

ALBANY COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT #1

STRATEGIC PLAN

DATE APPROVED: 6/19/19

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

STRATEGIC PLAN

Initial Meeting – April 9, 2019

Follow-up Meeting – April 17, 2019

Public Meeting – May 15, 2019

Board of Directors Approve – June 19, 2019

Participants:

Albany County Fire District #1 Board Members: Arthur Sigel (Chairman, Jon Essley (Secretary), Joseph Witt (Treasurer)

Big Laramie Volunteer Fire Department: Richard Parrish (Chief)

Centennial Valley Volunteer Fire Department: Tom Kern (Chief), Eric Gregory

Central Volunteer Fire Department: Dylan Whitmer (Chief)

Tie Siding Volunteer Fire Department: Jon Essley (Chief)

Vedauwoo Volunteer Fire Department: Harry Whitlock (Secretary), Justin Birch, Corey Henderson

Albany County Fire Warden: Chad Dinges

ACFD#1 Administrative Assistant: Michele Turner

Statement of Intention

This Plan was developed by the leadership of Albany County Fire District #1 (ACFD1) to address the current situation in our District and to define a course of action that in our judgment would carry us forward for several years.

Mission Statement

To provide professional guidance and funding to facilitate fire protection, education and all hazard response throughout Albany County Fire District #1 (ACFD1).

GOALS AND THEMES

Goals define the results we aspire to achieve.

GOALS

1. Reduce Firefighter Risks
2. Provide more Effective and Efficient Fire Suppression
3. Improve the Public's Awareness and Perception of ACFD1
4. Elevate District Status

THEMES

Themes define the topics where we choose to take actions in pursuit of our Goals

- People
 - Training
 - Firefighter Health and Safety
 - Recruitment/Retention
 - Relationships
- Resources
 - Equipment
 - Finance
 - Water
- Community
 - Support
 - Growth
 - Health

Comment: As we consider the relationship between our Goals and Themes we find all Themes support all of our Goals.

GOALS

Goal #1 Reduce Firefighter Risks

The intent of this goal is to reduce the risk of injury to our firefighters as they deal with the many varied emergencies to which they are asked to respond. As we have for many years under Training and Leadership, we will teach and act with safety in mind at all times. We emphasize that safety is every one's first priority. Also, in this new plan period we will introduce a new initiative aimed at Firefighter health.

Goal #2 Provide more Effective and Efficient Fire Suppression

The intent of this goal is to drive continuous improvement in the level and quality of service we provide to the citizens of and visitors to our District.

Goal #3 Improve the Public's Awareness and Perception of ACFD1

We will improve awareness through numerous intentional communication initiatives using personnel, media, internet and opportune channels. Improvement of perception of ACFD1 will be the result of the high expectation of excellent performance.

Goal #4 Elevate District Status

ACFD1 and its Departments will execute planned projects which will elevate our many competencies. We will take Incident Command opportunities where our competencies allow. We will be recognized as sought out partners in Unified Commands. We will actively seek leadership on fire responses within our District.

THEMES

PEOPLE

- Training
 - Training will be led by the Department Chiefs
 - We will focus on four active areas: Firefighter Skills, Tender Drivers (CDL), Firefighter Qualification Maintenance, Leadership Skills
 - ACFD1 budgeting will encourage training across all departments
 - Creative approaches to Training will be encouraged. ACFD1 will seek out expert trainers at both local and national levels and provided fair compensation
 - Volunteers will be invited and encouraged to train with other departments

- Firefighter Health and Safety
 - Continually analyze our fire and incident response to identify safer procedures
 - Be “Fit for Duty” - In this context Duty means “when responding to any incident or activity as a representative of ACFD1 and/or a Department in ACFD1”
 - ACFD1 will undertake initiatives to reduce exposure to hazardous substances from each incident
 - ACFD1 will consider preventative health testing

- Recruitment and Retention
 - The ACFD1 Board recognizes that successful recruitment is essential to each departments success
 - Recruitment and retention is a responsibility of the individual Departments and a priority of ACFD1

- Relationships
 - Much of the ACFD1 success has been related to established working relationships. These include: Our Communities and their subdivisions, Albany County Commissioners and Staff, the Albany County Fire Warden, the Wyoming State Auditors Staff, Laramie Fire Department, South of Laramie Water District, Albany County Sheriff’s Office, Laramie/Albany County Records and Communications Center (LARC), United States Forest Service, Wyoming State Forestry and the City of Laramie to name a few.
 - Going forward the ACFD1 will build on these relationships and add new ones as opportunities arise.

