

# La Pine Rural Fire Protection District

## Standard of Cover January 2016



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## **1) INTRODUCTION:**

A critical assessment and statement of any community emergency services delivery system is from the assessment of the known and reasonably expected risks and then determination of the level of services to be supported and provided. A Standard of Cover for emergency response is intended to provide objective documentation of those community risks that the citizens expect, and based on the resources they provide, to be mitigated by their local fire and EMS services. Wherever possible, data related to emergency response, economic factors, population and demographics is used to create a risk profile for the community. That data, in addition to data from comparable communities with similar risks are used to develop a comprehensive picture of community emergency events and the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District's ability to respond to and mitigate such events. Standard of Cover for emergency response are used nation-wide for this purpose, and the intention of this document is to create a set of expectations for the citizens, elected officials, employees, and visitors in the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District. This Standard of Cover document is intended to be a "living" document, regularly updated as more objective data becomes available and as trends in service, service objectives, or public expectations change.

## **2) A COMMUNITY PROFILE AND BRIEF HISTORY OF LA PINE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:**

The La Pine area is located in a high mountain basin within the east slopes of the Central Cascade Mountains. The area is mostly Lodgepole and Ponderosa Pine forests, meadows and traversed by several rivers and streams, and is known for long snowy winters and then warm dry summers. The area had been used for thousands of years by Native Americans, and then the first modern settlers arrived in the early 1900's - primarily for summer grazing pastures and then large scale timber harvesting. The community has grown from a very rural and resource based economy to a more diverse one with retirement and outdoor recreation now becoming the largest economic drivers. The community is still primarily rural with at least 29 distinct neighborhoods, the small incorporated City of La Pine (pop 1,653), and only a few small commercial clusters located along the main transportation routes. The community now has 22,000 in population and is considered a "bedroom" community to Bend, (20-35 miles to the north). It is considered "rural" by NFPA definition (<500 persons per sq. mile population).

In June of 1968 the La Pine Volunteer Fire Association was formed and community members paid \$5 a year to maintain the fledgling fire department. The community also held fund raisers, obtained donated equipment and built a small two bay fire hall. On May 12, 1971 the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District was officially created a special governmental service district under ORS Chapter 478 of the State of Oregon. A Board of Directors consisting of five members administers the Fire District, each elected for a term of four years. The purpose of the Fire District is to provide fire protection and other public safety services to people living in and visiting the Fire District's service area. Property taxes are levied, as provided by ORS 478, and as limited by Oregon state tax law, in an effort to meet the cost of fire protection and other expenses of the Fire District. The district rapidly grew in areas served (117 sq. mi.) adding three new fire stations serving Southern Deschutes County from the Klamath County line to Sunriver. In 1987, the Fire District assumed ambulance services and has been providing paramedic advance life support services since then. Also, at that time the community decided, by a general election vote, that ambulance user fees, rather than tax dollars, were to be the major supporter of the new service.

Over the years many neighborhoods and communities have annexed into the Fire District in order to obtain services such as:

In 1980, the Wildriver and Newberry Estates subdivisions were annexed.

In 1987, Spring River Estates subdivision was ordered annexed by the Board of County Commissioners.

In 1988, Wagon Trail Ranch subdivision (Klamath County) was annexed.

In 1992, the Sunriver Business Park was annexed.

In 2003, Old Howard Estates (Klamath County) and three small miscellaneous areas were annexed into the district.

In 2006, the Haner Park area petitioned and was annexed.

In 2010 and 2011, the Darlene Way neighborhood and Little River Ranch (Klamath County) subdivision were annexed into the District.

Most recently in 2014, the Pine Forest Addition development became part of Fire District.

Annexations are always initiated by the residents themselves, although the Fire District does assist with guidance for those undertaking the process per ORS Chapter 198.

### **3) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT, DATA, AND GUIDELINES:**

La Pine Rural Fire Protection District, like many other small fire departments across the state, only has limited ability in keeping comprehensive data associated with emergency responses. This is mainly due to the prohibitive cost associated with programs that allowed collection of response data from the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center's CAD and compiling combined 9-1-1 data with information generated after the incident by crew members of La Pine Rural Fire Protection Fire District. The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District does participate in the State Fire Marshal Fire Bridge data collection system and the National Fire Incident Reporting Systems (NFIRS). This data mainly relates to fire incidents and does not always merge with response time data. The data only allowed the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District to determine "average" (or "mean") response times, and does not permit the calculation of fractile (or percentile analysis) times, which have become more common within larger systems. The assumptions within this Standard of Cover are made using the available data and the current trends.

