

CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

10 Main Street

(605) 394-4180

Fax (605) 394-6754

LF042804-09

April 21, 2004

Mayor Jim Shaw
Members of the City Council
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Attached you will find a report to the Insurance Services Office, Inc. regarding their recent Public Fire Protection survey of our community. The survey indicates our new classification would regress from a Class 3 to a Class 4. The principle reasons given for this regression are as follows:

- A 16% reduction in the fire department score due to the need for an additional Engine Company location (fire station), insufficient equipment on Engines, Ladder and Service Companies, lack of a reserve Engine Company, and a decrease in the firefighting training on structural fires.
- A 13% reduction in the water department score due to increased population and consumption.
- A reduction in the receiving and handling of fire alarms score, because the Tourism population has more then doubled since our last survey.

We believe that purchasing a new quint, which is a combination pumper/ladder truck (\$550,000), purchasing some miscellaneous nozzles and tools (under \$8,000), and modifying a few of our existing programs will allow us to gain enough points to remain a Class 3.

Funding to implement this plan will come from our budget in one of two ways. The \$8,000 will come from this year's budget by shifting some priorities around. The majority of the funding for the new quint will hopefully be provided by the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant we have applied for. The remaining funds will come from the \$150,000 identified in this year's budget. If we are not successful with the grant, we will then request a conventional lease purchase agreement to purchase the truck.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

NOTE: In anticipation of the 2004 ISO Review, we postponed purchasing an additional pumper in order to give us flexibility should an additional ladder be required.

We believe the money we will spend will save the community money over the long run. If we cannot remain a Class 3, the Class 4 classification will result in an increase in advisory property insurance premium calculations for many insured properties within the City. We ask for your approval of this plan. It will then be submitted for ISO approval.

Sincerely,

Gary Shepherd
Fire Chief



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Mr. Derrick A, Thomas
Community Mitigation Analyst
Insurance Services Office, Inc.
111 North Canal Street Suite 950
Chicago, IL 60606-7270

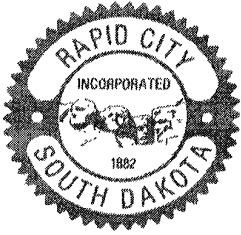
Dear Mr. Thomas:

During our recent ISO review, it was determined that our rating class would drop from a Class 3 to a Class 4 rating. We are committed to a program that we believe will allow us to maintain our current rating of Class 3. Please review the attached City of Rapid City Public Fire Protection Improvement Plan. We understand that we can't meet every ISO requirement listed, but with the approval of our Mayor and Council, we are initiating immediate changes that address many of the issues in this evaluation. Many of the deficiencies that were noted have already been corrected, or actions are already underway to correct them. The remainder are outlined in our improvement plan with varying timelines. We hope you find this acceptable.

The City recognizes the value of keeping our Class 3 rating to keep insurance premiums as low as possible for our community, and to insure that our fire department maintains the elements necessary to provide good structural fire service to our customers. We are hopeful that you will find our plan adequate to remain at Class 3. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Gary Shepherd
Fire Chief



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City of Rapid City
Public Fire Protection Improvement Plan
Prepared by
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

The following is a plan to reduce the Rapid City Department of Fire & Emergency Services' deficiencies as noted in our recent Public Fire Protection Classification Survey.

Receiving & Handling Fire Alarms

Total Credit for Receiving & Handling Fire Alarms, 7.88 % of possible 10.00%

Credit for Telephone Service (Item 414)

We received 1.88% of a possible 2% maximum score. The deficiency noted appears to be the lack of separate phone lines for automatic telephone dialing equipment to report alarms from private fire detection systems.

Corrective actions: Nothing planned at this time

Credit for Operators (Item 422)

We received a perfect 3% out of 3% possible!

No action necessary

Credit for Dispatch Circuits (Item 432)

We received 3% out of a possible 5%. Deficiencies noted were monitoring on the primary alarm dispatch circuit, and emergency power to both alarm dispatch circuits.

Corrective actions: The dispatch facility does have a full emergency power backup system. Further clarification is needed to further evaluate additional changes and improvements.

Fire Department

Total Credit for Fire Department Section, 28.14% of a possible 50.00%

Credit for Engine Companies (Item 513)

We were given credit for 8.38% out of a possible 10.00%

Deficiencies noted were insufficient equipment carried on our Engine Companies.

