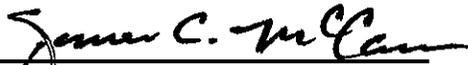


City of Calistoga

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Steve Campbell, Fire Chief
DATE: April 1, 2008
SUBJECT: Response to the 2007/2008 Napa County Grand Jury Report

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:


 James C. McCann, City Manager

1
2 **ISSUE:** To receive the 2007/2008 Napa County Grand Jury Report related to
3 Fire Department services and to authorize the City of Calistoga's response.
4

5 **RECOMMENDATION:** Receive report and authorize the response.
6

7 **DISCUSSION:** The Napa County Grand Jury will issue a series of reports each
8 focused on a specific topic. The first report focuses on Napa County Municipal
9 Fire Departments identifying findings and recommendations for improvement.
10 The findings and recommendations contained within Sections 5 and 8 require a
11 response from the City of Calistoga.
12

13 The report (previously distributed to the Council) is complimentary of the City's
14 Fire Department and generally correctly describes our activities and structure.
15 The Grand Jury identified two areas for action.
16

17 The Grand Jury found that the Safely Surrendered Baby Law is not being actively
18 promoted and informational pamphlets are currently not available at the
19 Calistoga Fire Department. Additionally, the Grand Jury raised the applicability
20 of the National Fire Protection Association standard 1710 to the City's
21 emergency responses (this standard speaks to the number of personnel on a
22 responding piece of emergency equipment).
23

24 The Grand Jury's recommendations that pertain to the City as well as the
25 proposed City responses are shown on the attached draft response letter
26 prepared by Fire Chief Campbell.
27

28 **FISCAL IMPACT:** None.
29

30 **ATTACHMENTS:**

31 1. Draft response letter

CITY OF CALISTOGA

1232 Washington Street • Calistoga, CA 94515
707.942.2800



April 1, 2008

Dear Judges Tisher and Guadagni,

The City of Calistoga has received and reviewed the 2007-2008 Grand Jury report and provides this response as required by the California Penal Code. The Grand Jury report requires the City of Calistoga to respond to Findings 5 and 8.

Grand Jury Finding 5: *That the Safely Surrendered Baby Law program has saved the lives of many infants, one in Napa, and can save the lives of many more.*

Grand Jury Recommendations 5: *That all Municipal Fire Departments continue to actively provide information about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law program to the public, including all middle and high schools in Napa County, as part of their public education programs and that the Calistoga Fire Department investigate a method of offering this program to the residents of Calistoga.*

The City of Calistoga response to Finding 5 and Recommendation 5:

The City of Calistoga agrees with these findings.

The recommendation has been implemented. On April 1st, 2008 the Safe Surrender Program was adopted by the Calistoga City Council. On Tuesday March 25th 2008 training was provided to Calistoga Fire Department staff for the Safely Surrendered Baby Law and the public education section of this program is being introduced to the Calistoga Family Center, Clinic Ole and to the local high school through the "life skills" class which is a general sex, and life education course and through the City's local public information television channel 28.

Grand Jury finding 8: *That while the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 recommends each engine responding to fire call be staffed with four firefighting personnel, Napa Fire Department, American Canyon Fire District, and Calistoga Fire Department frequently respond with three firefighting personnel on each engine.*

Grand Jury recommendation 8: *That all Municipal Fire Departments conform to the recommendations of the National Fire Protection Association regarding the number of firefighting personnel on engines responding to a fire call.*

The City of Calistoga response to Finding 8 and Recommendation 8: The City of Calistoga Fire Department disagrees partially with the finding.
NFPA Standard for Deployment 1710 & 1720:

In 2001, the National Fire Protection Association established NFPA 1710 which sets deployment standards for substantially career staffed fire departments. NFPA 1720 has also been adopted to establish similar standards for substantially volunteer fire departments. The Calistoga Fire Department is considered pursuant to the NFPA to be a substantially volunteer department.

NFPA 1710 establishes a series of baselines with regard to response time and operation capabilities which serve as a yardstick in measuring the effectiveness of a fire department's ability to quickly, safely and efficiently control a fire and respond to a medical emergency.

NFPA 1720 which applies to substantially volunteer fire departments provides similar baselines for smaller agencies that do not have the resources to offer the level of service commonly found in more urbanized settings.

The Calistoga Fire Department meets the requirements discussed in NFPA 1720. As currently configured, the Department has 4 full time employees and operates one fire station. Our station is not staffed on a 24-hour basis. The majority of the City's firefighters are paid-call, and therefore the department operates like a volunteer station with respect to staffing and the provisions of NFPA 1720.

NFPA 1710 does not apply to Calistoga given the nature of the department's configuration. However, response times for fire, medical, and other emergency responses are met. The staffing and response requirements for Emergency Medical Services are exceeded. We offer the following data for your information:

Operational Depth:

As currently staffed, the Calistoga Fire Department has the ability to respond to all incidents within its jurisdiction with a 99% adequate response of staff and equipment. The study period involved is January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. During that period automatic aid from neighboring agencies was received 9 times. The Calistoga Fire Department typically requires assistance for station coverage during extended operations for major incidents. The Calistoga Fire Department does require assistance on an infrequent basis to handle multiple-simultaneous incidents. The Calistoga Fire Department will occasionally request the response of certain specialized equipment not otherwise available to the Department.

Response Time:

As currently staffed, the Calistoga Fire Department maintains a minimum of two on-duty firefighters Monday through Sunday between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Staffing in this manner facilitates the immediate departure of a minimum of one piece of fire apparatus to any call for service. Our data shows that 46.3% of all incidents in Calistoga occur within this time frame. All other incidents are generally handled by a response of firefighters who respond to the fire station from elsewhere.

Fire Department data indicates that response times during the regularly staffed hours are as follows:

- Average response time is 1 minute 32 seconds for all incidents;
- 96.4% of all incidents are reached in 4 minutes or less;
- 100% of emergency incidents are reached within 5 minutes.

Fire Department data indicates that response during the un-staffed periods (between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.) within the city limits are:

- Average response time is 3 minutes 31 seconds for all incidents;
- 66.9% of all incidents are reached in 4 minutes or less;
- 92.7% of all incidents are reached within 7 minutes or less;
- 99.7% of emergency incidents are reached within 10 minutes.

The City of Calistoga appreciates the service performed by the Napa County Grand Jury. This review of the essential services provided by the Fire Departments within our Valley is interesting and very reassuring: the Cities are doing an extremely good job providing these important services to our residents and visitors.

Thank you for the objective review and constructive recommendations.

Respectfully yours,

Jack Gingles
Mayor

James C. McCann
City Manager

Steve Campbell
Fire Chief