FIRE Department Assessments

Presented by:

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The Process

- Assessments started around September 2010
- Process took approximately 48 months.

- 2015 - Report on the Operational Readiness of Municipal Fire Protection Services
  Throughout Newfoundland and Labrador was presented to stakeholders.

Fire Department Assessments

- 210 Municipalities
- 5 Inuit Community Governments
- 54 LSD's
- 2 Regional Boards

Fire Department Assessments

- Provincial Requirements for :
- **Defensive Exterior** – 4 Firefighters commence attack within 2 minutes, 90% of the time.
- Defensive – No entry into burning structures, all fire fighting is performed from outside the structure
- **Offensive Interior Suppression/ Rescue** – 6 personnel within 14 minutes 80% of the time
- Offensive – interior fire fighting occurs and rescue is included

Defensive Fire Fighter

- **Acceptable**: All firefighters trained to Basic or Defensive Fire Fighter (DFF) or equivalent. Fire Department can safely commence attack within 2 minutes after assembling the necessary resources on scene, 90% of the time, minimum of 4 firefighters.
- **Needs Improvement**: Not all responding firefighters trained to Basic or DFF. Fire Department cannot commence attack within 2 minutes, minimum of 4 fire fighters, 90% of the time.
- **Unacceptable**: No responding firefighters with Basic or DFF training or cannot provide a minimum of 4 firefighters 90 % of the time.

Offensive Fire Fighter

- A – Acceptable
- 1. Training: First Aid/CPR; interior personnel trained to NFPA 1001 Level I with Hazmat, (minimum of 4 firefighters at scene trained to Level I, certification not required); all others must have level of training for task; pumper operator must be trained in pump operations, driver operator and hydraulics; and at least one Officer (Crew Leader).
- 2. Staffing: Minimum of 6 on scene within 14 minutes, 80% of the time.
- 3. Equipment: Full bunker gear compliant at date of issue. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) – compliant to FES-NL guidance document.
- 4. Pumping Capabilities: minimum 200 gallons per minute (gpm) for sustained operations.
- 5. Communications: Every crew operating inside a structure must have a means of direct communication with Incident Command.

Offensive Continued

- NI – Needs Improvement
- Cannot meet all the requirements in Acceptable but does not have any items that fall in the Unacceptable category.

- U – Unacceptable
- 1. Training: Interior operations firefighters not trained to NFPA 1001, FF I. Pumper operator not trained in pump operations. No officer on scene.

- 2. Staffing: Cannot provide 6 firefighters on scene within 14 minutes, 80 per cent of the time.

- 3. Equipment: No compliant bunker gear. SCBA not compliant.

- 4. Pumping Capabilities: Cannot provide 200 gallons per minute (gpm) for sustained operations.

- 5. Communications: No communications system.

Fire Department Assessments

- Assessment Results to August 31, 2014
- **Grading's for Defensive Operations**

- Acceptable: 141 (52%)

- Needs Improvement: 104 (38%)

- Unsatisfactory: 26 (10%)

Fire Department Assessment

- **Grading's for Offensive Operations**
- Acceptable: 37 (19%)
- Needs Improvement: 97 (49%)
- Unsatisfactory: 63 (32%)

Fire Department Assessments

- This does not include other Specialized levels of service :
- Vehicle Extrication
- Ice/Water Rescue
- High Angle Rescue
- Medical

Overview of Results

- Only 40% of the fire departments had sufficient resources to meet all the operational requirements for the level of service approved and expected by the municipal authority.

- This will require an increased level of organizational and financial support.

Challenges Fire Departments Face

- Staffing Fire Halls
- Equipment
- Training
- Funding
- Documentation
- Working relationship between the AHJ and the FD

Equipment

- What equipment do we have?
- Are all members equipped with proper PPE?
- What is the age of the equipment?
- Is the equipment being maintained properly?
- Do we have maintenance records of all equipment?
- What year is the pumper? (108 over 20 yrs)

Training

- What level of training do the members have?
- What level of training should the members have?
- Are we documenting all trainings?

Funding

- Fire Halls, Equipment, and Training all require funding.
- How do we pay for these.
- Do we receive a budget from Councils or LSD's?
- Do we have to Fundraise?
- Are we receiving funding from Government or other agencies or groups?

Staffing Fire of Halls

- Do we have enough to have a fire department?
- What services are we providing/expected to provide?
- What is the average age of the members?
- What is the condition of the fire hall (building)?

So Where are we Now?

- Some departments took the assessments and took it upon themselves to meet the requirements .
- Starting in the fall of 2017 FES has been working with a pilot project assisting some fire departments who needed help developing an action plan and acting in a mentorship role.
- Should a community fire department realize they need extra guidance you can contact the fire protection officer for your region.

What Can Your Role Be?

- Work with your department to identify shortfalls and assist with the development of an action plan
- Consider the resources needed by your department and provide the assistance required to ensure adequate resources are available
- Could sharing resources help?
- What about regional services?
- Ask FES to help

Who you could contact

- **Fire and Emergency Services – NL**
- Provincial office St Johns
- Fire Protection Services Telephone: 709-729-1608
- Clarenville Telephone 709 466-4109
- GFW Telephone 709 292-4414 or 709 292-4078
- Deer Lake Telephone 709 635-4153
- Happy Valley – Goose Bay Telephone 709-896-7957
- NLAFS 709 424-6500

Can we really make it work?

- For any program to work consider the 3 C's
- Cooperate
- Communicate
- Coordinate
- What is our most precious resource?

Questions?