### **4) STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESSES AND RISK ASSESSMENT:**

The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District has completed a series of strategic plans and community risk and service assessments over the years. The latest, starting in 2010 with a community risk and service assessment was worked into a new strategic plan, and that was recently updated July 2013 and adopted by the Board in September 2013. A comprehensive risk assessment covering fires, emergency medical events, and other potential emergencies takes into consideration, at a minimum, the following factors:

- Past emergency response history – This takes into account the actual demand for emergency services, what types of emergencies impact the community daily, how often they occur, and the life safety and economic consequences of these emergencies.
- Life risk – Life risk evaluates how many people live in the region, travel through, visit, and work in the area. Determining what citizens are doing that might pose an extraordinary risk and when emergency crews are available, are important factors.
- Community economic risk – This asks the question, "What is the risk to the community if certain infrastructure is lost to fire?" For example, the business areas in the district are

relatively quite small. Losing just one or two, or a public facility such as a school or senior center would have traffic consequences to all the remaining businesses. However the biggest risk is wildland fire affecting homes, many of which are second and resort properties, as the region has become known for its recreational opportunities. One question that is always asked when considering this type of risk, "Would the business and/or homeowners rebuild and return to the community?"

- Infrastructure risks – The risk analysis assesses factors associated with places where people live and work. For example, the predominant type of construction and do they have sufficient year round general road access provided for fire and rescue equipment, fire flow needs estimates for the community and areas without fire hydrants and/or inadequate fire flow then requiring water to be transported. And lastly, are there automatic fire sprinklers present which obviously would greatly moderate most fire risks.
- Transportation risk – road, rail, water, and air transportation are considered.
- Environmental or historical risk – Any event that may cause severe or permanent damage to the environment or area historical features is considered.
- Pure dollar loss – The risk associated with losing a structure and its contents, particularly if uninsured or underinsured, along with the risk that the structure may never be rebuilt and return to the tax rolls.

**Structure Fire:** In the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District, the statistical incidence of structural fires is relatively low. The risk presented by an out of control fire spreading to neighboring structures and into the wildland, however, is disproportionately high based on the predominantly dry weather conditions (summer), topography, and landscape. Few buildings in the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District have fire sprinklers. The exceptions are the larger and newer commercial and school buildings. In 2015, the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District responded to 68 hostile fires (actual fires not including smoke scares, confined fires such as chimney and flue, unauthorized burning, and false alarms) of which eighteen (18) were structure (including mobile home or residential RV fires). The five year average (2010 -2015) was fourteen (14) structure fires.

The average response time for the first unit to arrive on scene was just over 10 minutes. The average number responding firefighters was 10 without counting automatic and mutual aid. The fire district normally has seven career and four students assigned to a shift with an additional two chiefs on days and/or on call. Bringing daily staffing in station to 13, but this could be as high as 16 or few as 6 depending on schedules.

The time/temperature curve standard, based on objective fire data from the NFPA and the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) have established that a typical point of ignition in a structure fire will "flash over" within three (3) to thirty (30) minutes, turning a simple room and contents fire into a structure fire of significant magnitude. NFPA 1710 standards, as well as industry best practices, indicate that to conduct an effective and safe interior attack on a basic residential structure fire requires a minimum of 14 personnel on scene within 8 minutes along with an uninterrupted water supply of 400 gpm for at least 30 minutes. NFPA 1720 standards, as well as industry best practices, indicate that for rural areas (population <500 per sq. mile, such as the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District) a minimum response goal will be 6 personnel with a 14 minute response time 80% of the time. Therefore, for structural fires, the La Pine Rural Fire Protection is primarily concerned with providing life rescue and confining the fire to the structure of origin. When available resources allow, along with favorable operating conditions, the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District will engage in more aggressive tactics that might allow confinement to the area of origin within a structure (for example, the room of origin, the garage, etc.).

**Wildland Urban Interface Fire:** A wildland urban interface fire (WUI fire) is the term used to define a fire that occurs in areas where human built structures are in close proximity to forest and wild areas of natural vegetation. The vegetation is typically brush and undergrowth (ladder fuels), and trees. Fires of this nature are particularly difficult to control for several reasons and fires tend to gain significant ground once started. First, response times are often longer to the rural and remote portions of a fire district and/or access being difficult. Second, many of the interface areas have inadequate water supply for firefighting, which requires supplies to be trucked in (additional resources required) and which often slows fire attack. Third, as WUI fires quickly expand covering large areas, they create multiple exposures to structures in its path (additional resources required). Fourth, natural cover WUI fires are often wind-driven and take place during the warmest and driest part of the year (accelerating intensity and rate of spread). Fifth, most structures that are in close proximity to the WUI areas tend to be made of combustible materials. Many owners of these structures enjoy the “natural” landscape and may not have made their property Firewise (defensible and hardened) to withstand a wildfire threat (with or without fire department assistance).

