

13.C.1 Executive Summary*

*This Chapter is excerpted from a comprehensive narrative with citations attached as **Appendix I**.

The Mountain Home Fire Department ("MHFD") is considered a "Paid on Call" department. The Mountain Home Fire Department provides fire response in both the urban and wildland environments, in an area of approximately 250 square miles. The partnership with Mountain Home Rural Fire Protection District (MHRFPD) allows the Department to protect those inside and outside of the city limits. The Elmore County Rescue Station houses a fire engine in order to aid our partnership for county extrication calls. Currently the City Fire Department responds to around 175 calls per year and another 90 calls for the rural district.



13.C.2 BACKGROUND

The department was completely volunteer until the city appointed a Fire Chief as its first full-time fire department employee in 1991. Then in 2006 the department hired its first full time firefighter. Another milestone in manpower was in 2005 when the fire department welcomed its first female firefighter.

13.C.3 COMMUNITY

The Mountain Home Fire Department is very active within the community. The Annual Fourth of July Firework display is one of the largest municipal firework displays in the state. Visiting public school regularly, educating children ranging from pre-school to 4th grade, is another way the Mountain Home Fire Department stays active with the local community.



13.C.4 EXISTING SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The Fire Department operates out of four (4) city stations and one (1) rural station as well as an extensive training facility.

During non-emergent service time, the department provides plans reviews on new construction, fire inspections, daycare inspections, code enforcement, fire flow testing, public education/training as well as issuing burn permits to the public.

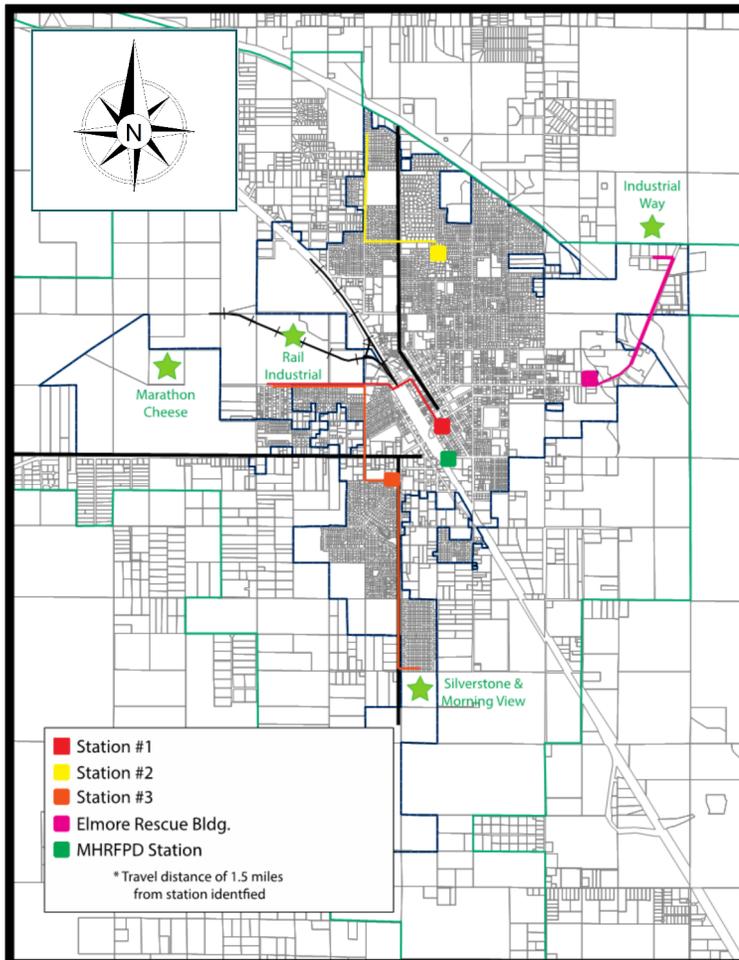
13.C.5 ACTION TRIGGERS

The Department continually tracks the response numbers of responding to fire calls. If we see a trend of the numbers falling at a sustained rate, the Department would act to add additional members to the department, to bring those numbers back in line before falling below acceptable limits.

