

(Responses from Rural Metro Fire to questions provided to Austin Prince - 11/7/19)

I would like to understand the mandatory and optional regulations private fire agencies are required to follow. From a high level, what agencies have standards, rules and regulations that private agencies are REQUIRED to adhere to? Which agencies have standards, rules and regulations that Rural Metro VOLUNTARILY adheres to?

MANDATORY

1. OSHA general compliance
 - a. OSHA Sub-part L, highlighting examples;
 - i. 2-in-2-out
 - ii. Respiratory Protection Program
2. National Response Framework
 - a. NIMS ICS 100 & 700 (and beyond depending on job function)
3. State & Federal tax laws
4. BOLI employment laws
5. Motor vehicle laws
 - a. General
 - b. Emergency Vehicle Registration
6. Oregon Health Authority

VOLUNTARY

1. Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association (RVFCA)
 - a. Private Fire Standards – Policy #1.05
 - b. All other model guidelines approved by the association
2. National industry deployment standards for pre-programmed response by incident type:
 - a. Standard for structure fires (ie: 1st alarm = 3 engines, 2 tenders, 1 air unit, 1 ambulance, 1 chief)
 - b. Standard for brush fires, especially during extreme fire danger
 - c. Standard for technical rescue response
3. Department of Public Safety Standards & Training (DPSST)
 - a. Accredited training program (multiple levels)
 - b. Individual employee certification to levels performed or job function
4. Internal – RM Career Path & Development Plan for employees
5. Department of Transportation Standards for vehicle inspections
6. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Memorandum of Understanding
 - a. Instructor guidelines for the delivery of wildland training
7. NFPA standards specific to job function and personnel safety (examples listed only)
 - a. Firefighter training

- b. Live Fire Training
 - c. Personal Protective Equipment standard
 - d. Fire apparatus maintenance and code 3 operation
8. Insurance Services Office obligations for maintaining ISO rating
- a. Example - Response to all structure fires in service area w/4 personnel minimum

TRUE or FALSE?

For-profit fire agencies are under no obligation to disclose their fiscal, operational, training and performance information to the public. True

What percentage of bills (dollarwise if possible) for services to non-subscribers (including visitors) go uncollected? Can be either by revenue or numbers of bills that go uncollected. Answer is complex, and Rural Metro is not able to disclose the information at this time.

Assuming Rural Metro has more than one revenue stream, e.g. revenue from wildland firefighting... what percentage of revenue is from subscription fees? Over 95%

Can private fire companies investigate causes of fire? Can they conduct code violation investigations? Enforce code violations? Private fire companies can investigate fires if they have trained personnel and a signed Plan of Cooperation with the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office giving them both the authority and responsibility to investigate fires. Similarly, they can do fire inspections if trained and certified in the fire code and authorized in the Plan of Cooperation. Enforcement of fire code violations is by the State Fire Marshal's office.

Does DPSST require private agency firefighting staff to have ANY training? DPSST doesn't require any fire department to have training. DPSST is a 3rd party validation and certification authority. FD's can voluntarily use DPSST to have their employee's training quantified and certified. If a FD chooses to use DPSST, DPSST will require maintenance training to maintain active certifications every 2 years. DPSST is also used to validate a FD's internal training programs using an accreditation process that is renewable every 3 years through an inspection by the District Liaison Officer.

Private FD's would only have self-imposed required training, or otherwise be required if following a set of minimum standards established regionally, or imposed under a service agreement within a jurisdiction (ie: fire district service contract). Additionally, depending on the scope-of-practice chosen by the private fire agency, OSHA requires training necessary to the level of services delivered (ie: entering a burning building).

(Note: Some answers may not be all-inclusive due to complexity of the topic)