Most, if not all of the all development within the La Pine Rural Fire Protection district is built in or adjacent to natural areas that are susceptible to a wildfire. The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District is also almost completely surrounded by large unbroken tracts of Forest Service, BLM, and State lands. Wildfire both large and small has been and are historically very common and a natural occurrence in the habitat and climate of the region. Wildfire on private lands within the WUI is the primary jurisdiction of the Oregon Department of Forestry (DOF) in which property owners pay an annual forest fire patrol fee. This service is provided from the DOF Sisters Office, with additional brush engines stationed in the La Pine and Sunriver areas during the “state declared” wildfire season. The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District is basically responsible for structural fire protection within its fire protection district but responds for Initial attack to keep WUI fires from becoming larger and thus threatening structures.

The history of wildfire in the La Pine area shows that it can be an expected and even somewhat natural occurrence not unlike snow or rain. Historical fire maps show that almost every part of the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District has been burnt by a large forest/natural cover wildfire in the last 100 years. An ongoing list of recent large fires substantiating that claim: In 1984, the 340 Acre Wampus fire forced evacuation of the Ponderosa Pine neighborhood as well as other east side residences. One home was lost. In 1990, the 45 acre Thousand Trails fire caused the evacuation of Thousand Trails and Oregon Wonderland II neighborhoods. Also another fire in the Spring River area forced 90 homes to evacuate. In 1992, a 200 acre fire caused 60 homes in La Pine to evacuate. In 1995, the 600 acre Pringles fire forced 110 evacuations in the Wild River area. In 2005, the 139 acre Park fire forced the evacuation of 700 in the La Pine State Park area. As recent as in 2013, a large 168 acre wind driven wildfire ripped through the City of La Pine forcing evacuations of Huntington Road and Crescent Creek neighborhoods. The 330 acre Stage Coach fire burnt just south of the fire district boundaries causing evacuations in the Oregon Outback area. Although La Pine has been fortunate on the number of lost homes, just to the north in Bend, during the same time period, over 90 homes have been lost under similar circumstances.

The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District responded to twenty-eight (28) hostile (not including reports of smoke or false alarms), natural cover and/or wildfires and to one hundred (129) unauthorized outdoor burning calls in 2015. The five year average for hostile natural cover /wildland fires is twenty-nine (29). Most of these fires are during the warmer and drier summer months of May through September.

**Other Fires:** The remaining fires that La Pine Rural Fire Protection District responds to are grouped into much smaller categories. Examples of the thirty (30) fires in 2015 that did not involve structures or wildland included vehicle fires, trash fires, chimney fires, fires in dumpsters and cooking containers, and other miscellaneous fires. The most significant being vehicle fires with was ten (10) of those thirty (30) fires . These fires presented a trend indicating that La Pine Rural Fire Protection District does not have a high risk with any fire type other than structural or wildland.

**Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Incidents:** La Pine Rural Fire Protection District provides ALS critical care transport (from maintained road access) within County approved franchise Ambulance Service Area (ASA) which is over 1000 sq. miles and significantly larger than the Fire District's boundaries. This area is mostly state and federal forest lands, parks and recreational areas and remote highways. It is considered a "frontier area" by state EMS definition. The Deschutes County ASA goals for EMS response times are:  
Urban - 6 min, 90% of the time  
Suburban - 15 min, 90% of the time  
**Rural - 45 min, 90% of the time**  
Frontier - 2 hours, 90% of the time

Medical emergency related incidents account for over 90% of La Pine Rural Fire Protection District's call volume. Over 55% of all reported EMS related incidents in 2015 did not involve ALS transport to the hospital. Of those who were transported, a 2011 study showed another 47% were not emergent in nature (relative stable to life and limb for the next 24 hours). This is a critical impact on this community resource as ALS critical care transport to the closest hospital (St. Charles Medical Center (SCMC) Bend) and return back to service (total time on task) is over 2 hours. During these times, district resources are away from the community and not available for life saving efforts where ALS would make a difference. The average EMS related call (total time on task), with or without transport, was 1 hour 9 minutes in 2015. Motor vehicle crashes (MVC's) make up the most significant emergency trauma calls for EMS and rescue. In 2015 The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District responded to 68 MVAs both within the district and to the ASA. Half were on US Hwy 97 and State Hwy31, two major transportation routes through the community where high impact crashes occur often. About a third of all MVAs required significant heavy extrication of entrapped passengers. These incidents tax local resources simply because of the number of units and personnel it takes to properly manage them, including multiple patient treatment, extrication, establishing a safe working area, time on task, and transport.