Engine 1

Deficiency noted- Equipment shortages: 1ea. 2 ½" solid stream nozzle, 1ea 2 ½" combination nozzle, and short spare foam.

Corrective actions: Added 1ea 2 ½" combination nozzle (done), ordered 1ea 2 ½" solid stream nozzle. We are plumbing in a 1000gpm master stream nozzle directly to the pump. This will be completed in 8 to 10 weeks.

Engine 2

Deficiency noted- Equipment shortages: 1ea 2 ½" solid stream nozzle, 1 ea 2 ½" combination nozzle, 1 spare SCBA tank, 2 salvage covers, 1ea hand light, 1 hose clamp, spare foam.

Corrective actions: We will add 1 hose clamp, 1 hand light, 2 salvage covers, and 2 SCBA tanks. All of these corrections will be done immediately. 1ea 2 ½" combination nozzle, 1 ea 2 ½" solid stream nozzle, will be ordered. These should arrive in 6 to 8 weeks.

Engine 3

Deficiency noted- Equipment shortages: 1 ea. 2 ½" solid stream nozzle, 1 ½" combination nozzle, 1 spare SCBA tank, shortage of spare foam.

Corrective actions: Add 1 SCBA tank (done). Ordered 1ea 2 ½" solid stream nozzle, and 1ea 2 ½" combination nozzle. These should arrive in 6 to 8 weeks.

Engine 4

Deficiency noted- Equipment shortages: 50' 2 ½" hose or larger, a 1000 gpm master stream device, shortage of spare foam

Corrective actions: Add 50' 2 ½" hose, add a 1000 gpm portable master stream device. These items will be done immediately.

Engine 5

Deficiency noted- Equipment shortages- 2 ½" hose or larger, 1ea 2 ½" solid stream nozzle, shortage of spare foam.

Corrective actions: Added additional 5" hose to bring the total carried up to 850', added additional 2 ½" hose to bring the total up to 600. This will be done immediately. Ordered an additional 2 ½" solid stream nozzle. This should arrive in 6 to 8 weeks. Spare foam was added.

Engine 6

Deficiency noted- Equipment shortages: 1 distributing nozzle, 1ea. 2 ½" solid stream nozzle, shortage of spare foam.

Corrective actions: Add an additional 2 ½" solid stream nozzle. (On order.) This should arrive in 6 to 8 weeks

Engine 7

Deficiency noted- 1ea. 2 ½" solid stream nozzle, 1ea 2 ½" combination nozzle, and a 1000 gpm master stream device, shortage of spare foam.

Corrective actions: Added a portable monitor to the truck, ordered 1ea 2 ½" solid stream nozzle, and a 2 ½" combination nozzle. These should arrive in 6 to 8 weeks

NOTE: We normally have on hand approximately 100 gallons of extra foam cached in our station. We received a shipment of 150 gallons of foam on April 1st of this year some of which will be added to each of the apparatus short on foam.

Credit for Reserve Pumpers (Item 523)

We received .70% out of a possible 1.00%

Deficiency noted was the lack of a reserve engine. We received 70% of total credit allowed for our brush trucks and CAFS. 1 fully equipped reserve pumper is needed, we have none.

Corrective actions: With the addition of a new ladder truck later this year, we will keep the additional pumper instead of surplusing it.

Credit for Pump Capacity (Item 532)

We received 5.00% out of a possible 5.00%

No corrective action needed.

Credit for Ladder & Service Companies (Item 549)

We received 2.46% out of a possible 5.00%

Deficiency noted was our city needs 2 ladder companies. We currently have 1. Truck 1 received only 90% credit due to insufficient equipment & ladder testing.

Corrective actions: We have applied for a grant to assist us with the purchase of a new 75' quint. We will then use the quint as the second ladder truck. We hope the grant will be approved this year. If our application is rejected we will do a lease purchase of this truck. We will let bids for a new quint in 2004.

Corrective actions for Truck 1: We have added 2ea SCBA's being the total to 6; 5 salvage covers, for a total of 10; 2 hand lights for a total of 4; and 1ea 500 gpm nozzle.