When it is predicted that growth will exceed the ability for the department to respond under the nationally recognized "Standards of Cover", changes and/or additional apparatus and stations would be required to ensure acceptable response times and distances.



Map 13.C.1



As shown on Map 13.C.1 (left), current Fire Stations & facilities in use are:

- Station #1 located at 220 S. 2nd E. and houses the offices, conference rooms, one aerial apparatus, one engine and two squad units.
- Station #2 located in the 1400 block of N. 6th E. houses one engine and the departments 1925 American Le France Fire Engine.
- Station #3 is located in the 500 block of W. 8th S. and houses one engine.
- Elmore County Rescue bldg. off of American Legion Boulevard is home to one engine that also responds as a mutual aid truck with the rescue unit.
- The Rural Fire Station is home to two structure engines, two water tenders and four wildland engines.
- The fire department has a training facility located at 1170 S. Main that consists of several buildings and fire props. This facility is also utilized by the city police department and Elmore County Sheriff's department, upon request for law enforcement training exercises.

13.C.6 WILDFIRE

As the City of Mountain Home expands, it creates an environment called the *Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)*. This boundary, which is at the edge of the desert and city, creates unique issues as it relates to fires.

These WUI areas often have cheat grass and sagebrush that grow right up to fence/property lines. Under the right circumstances, a wildfire can easily involve structures on these boundaries, thus increasing the challenges to the department.

The Mountain Home Fire Department will continue to educate property owners in these areas, of the dangers involved in the WUI. We will also work to identify the areas that have the highest potential for this interaction and work to mitigate the risks.





13.C.7 FUTURE

The Mountain Home Fire Department is committed to its mission of continuing to upgrade and improve on our level of service provided to the community. An increasing population or increased industrial growth will require us to provide a greater workforce, more equipment, additional buildings and increased funding. By continuing to project and predict how population and growth will affect the City of Mountain Home, the Mountain Home Fire Department will ensure that its level of service to citizens and business community are never compromised.

13.C.8 GOAL 1

Provide adequate and effective fire protection services.

- A. Maintain efficient, cost effective and competent service provided by the fire protection staff and members of the department.
- B. Ensure that an adequate, sustainable water supply is always available for fire suppression activities. As the city grows, so would the need for water supply and delivery.
- C. Remain aware that as growth and population expand, the fire department will also need to expand to provide supplemental EMS service to existing agencies.
- D. Promote the Fire Department's Fire Prevention Program and encourage training and safety programs available from the department.
- E. Perform Life Safety inspections and enforce the provisions of the International Fire Code as adopted by the city.

13.C.9 GOAL 2

Educate and promote the ideals of the "firewise" and/or "fire adapted communities" philosophies amongst city leaders and citizens.

- A. Maintain and improve on our current Idaho Survey & Ratings Bureau (ISRB) rating of 3 throughout the city.
- B. Maintain and ISRB rating of 3, a built-on community shall have a first due engine company within 1.5 road miles of its assigned district or a response time of travel not to exceed 3.2 minutes. As the city limits expand, so will the need for additional fire stations, apparatus and perhaps future additions of full-time firefighters.
- C. Adapt a program such as "FireWise" or "Fire Adapted Communities" and use them to educate and prepare citizens in creating a wildfire resilient community. Impart on city leaders the importance of such philosophies as the city expands into areas that are more wildfire prone. This becomes increasingly more important as wildfires are increasing in size and frequency. We can learn from other communities that have felt the devastation of wildfire and use it to minimize the chances that it occurs in our community.



13.C.10 GOAL 3

Maintain an effective and updated community risk assessment.

- A. Identify and address areas and types of growth that may challenge the current capabilities of the fire department and plan for the needed changes to accommodate that growth.
- B. Be open to the idea of cohabitation with other agencies when it comes to locating new buildings for required services.
- C. Identify general locations for needed future fire facilities and equipment to adequately serve projected development and growth areas.
- D. Identify areas within our response jurisdiction that currently border on the limits of our acceptable response times. These areas currently include Industrial Way, Rail Industrial area and areas on S 5th W near the Morning View & Silverstone subdivisions. As the growth footprint expands the need to coordinate that growth, with city planners and land developers would be required to ensure that adequate fire suppression capabilities be maintained.