Other medical incidents that La Pine Rural Fire Protection District responded to over the year included strokes, cardiac arrest, diabetic emergencies, breathing difficulties, overdoses, falls and a wide range of traumatic injuries. However, most responses are general medical in nature (i.e. flu like symptoms, dizziness, vomiting, and aches and pains, and/or lift and welfare assist) frequently due to long standing chronic conditions and citizens feel they have no other alternative than to dial 911. While the rate of MVC's remains relatively steady throughout the year, traumatic injuries spike in the middle of winter when cold-weather recreation is at its peak (snowmobiling, skiing, snowshoeing, along with slips and falls), and during the summer months when ATVs, biking, hiking, boating, river floating, and other outdoor activities bring people out-of-doors.

The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District strives to maintain two advanced life support critical care medic units in service 24/7 staffed with at least two firefighter/paramedics. This is

supplemented by at least one, if not two, single person firefighter paramedic quick response units. As student staffing allows, the district can, from time to time, put on a third medic unit in service but often only to the BLS level. Firefighter/paramedic mutual aid is available from Sunriver Fire to the north of the district and Crescent Fire from the south; however, both those agencies only have one unit available for service. When both medics are out of district the shift commander initiates a personnel call back. The fire district does have the availability of two regional medical evacuation helicopters as a resource, and helicopter landing pads at stations 101 and 102 for the most extreme medical emergency cases and when available due to flight and weather constraints. In 2015, the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District paramedics transferred 67 patients to an air evacuation.

### **Other Emergency Incident Types:**

**Technical and Backcountry Rescue:** The La Pine Fire District provides vehicle extrication rescue, and each of its three engines are equipped with stabilization equipment; hydraulic rescue tools, electric and gas saws, air chisels, and lift bags. The district is also capable of simple patient extractions (low angle) such as up over road and river cut banks. Finally the district has limited shore based water rescue capability with rope throw bags. In 2015, the district performed twenty-three (23) vehicle extrications, two (2) water and one (1) ice rescue. The district is limited in its ability to respond and deploy only to and from maintained roads. For all back country, off road, technical rope, on and below surface water, swift water rescue, ATV, snow machine, marine, horseback, avalanche, and searches are within the jurisdiction of the Deschutes County Sheriffs Office, and/or the federal land agency. The Deschutes County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team is an all-volunteer 150 member team commanded by a full time Captain and four S&R Deputies. Although an on-duty deputy can arrive within a few minutes, actual team assembly and deployment, especially to remote sites, response times are a couple of hours or more.

**Hazmat risk:** US Highway 97 is a major North - South thoroughfare in Central Oregon and goes directly through the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District for approximately 17 miles. Paralleling this route is the Central Oregon branch of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad (BNSF). General commodities, gasoline and other petroleum products, crude oil, and industrial chemicals are the primary hazardous materials transported through the District. However, residential and populated areas that are directly exposed along these routes are limited to small isolated sections within the City of La Pine. These transportation routes are also isolated from the major waterways within the district. This significantly reduces the potential large scale life safety and environmental impacts of a hazardous material spill or fire from a transport accident. The area also has no manufacturing or industrial operations other than a few related to the wood products industry.

There is an intra-state high pressure natural gas and pumping station, operated by TransCanada that also runs parallel but west of the north south transportation corridor. However, it is outside the fire district and on mostly federal lands and right of way. The pipeline touches a small part of the City of La Pine in its relatively small industrial area and is also tapped to provide gas to a small municipal distribution system within the City of La Pine operated by Cascade Natural Gas.

There are nine (9) motor vehicle fueling stations and two propane bulk distribution stations within the fire district.



All La Pine Firefighters are trained to the awareness level. Mitigation capabilities are limited to isolation assessment, monitor, and to assist with self-rescue. The district has flammable gas meters, carbon monoxide meters and thermal imaging on each of its engines. The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District is in the State of Oregon Haz Mat Team Region 2 with initial service provided by Eugene, which is a minimum of 2 hours response. Haz Mat back up is provided by State regional teams in Klamath Falls and Salem, which also would have 2 hour plus responses. BNSF has a Haz Mat depot in Klamath Falls, and TransCanada has hazmat techs stationed in Redmond Oregon. In 2015 the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District responded to 15 hazardous material type calls. None required the activation of a state team.

**Natural Disasters:** Causes of state or federal “declared” natural disasters in the region over the past four decades are: Fires: 4, Storm 4, Floods: 2, Drought: 1.

**Wildfire** and WUI fires are the most significant threat due to the natural environment and habitat of the area. This was discussed in the previous section on fire.