Credit for Reserve Ladder & Service Companies (Item 553)

We received .19% of a possible 1.00%

Deficiency noted was 1 fully equipped reserve ladder. We were given partial credit for Haz-Mat 6. It should also be noted that we were given partial credit for Fire Rescue 5 in the Ladder & Service Companies area also. With the addition of a quint, Fire Rescue 5's credit could be re-evaluated.

Credit for Distribution (Item 561)

We received 1.84% of a possible 4.00%

Deficiency noted was a concentration of hydrants over the calculated threshold with no fire station within 1 ½ miles, in the Southwest area of the city, and a lack of a fully equipped ladder company within 2 ½ miles.

Corrective actions: An additional station in this area is not practical. We plan on expanding our automatic aid agreement currently in place with the Whispering Pines VFD. Whispering Pines is the Department that neighbors the area. Work on this has already started. The placement of a quint/ladder truck on the Westside of the city will address the ladder company requirement.

Credit for Company Personnel (Item 571)

We received 5.88% of a possible 15.00%

It was noted that an increase in the on-duty company personnel by one person will increase the fire department credit by .28%

Corrective action: None at this time. The addition of staff at this time is not financially feasible.

Credit for Training (Item 581)

We received 3.69% out of a maximum 9.00%

We received 41% credit for our current training program and "use of facilities." The lack of a dedicated training facility also appears to be a deficiency. We received a significant reduction on commercial pre-fire planning. ISO states that, "Pre-fire planning inspections of each commercial, industrial, institutional and other similar-type building should be made twice a year by company members."

Corrective actions: We are currently reviewing our training programs to include the necessary officer training as well as the structural firefighting training drills in the proper areas. We will also review our documentation process to insure that our training is categorized in the proper areas. These changes should be completed in the next two to three months.

The lack of a dedicated training facility appears to be another deficiency. Lack of funding is our main hurdle. No real funding source has been identified so it appears this deficiency will not be corrected anytime in the near future.

An important element of improvement is in the area of fire pre-planning. We will expand our current company inspection program to include additional information for a quick action plan (QAP). These QAP's are a pre-fire plan of a structure that will include needed fire flow, building construction, roof type, water sources, etc. These plans will also include a sketch of the building showing access points and other pertinent information about the buildings. This information will be gathered and presented to all of our crews during quarterly code review sessions. This information will also be stored and available on a laptop computer in the Shift Commanders vehicle for their use as well as on our department intranet for additional crew review. Because we are also updating our runcard information process, this will take some time to finish developing and to train our crews on, so we would anticipate it will be up and running in 6 to 8 months.

Water Supply

Total Credit for Water Supply was 31.47% out of a possible 40.00%

The City is adding to the storage capabilities of its water system by constructing a 2.2 million gallon storage tank to be placed in the Red Rocks Subdivision in the fall of 2004. The process has already started on this project. This will add to fire flows in the Highway 16 area and the south west part of town. The City will also be drilling a 2,000 GPM well in the spring of 2005 in the Catron Blvd, Sheridan Lake Rd area which will also add additional water to the system in that area.

The next area that will receive a storage tank in the 2 million gallon size will be in the Deadwood Ave area in the next three years.

The remaining storage area that is proposed is on the east side of rapid on Elk Vale Rd. This is in the City's 5 year plan. As additional construction occurs within the City, water lines and additional sources will be considered for adequate fire flows in accordance with NFPA fire flow standards.

Credit for Supply system (Item 616)

28.94% of a possible 35%

No specific improvements planned at this time.

Credit for Hydrants (Item 631)

The maximum 2.00% was awarded

No corrective action necessary

Credit for Inspection & Condition of Hydrants (Item 631)

We received .53% of a possible 3.00%

During the past two years the Water Department has instituted a program that will insure all of our Hydrants are in good working condition, Static tested, conspicuous and well located for fire department use in accordance with NFPA standards once per year. No change to frequency is anticipated.

The water Department and the Fire Department will collaborate on a documentation system that will allow both agencies to have access to this information. The flow testing of hydrants will be limited during the times designated as drought conditions and to specific requests or requirements for construction. Program review and documentation work will start immediately and should be finished in 3-4 months.

As each of these improvements are made, the ISO office will be contacted to insure that timelines are being met and acceptable documentation is completed. If additional clarification is needed or other instructions are in order please feel free to contact us.