RESOURCES

- Equipment
 - Our equipment is what empowers our Volunteers to suppress fire and respond to other emergencies
 - We will continue to upgrade the quality of our equipment across all departments within ACFD1
 - Reliable/Dependable equipment will be added as opportunities are identified
 - Unreliable equipment will be removed from service and disposed

- Finance
 - As Fiduciaries regulated by the State of Wyoming, the ACFD1 Board will continue to support the entire District. Several sources of funds support ACFD1 and its departments. Recent progress of the ACFD1 has been accelerated due to growth within Albany County that has expanded our revenue source
 - Real estate tax of 3 mils is our core funding source. No increase in this millage is foreseen
 - Funds earned on equipment dispatched to federal/state fires supports ACFD1 department's necessary upgrades. ACFD1 maintaining support for this program is essential
 - Grant funds offer an opportunity to expand revenues. Study and resourcing will be pursued.
 - Other sources: Individual department Auxiliaries (community fund raisers/gifts) & Hauled Water will continue.

- Water
 - Water supply to a fire site quickly and in considerable quantity is essential to our success. Our Hauled Water system, a \$1 million investment, is the key in our high desert environment.
 - Focused training will improve our Hauled Water System effectiveness
 - More rural water supply points will be identified and developed if feasible
 - Better "water source" maps will be installed in all major engines/tenders
 - ACFD1 will strive for better water resource options will be incorporated in county regulations
 - Availability of running water at every Volunteer Fire Department station will be evaluated and resourced if appropriate

COMMUNITY

- Community Support
 - ACFD1 will endeavor to reduce homeowner insurance costs by earning better (lower) ISO ratings throughout the District
 - ACFD1 will communicate potential cost savings and ISO ratings in a manner that supports homeowner dialogue with their insurance agents/companies to reduce their homeowner insurance costs
 - ACFD1 will work with State and Federal Agencies to mitigate wildfire potential on public land
 - ACFD1 will work with the Albany County Fire Warden and others to mitigate wildfire potential on private lands
 - ACFD1 will be an active advocate for roads being safe for fire response

- Community Growth
 - Population growth within ACFD1 requires the District and its Departments to grow alongside

- Community Health
 - The ACFD1 Board will study ways to support Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training and operations for Volunteers who are primarily firefighters
 - The District will continue its longstanding support of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providing housing for equipment, insurance and fuel
 - Our vision is that each engine will be staffed by at least one Volunteer Firefighter/EMT and will carry a basic medical bag

Albany County Fire District #1 Signature Page

Art Sigel, Chairman

Date

Jon Essley, Secretary

Date

Joe Witt, Treasurer

Date

GLOSSARY

Incident Command – It is a fundamental form of management, with the purpose of enabling incident managers to identify the key concerns associated with the incident—often under urgent conditions—without sacrificing attention to any component of the command system.

Unified Command – Is a team effort process that broadens the leadership group in larger, more complex emergencies, allowing all agencies with geographical or functional responsibility for an incident, establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies that all entities can subscribe to. This is accomplished without losing or giving up agency authority, responsibility or accountability.

Hauled Water Program – Is to improve water resources reliability based on Tankers and Tenders hauling 1700+ gallons of water per apparatus to fire sites within ACFD1. Currently, ACFD1 operates with an 8 tanker and tender fleet, which can deliver 30,000 gallons of water to fire sites.

Fit for Duty – Means that an individual is physically and mentally capable of safely performing the essential functions for his/her job as a volunteer firefighter in the district. In a physical, mental, and emotional state which enables the person to perform the essential tasks of his/her work assignment in a manner which does NOT threaten the safety or health of oneself, co-volunteers/workers, property or the public at large. “Fit for Duty” can be reduced by medications, prescribed drugs, illegal drugs, alcohol, injuries, health status, psychological disorders and other situations.

ISO Rating - A company called the ISO (Insurance Services Office) creates ratings for fire departments and their surrounding communities. The ratings calculate how well-equipped fire departments are to put out structure fires in that community. The ISO provides this score, often called the "ISO fire score," to homeowner's insurance companies. The insurers then use it to help set homeowners insurance rates. The more well-equipped and trained your fire department is to put out a fire; the less likely your house is to burn down. And that makes your home less risky, and therefore less expensive, to insure.

Auxiliary – These are groups that are tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) as public charities because they are formed to provide public benefit. Each department within the district has an associated 501(c)(3) to support their volunteer fire department.