**Storm risk.** Weather risks come in several variations. **Heavy snows** have caused a couple of residential and commercial building collapses in the past 25 years. The snow also creates severe access problems to many neighborhoods that have no or limited road maintained service. But most often snow and ice increases traffic crashes, slips and falls, and cardiac events (due to snow removal physical exertion). **Winds**, however, become the most frequent and problematic. The area experiences two or three significant wind events each year. These events often cause trees to fall into power lines causing power outages and becoming more problematic in the dry season causing wildfire starts. The 2013 Rosland Road fire, mentioned previously, was one of 15 wildfire starts that occurred that day which all were caused by a wind event. **Cold weather** with subzero temperatures increases the risk of fires due to the stressors placed on mechanical systems and or occupants ill-advised efforts to keep warm with portable and/or make shift heaters. Although a week or two of subzero temperatures is common each winter, as recent as the winter of 2013/14 temperatures in the fire district reached -35F below zero. The last storm risk is **lightning and hail** storms. Lightning storms are a common occurrence during the summer months and of course bring the concern for wildfire starts. These storms, if there is moisture with them, can also bring significant hail. It is not uncommon to have a 1-2 inches of hail accumulated on the ground and/or to have hail stones ranging in from marble to golf ball in size.

**Flood risk.** The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District has the Deschutes River and the Little Deschutes River running most of its length totaling approximately 61 river miles. Property along these waterways would be the most prone to flooding. Both these waterways are controlled by a series of upriver dams. However, other than localized properties directly along these areas, flooding has not historically been a serious problem. This is primarily due to the porous nature of the underlying volcanic rock and the upstream reservoir and dam systems used for regulation. An upstream dam failure would of course have potentially large impact, but that is also a remote risk. In 2000, the biggest dam, Wickiup built in 1942 was, reengineered and fortified due updated knowledge of potential earthquakes.

**Earthquake risk.** The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District is in a lower to moderate earthquake risk zone. Being situated in the Cascade mountain range, the area experiences frequent earthquakes. However, they are often very low intensity and/or very deep, with no local active fault lines - meaning little effect to the surface. In 2015

there were 31 earthquakes in the La Pine area all under 3.0 and most 7 to 8km deep. In the past 100 years there have been six (6) 7.0 or larger earthquakes in the greater region. However, all at least 230 miles or further away. The major earthquake threat is to the Cascadia Subduction zone and major related faults off the coast of Oregon (and about 250 miles from the fire district) where a mega quake 8-9.0 is historically likely (400-600 year average cycle). This would create severe damage along the coast and into the Willamette Valley and/or a lesser quake actually in the Willamette Valley may do the same, due to the soils in the region. The La Pine area, being on the east side of the Cascades, would feel little direct effect of such seismic forces. However, it is highly expected that this region will be sending aid (i.e. fire and rescue) to those points west of the Cascades in the event of such an occurrence and possible taking in of refugees.

**Volcano risk.** The fire district is located within the Cascade mountain range which has an active volcanic history, however, the risk is low and infrequent (last being ~4,000 years ago) in central Oregon. Two long-lived volcanic centers, Three Sisters and Newberry, both outside, but within 10 to 20 miles of the fire district, and several smaller volcanoes have also hosted numerous eruptions in geologically recent times (past 15,000 years) that ranged widely in size and character. Some covered sizable areas with lava flows or swiftly moving flows of searing ash and pumice. Others only managed to produce small volumes of ash that blew downwind and were barely detectable in the geologic record, or they produced lava flows in areas now within federal Wilderness areas. Similar eruptions may occur in the future and depending on their location and scale, as to the effects that they would have on the fire district. Most lava flow maps do not show any potential projections into the fire district. However, the Paulina Creek drainage would be suspect to lahar and debris flows from Newberry. In addition, an eruption of any one of the major Cascade Range volcanoes could affect the district and the region with ashfall if the wind direction were favorable.

## **5) MISSION AND SERVICE PRIORITIES:**

This strategic planning process re-identified who the primary customer was for the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District in regards to who sustains the District and the essential services they required. Emphasis was placed on which services were the most important with the realization that the District cannot be everything for everyone, but rather seek true excellence on the things that mattered most to the community. It was observed that the district could only provide what was required by law. The process challenged the strategic planning committee to look critically at values, philosophies, beliefs, desires, and futuristic goals focusing on service to the Fire District members. It was discovered that the 2002 mission was still applicable for the District:

**“Minimizing pain, suffering, and the loss of life and property through prevention, fire suppression, rescue and emergency medical services”**

With this Mission Statement in mind, the committee identified a new Vision Statement to establish future targets of excellence:

**“To be a rural fire and rescue district that the community respects, trusts and supports”**

Through its work the committee realized that the original 2002 vision of the District really best summarized the values of the District and that they are still very valid:

## **“Pride, Service and Dedication”**

Based on the above risk analysis, historical response data, district resources and through a mission overview and strategic planning process, the Service Priorities for the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District as determined by the Board of Directors are:

