



RAPID CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Prepare, Prevent, Protect



To: Mayor Sam Kooiker
Members of City Council

From: Fire Chief Mike Maltaverne

Subject: Proposed Ordinance Dealing with Fire Department Services at Rapid City Regional Airport

Date: January 20, 2015

Mayor and Members of Council,

The Rapid City Fire Department has provided exemplary service to the City of Rapid City's residences, business community and visitors since 1886. Our delivery of service to Rapid City Regional Airport began after a tragic plane crash in 1968 that ultimately cost the lives of six high school cheerleaders and prominent family members of our community. At the time of the crash, there were no firefighters assigned to the Airport. The nearest crews had to respond from 12 minutes away from EAFB and Fire Station 1. In response to the tragedy, the City and Airport agreed to staff a fire station at the airport with Rapid City Firefighters. For decades now the Rapid City Fire Department has not only staffed an airport fire station to meet the minimum FAA requirements, the Department has provided a value added service that finds a delicate balance between being fiscally responsible and providing the highest level of service and response capabilities to the passengers, visitors and tenants of the airport.

Since placing staff at the airport, the Fire Department has assigned TWO firefighters to the Rapid City Fire Station 8 at Rapid City Regional Airport. Although the minimum staffing requirement at the airport is only one firefighter, it has been the wishes of the Fire Department, the Airport Board, Mayor and City Council to exceed the minimum requirement by placing a second Rapid City firefighter at the airport. This staffing arrangement assures a more effective response to aircraft incidents by doubling our firefighting capabilities. This philosophy and commitment was affirmed in 2009-2010 by the FAA designing, funding and building a new, state of the art fire station to meet the needs of this staffing model (two firefighters). In addition, the FAA funds the fire trucks at the Airport with grant funding. The FAA has purchased two fire trucks for Regional Airport. This commitment by the City, the Airport Board and the FAA is an effort to minimize the burden of a 12 minute response time from the nearest Rapid City Fire Station. *This commitment has saved lives at Rapid City Regional Airport.*



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The mission of the Fire Department covers every division, program and service that we offer to include the Airport. The service we provide is diverse, and covers all aspects of fire, rescue and medical response. In addition to the minimum requirements established by FAA Part 139 dealing specifically to aircraft incidents, we provide:

- Aircraft rescue and firefighting
- Structure fire and alarm response
- Advanced emergency medical services and transport
- Wildland fire response
- Technical rescue
- Hazardous materials response
- Public education-risk identification and reduction
- Fire inspections and plans review
- Administration-management of employees
- Incident command and management
- Agreements and relationships with secondary agencies
- ESCC-911 Center
- City/County Emergency Management
- Compliance with national standards

The Fire Department has met with Airport staff and board members to develop a memorandum of understanding that details the performance measures, expectations and responsibilities placed on the Fire Department. This MOU operationalizes the minimum services that will be provided by the Fire Department at the Airport. The MOU will be reviewed regularly by both Departments and amended as necessary. This MOU has been needed for quite some time and will serve both Departments well in clearly defining the relationship.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

Mike Maltaverne, Fire Chief