus that the current districts have.

Respectively Submitted,

Lt. Kevin E. McCann

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