1. **Tax supported fire district first and always first with the ambulance service area and outside jurisdiction second, but not at the exclusion of in-district service.**
2. **Always have an in-district La Pine response, even if only for command.**
3. **Fire suppression – residential, wild land urban interface, vehicle, small commercial in both hydrated areas (40% of District) and unhydrated (60% of District).**
4. **Emergency Medical Services where paramedic advanced life support staff stabilizes the patient then transports those in need of ALS transport.**
5. **Rescue services for fire, extrication, low angle and shore based ice and water rescue for in-district and road based rescues.**
6. **Public communications and information on prevention of wild land fire, burn permits, proper use of 911, smoke and CO detectors, home fire safety, development check lists, and district operations.**
7. **Hazmat identification and isolation.**
8. **Public relations services such as blood pressure checks, station tours, presentations, and participation in major community events.**

### **6) DISTRIBUTION AND CONCENTRATION OF RESOURCES:**

Current Deployment and Points of Service Delivery that the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District provides its emergency services as defined by the Board prioritization based on the above risk analysis from three (3) fire stations within the Fire District:

**Station #1** (101) is located at 51550 Huntington Road, La Pine Oregon. This station serves as the southern career station. Fire administration and support staff including medical billing representatives are located next door at 51590 Huntington Road.

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|-----------|--|
| Staffing  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire Chief</li><li>• Deputy Chief</li><li>• 2 administrative staff (non-response)</li><li>• 4 career firefighter/paramedics (minimum 3) per shift (12 total)</li><li>• Student reserves as assigned per shift</li></ul>  |
| Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 structural/rescue engine, type 1, 1250 gpm pump, 1000 gallons of water</li><li>• 2 interface engines, heavy brush, type 3, 500 gpm pump, 750 gallons of water</li><li>• 1 water tender, type 2, 1000 gpm pump, 2500 gallons of Water</li><li>• 1 ALS medic unit</li><li>• 2 QRU / light brush type 6</li><li>• 2 command/staff vehicles</li><li>• 1 support services unit</li><li>• 1 utility/plow</li></ul> |

- 1 staff vehicle

**Station #2** (102) is located at 55785 South Century Drive, Sunriver Oregon. This station serves as the northern career station.

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|-----------|---|
| Staffing  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 career firefighter/paramedics (minimum 2) per shift (9 total)</li> <li>• student reserves as assigned per shift</li> </ul>   |
| Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 structural/rescue engine, type 1, 1250 gpm pump, 1000 gallons of water</li> <li>• 1 interface engine, heavy brush, type 3, 500 gpm pump, 750 gallons of water</li> <li>• 1 water tender, type 2, 1000 gpm pump, 2500 gallons of water</li> <li>• 1 ALS medic unit</li> <li>• 1 QRU / light brush type 6</li> </ul> |

**Station #3** (103) is located at 15590 Burgess Road, La Pine Oregon. This station serves as the central reserve and student dorm station.

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|-----------|--|
| Staffing  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student reserves as assigned per shift and possibility off duty (up to 12 during the school year)</li> </ul>  |
| Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 structural/rescue engine, type 1, 1250 gpm pump, 1000 gallons of water</li> <li>• 1 water tender, type 2, 1000 gpm pump, 3000 gallons of water</li> <li>• 1 ALS medic unit</li> </ul> |

**7) ON-SCENE OPERATIONS, CRITICAL TASKS, and BASIC RESPONSE EXPECTATIONS:**

The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District goal is to provide the service outlined by the Board of Directors to effect the greater good of the community as a whole first with protection of life and property from fire, accident, and emergency illness. Therefore, due to current resource levels the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District is primarily concerned with providing life rescue and in confining the fire to the structure of origin and/or protecting immediate structures from wildfire. When available resources allow, along with favorable operating conditions, the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District will engage in more aggressive tactics that might allow confinement to the area of origin within a structure (for example, the room of origin, the garage, etc.) or initial attack on wildfires with the responsible wildland agencies. In addition, La Pine Rural Fire Protection District provides emergency advanced life support (ALS) service that may include transport to the hospital emergency department. This is actually is 90% of the emergency response work load. This requires a paramedic level response, allowing crews to implement advanced cardiac, medical, trauma stabilization and lifesaving procedures on scene, packaging and safe transport to the hospital.

The fire service as a whole has adopted a Safety Motto designed to simply and elegantly communicate expectations to our emergency response staff in the most basic manner:

- Within a structured plan, we will risk a lot to save a lot;
- Within a structured plan, we will risk little to save little;
- We will risk nothing to save what has already been lost.

