

December 13, 2019
Questions submitted by Bryan Hawkins
Answers by Austin Prince (Rural Metro Fire)

The following questions and inquiries are respectfully requested in the interest of the development of a SWOT analysis of the current state of fire protection in the unprotected area of Josephine County. The nature of services provided by these two companies has a direct impact on public safety, making transparency imperative for the general public in their efforts to make informed decisions. This is not a comprehensive list and it is hoped that other committee members will add questions.

OVERVIEW

Can you give a brief name and year history of your company, i.e name of agency and year started or acquired or merged or name change?

Started as Valley Fire Service in 1979. Merged with Rural Metro Fire in 1995.

Please provide an organizational chart your company's current operation in Josephine County. **(see attachment #1)**

Can you provide a roster of your personnel by rank, identifying their highest fire qualifications? **(see attachment #2 & #3)**

Please provide a resume for all key personnel. **Not available at this time.**

What is your ISO rating? 4, 5/10

Please provide a description or map detailing your company's service area.
(see attachment #4)

Does EVERYONE in the unprotected areas of Josephine County have the option of subscribing to your service, or are there literally some people that live too far away from a station, for example?

With regards to only the unprotected area on the map provided (not county-wide), any resident specifically within RM's Service Area can voluntarily request a service membership with RM. It is the responsibility of the owner to ask about special access considerations before committing (ie: bridges capacity, road condition, etc).

What percentage of your customers live within 5 miles of your station or stations?

84.19% of the taxlots inside RM's Service Area are within 5 miles of a Rural Metro or auto-aid partner fire station.

COMPLIANCE

To the best of your ability would you please list the federal, state and local agencies regulating at least some aspect of your company's fire services? This inquiry is addressing fire services, do not list agencies that only regulate standard business activities, such as the IRS.

OSHA Division 2I and 2L

Oregon Dept of Transportation. OAR 737-100, ORS 801.260, ORS 820.300 .

Oregon Health Authority OAR 333.265

Please attach or otherwise identify the general reference material or documents detailing the associated rules and regulations impacting fire services.

The supportive documents associated with the rules and regulations listed above are available online as public record for committee members to research if desired.

What insurance are you REQUIRED as a PFSP to have by State of Oregon?

The state of Oregon doesn't have any specific insurance requirements specific to a PFSP.

What types of insurance does your company carry and to what limits?

Simply stated, RM exceeds the minimum insurance requirements already established by the RVFCA standard for participation in regional mutual aid.

FACILITIES

List all facilities used as a fire station, by address? (See map showing station locations)

Station 1 - 2428 Williams Hwy

Station 2 - 5566 Monument Dr.

Station 3 - 375 Old Stage Rd

Station 4 - 8199 Redwood Hwy

Station 5 - 5206 Azalea Dr.

Station 6 - 5421 Upper River Rd.

Station 7 - 481 Southside Rd.

Please identify those with 24-hour staffing. Stations 1, 2 & 4.

SERVICES

Are there any services delivered by your company beyond fighting structure fires?

Yes.

If so, please list those services.

Including, but not necessary limited to...wildland fires, flue fires, vehicle fires, First Responder medical care to the BLS level, motor vehicle crashes, machinery rescue, surface water rescue, over-embankment/low-steep angle rescue, remote patient extraction, domestic animal rescue, lift assistance, investigation of fire/smoke/CO alarms, outdoor/indoor smoke & odor investigations, gas leaks, general public assists not already mentioned, fire investigation/cause determination, public education, fire prevention, occupancy inspection, and home safety assessments.

What is your minimum number of firefighters on duty at any one time?

7 minimum

Would you please describe a typical response to a structure fire?

1st alarm - 3 engines, 2 tenders, 1 utility/air unit, 1 ambulance, 1 Battalion Chief, and variable numbers of call-back personnel. Configuration of the minimum response usually includes at least 1 auto/mutual partner; however 1 engine & 1 additional BC are generally sent from GPFR utilizing our 'closest-unit' response protocol.

2nd & 3rd alarm incorporate resources from the immediate surroundings that are likely headed to move-up already (Illinois Valley Fire, Applegate Fire, Rogue River Fire). 4th alarm is a request for the Rogue Valley Structural Strike Team (RVSST) from Jackson County (Fire District 3, Medford Fire, Fire District 5, Ashland & Jacksonville = 5 extra engines).

How would you handle another structure fire occurring at the same time?

