



Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Administration: Fire Department Overview, Part 2

No. FP-2015-4 January 27, 2015

Learning Objective: The student will get an overview of some key changes in the Fire Department section of the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) between the 1980 and 2012 editions.

In the previous session, we discussed the breakdown of what items the Insurance Services Office reviews in the Fire Department section of the FSRS. In this session, we will take a look at a few of the significant changes between the 1980 Schedule and the 2012 Schedule within the Fire Department section.

Automatic Aid

Automatic aid is assistance dispatched automatically by contractual agreement between two communities or fire districts to all first-alarm structural fires. This differs from mutual aid or assistance arranged by fireground situational needs. The FSRS recognizes an automatic-aid plan under the following conditions:

- The assistance must be prearranged for first-alarm response according to a definite plan. It is preferable to have a written agreement, but the Insurance Services Office may recognize demonstrated performance.
- The aid must be dispatched to reported structure fires on the initial alarm.
- The aid must be provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- The assistance may come from fire department companies, which may include apparatus and firefighters or only firefighters.
- For fireground communications, the communities should have common dispatch and tactical radio frequency capability and standard operating procedures.

Deployment Analysis Compared to Performance Evaluation

The FSRS states: "The built upon area of the fire protection area should have a first-due engine company within 1 1/2 road miles and a ladder-service company within 2 1/2 miles." The Insurance Services Office will evaluate the percentage of areas that meet those requirements compared to the total area protected. This is considered the deployment analysis.

To be able to provide the data for a performance evaluation, the community should be able to provide a summary of the response times that meet the requirements of National Fire Protection Association 1710, *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*. That summary should include requirements for both the initial-arriving engine company and the full-alarm assignment for structure fires. Supporting report data should also be available.

The Insurance Services Office will use the better of the two compared to determine the credit available for engine company and ladder/service company distribution.

Training

There are several areas within the training evaluation where the criteria for obtaining credit have changed slightly. For example:

- Officers now receive credit for their certification and continuing education.
- Full credit for the Building Familiarization for Preincident Planning Program is available if conducted annually instead of twice a year.

No Records, No Credit

It is very important to maintain proper records to sufficiently review and calculate the appropriate credit. The new schedule clarifies the need for these records to be available to establish credit. Some examples of records that may be reviewed include:

- Response records with type of incident, units responding and personnel responding.
- Hours worked by on-duty fire suppression personnel.
- Pump test.
- Hose test.
- Aerial ladder test.
- Training.
- Building familiarization records of buildings and inspection frequency.

For more details on the Public Protection Classification (PPC™) program, see <http://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/0000/ppc0001.html>.

In the next Coffee Break Training session, we will learn more about the Water Supply section of the FSRS.



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