With those service expectations and Safety Motto comes a responsibility to understand, and follow, the Rules of Engagement that have been created by the National Fire Service and are intended to provide guidelines for all La Pine Rural Fire Protection District personnel:

## RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL

1. Be prepared both in knowledge and physically for expected operations.
2. Ensure a functioning command structure is in place.
3. Size up your tactical area of operation.
4. Determine the occupant survival profile.
5. Do not risk your life for lives or property that cannot be saved.
6. Extend vigilant and measurable risk to protect and rescue savable lives.
7. Extend limited risk to protect savable property.
8. Go in together, stay together, and come out together.
9. Have an escape plan and designated safe area.
10. Maintain continuous awareness of your air supply, situation, location and fire conditions.
11. Use and monitor fire ground communications to provide and receive critical reports.
12. Report unsafe practices or conditions that can harm you. Stop, evaluate and decide.
13. You are required to abandon your position and retreat before deteriorating conditions can harm you.
14. Declare a Mayday as soon as you THINK you are in danger.

For emergency incident response, the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District currently employs a Fire Chief, an Assistant Fire Chief, three (3) career Shift Captain Paramedics, six (6) career shift Lieutenant Paramedics, six (6) career Engineer Paramedics, and six (6) career Firefighter Paramedics. The District also relies heavily on its resident/scholarship college student (fire science and emergency medical degree program) volunteer reserves. The district also has a Fire Corps/Support Services Team of twelve (12) volunteers that offer logistic support such as SCBA refills, communications, and canteen services on greater alarms. All first responders respond out of their assigned duty station for the day and only in district vehicles. The district has a current assigned staffing of seven (7) career staff on duty with two chiefs most business days and at least one chief on call most others. The student program can add up to four (4) or more firefighter I's in station. The district has a bare minimum daily assigned staffing level of six (6). Additional personnel may be available by Personnel Call Back from off duty for stand-by or General Alarm –All Call request for all available hands. These recalls are transmitted by selectable voice pager, radio and by text. Text is received by a separate text pager and/or personal cell phone. The fire district also participates in the robust Central Oregon Fire Chiefs Mutual aid plan that provides reciprocal mutual and auto aid. During declared wildfire season Oregon Department of Forestry normally staffs two wildland engines with two (2) wildland firefighters in the La Pine Basin. The USFS will also staff several four (4) person wildland engines in the area and a one (1) person dozer crew at station 102.

When setting safe staffing levels for emergency intervention, Standard of Cover requires the identification of “critical tasks” that must be performed in a timely manner on every major type of emergency that the district expects to respond to. These tasks include State and Federally mandated interventions and assignments to ensure the safest, most coordinated response. While the tasks are similar between all fire agencies, the number of personnel committed to each task may differ between departments depending on the community expectations, speed of intervention required by the SOC, life risk, and other factors (such as large buildings, etc.).

Once critical tasks are identified, the number of personnel that are needed to accomplish the task(s) in a safe and effective manner is established. The total number of personnel that are required to safely and effectively manage and mitigate an incident is listed. It is important to

note that on many scenes, some of the less urgent tasks can be accomplished by “recycling” personnel who were assigned a task that they already accomplished . For example, on a simple structure fire with room and contents involved, the two firefighters who pull the back-up line may also serve as primary RIT. This is less than desirable due to the extra physical demands it places on firefighters, and the district works to minimize the practice. Generally, within the La Pine Rural Fire Protection Fire District, the establishment of an effective firefighting force can take anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes depending on availability of crews and the distance of the incident from fire stations. This means that on a typical structure fire, if there is no immediate rescue profile on arrival (e.g., witnesses or residents stating someone is trapped, Dispatch reporting a trapped person, or highly reliable indicators (such as cars in the driveway with a night-time fire), offensive attack will only commence when there are enough personnel on scene to safely conduct operations described in the task analysis below. A non- immediate danger or life hazard (IDLH) entry structure fire (or wildfire) will generally need fewer firefighters because a “defensive attack” does not require immediate search and rescue or the support structure required. For IDLH entry, the district will have “2-in, 2- out” staffing on scene before entry unless there is a known or highly suspected rescue situation which passes all other risk benefit tests.

**8) CRITICAL TASKS AND NEEDED STAFFING ASSIGNMENTS:**

Investigation or non IDLH small incipient fire: **2**

- Apparatus operator/command 1
- Small hose line/extinguisher 1

Residential Structure Fire, with hydrants available, **offensive attack** - NFPA 1710 standards: **13**

- Command 1
- Apparatus operator 1
- Two hose lines 4 (able to flow 300 gpm total)
- Support –hydrant hook up, force entry, utility control 1
- Search and rescue team 2
- Ladder and ventilation team 2
- RIT safety team 2

Residential Structure Fire, with no hydrants, **offensive attack** - NFPA 1710 standards: **15**

- Command 1
- Apparatus operator 1
- Two hose lines 4
- Support –water supply set up, force entry, utility control 1
- Search and rescue team 2
- Ladder and ventilation team 2
- RIT safety team 2
- Tender shuttles (2) 2  
(need min of 12,000 gallons)