The immediate area is served jointly by 6 staffed engine companies (3 RM & 3 GP) using an auto-aid, closest-engine response protocol. As already indicated, 3 are sent to the first alarm, leaving 3 in place. Those 3, along with any move-up companies, and RM's call-back personnel staffing unmanned engines, will handle any additional fires or alarms. A duty officer (BC) is on-duty every day with the primary mission to ensure system status management -- a status that ensures appropriate resources are always available to handle additional emergencies throughout the entire service area.

At times of extreme activity or major fires, units from the RVSST may be in the area available to handle additional alarms. For example, a couple summers ago Josephine County experienced 14 fires in a short amount of time, and Ashland Fire was filling in at RM Station 1, while Fire District 5 (Talent) was filling in at RM Station 2. It's a benefit of RM's access to mutual aid on behalf of the protection provided to the unprotected area. The agreement is also reciprocal, and RM routinely leads a strike team of resources into Jackson County to assist during their major incidents.

Should a citizen require medical aid as the result of a structure fire, how would your company handle the situation?

RM has an Advanced Life Support ambulance from AMR respond on all structure fires. Additionally, all RM engines are staffed with at least 1 licensed and equipped EMT.

With reference to structure fires, would you please identify all agencies and organizations associated with your company through mutual aid, MOU's or other types of contractual or reciprocal agreements?

RM has a mutual aid agreement with 19 other fire agencies across the Rogue Valley (see mutual aid document already provided to committee).

DISPATCH

Please provide the address of your dispatch center and describe the staffing and operation.

24-hour staffing of PSAP and dispatching service, with DPSST certified dispatchers, located inside the JoCo Courthouse, but soon to be relocated to a new building in Grants Pass.

Would you please describe the process between the 9-1-1 operator receiving notification of a structure fire and the units beginning to respond?

911 dispatcher will load the information into the computer-aided dispatch system (CAD) that has pre-developed, pre-programmed response recommendations of RM units and auto/mutual aid units. The system assigns the pre-determined over-air tones that activate radios of all stations and personnel required to respond, using RM's licensed radio frequency. Simultaneously, the CAD system is set to send supplemental text messaging. All over-air radio traffic of the response, updated information, arrival observations, on-scene requests for additional support, etc it exchanged between 911 and fire units and is logged in the CAD system for reporting and documentation purposes. RM radio transmissions are also recorded as part of the service agreement.

TRAINING

What is the minimum fire training level within your organization?

Minimum for firefighter is NFPA Firefighter 1, NWCG Type 2 Wildland Firefighter, NIMS ICS 100 & 700, and Healthcare Provider CPR. Requirements go up after the 1-year probationary period, and with each rank advancement.

Is there a minimum medical training level within your organization?

Healthcare Provider CPR. EMT is required for part-time Engineer or if hired full-time at any rank. Most firefighters seek out EMT training much sooner.

Are there other training requirements by position or rank?

Yes. (**see attachment #5**)

Is your training program recognized by any third-party accreditation body?

Yes.

If so, please identify the accrediting body.

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (**see attachment #6**)

National Wildfire Coordinating Group (**see attachment #7**) - A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing RM as 1 of only 3 wildland contractors in the Pacific Northwest (Region 6) qualified to deliver NWCG curriculum.

TRUCKS

Can you provide a list of your fire trucks by year and kind?

List excludes staff/command vehicles.

1994	Chevrolet	Type 6 Engine
2019	Ford	Type 6 Engine
2019	Ford	Type 6 Engine
2000	American LaFrance	Type 1 Engine
1995	Ford	Type 2 Engine

1995	Ford	Type 2 Engine
1995	Ford	Type 2 Engine
1995	Ford	Type 2 Engine
1998	Pierce	Type 1 Engine
2005	Spartan	Type 1 Engine
2005	HME	Type 1 Engine
1987	Ford	Type 1 Engine
1985	Ford	Type 1 Engine
1985	Ford	Type 1 Engine
2011	International	Tender
2009	International	Tender
1972	GMC	Tender
2002	International	Tender
1996	International	Tender
1985	Peterbilt	Tender
2007	International	Technical Rescue
1989	International	Air/ Utility

Can you provide a description of your vehicle maintenance procedures?

RM vehicles are maintained in accordance with DOT and manufacturers recommendations, as well as company policy, by ASE certified mechanics at a dedicated fleet maintenance facility in east Grants Pass, using a regular preventative maintenance schedule.

Daily checks of the vehicles and the equipment are performed by on-duty crews to ensure response-readiness.