Residential Structure Fire, with hydrants, **defensive attack** - NFPA 1720 standards: **5**

- Command 1
- Apparatus operator 1
- Two hose lines 2 (able to flow 300 gpm total)

Support –hydrant hook up,  
force entry, utility control 1

Residential Structure Fire with no hydrants, **defensive attack** NFPA 1720 standards: **6**

Command 1  
Apparatus operator 1  
Two hose lines 2  
Support –water supply set up,  
force entry, utility control 1  
Tender Water supply 1

Wildland Fire direct **initial attack** NFPA 1710 standards: **7**

Command 1  
Apparatus operator 2 (recommend 2 engines)  
Two hose lines 4

Wildland Fire direct **extended attack** NFPA 1710 standards: **10**

Command 1  
Apparatus operator 2 (recommend 2 engines)  
Two hose lines 4  
Hand line crew 2  
Tender 1

ALS Medical: **4**

Command 1  
Driver/assist 1  
Medics 2

BLS Medical: **3**

Command 1  
Driver/assist 1  
Medics 1

Rescue -Extrication - **one vehicle** (one rescue engine – one ambulance): **7**

Command 1  
Driver/assist 1  
Medics 2  
Apparatus operator/safety line 1  
Rescue tool team 2

Traffic safety ODOT/OSP/SO and/or close road

Rescue -Extrication - **two vehicle** (two rescue engines – two ambulances): **13**

Command 1  
Driver/assist 2  
Medics 4  
Apparatus operator/safety line 2  
Rescue tool team 4  
Traffic safety ODOT/OSP/SO and/or close road

## **9) CURRENT BASIC RESPONSE EXPECTATIONS:**

The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District is classified “rural” under the NFPA definition (<500 persons per square mile - the fire district has an estimated 188 per sq. mile). That standard suggest in a rural area that for responses within 8 miles travel distance from a fire station, first responders should be able to reach and assemble on scene within 14 minutes 80% of the time. The Deschutes County Ambulance Service area plan indicates a response of 45 minutes or less 90% of the time for rural areas. The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District current average is a bit over 10 minutes for the first unit on the scene for both fire and EMS. For a comparison - urban area goals (and the highest standards) are 4 minutes for first arrival and full crew assembly within 8 minutes for 90 % of the incidents.

The district has, on duty, the minimum staff required for the most basic levels of services when and on most days the staffing to handle all expected critical tasks from one incident. The challenge comes from assembling multiple units needed for the more complex situations or multiple simultaneous calls are in progress due available staffing. 317 times in 2015 the district was responding to 2 separate incidents requiring responses from at least two or more stations. 56 times the district responded to 3 simultaneous incidents, and 9 times to four or more incidents that overlapped. When these events happen, the response time and staffing availability for the more aggressive critical task become problematic until mutual and or auto aid units can arrive.

The primary service delivery expectations for La Pine Rural Fire Protection District is the first due units will arrive within fourteen (14) minutes of the call 80% of the time. An effective firefighting force will arrive within twenty two (22) minutes 80% of the time. Frontier areas (those more than 8 miles): first due units will arrive within 30 minutes of the call 80% of the time. An effective firefighting force will arrive within 60 minutes 80% of the time.

## **10) GOALS TO WORK TOWARDS:**

### **1) Staffing:**

- a) To have a minimum of four (4) personnel on each shift and within each station for a minimum on total duty force of twelve (12) (not counting chief officers). Currently that is a minimum of six (6).
- b) For wildland incidents work, with state and federal wildland agencies to ensure sufficient initial and extended attack resources are stationed within the area.

### **2) Reduce non-emergency use of resources.**

Work with stakeholders, constituents, and 911 to reduce non-critical “emergency” calls. (i.e. welfare checks, mental health, general sickness, down power lines, slide offs)  
Consider community paramedicine type programs.

### **3) Transport only critical ALS.**

Work with stakeholders and constituents to obtain additional transport options for non-critical emergencies.

### **4) Create local EMS transport destination option.**

Seek to have options within the community of a destination (i.e. hospital, ER, and urgent care) that can receive lesser level emergency medical calls that allows crew to avoid a 2-hour round trip transport to the Bend hospital.

### **5) Create hardened structures and landscapes.**

Continue to work with stakeholders and constituents to Firewise and “harden” properties from fire (both structural and wildfire), to include fire sprinklers of new



buildings and especially any buildings that are high life and/or property risk and beyond fire district critical basic task levels.

6) Reduce need for water shuttle resources.

Continue to work with stakeholders and constituents that appropriate water supplies and access are included in new community development.

7) Continue to enhance mutual aid and auto aid agreements so critical task can be filled in a timely manner.