Guam Fire Department

MISSION STATEMENT

The Guam Fire Department will respond to and mitigate all threats to life, property, and the environment in the Territory of Guam and its surrounding waters. This will be accomplished through education, prevention, and an effective response to fire, medical, and environmental emergencies.

GOAL

The Guam Fire Department will be a fire service nationally recognized and accredited in fire suppression, fire prevention, Emergency Medical Services, search and rescue, hazardous materials response and emergency medical dispatch. At a minimum, every fire station will house a fire engine, ambulance, and some type of specialty response apparatus such as a water tanker, ladder truck, rescue unit, or Advanced Life Support unit. Firefighters will be fully equipped and trained, both technically and physically, to respond to all emergencies that pose a threat to the safety of life and property.

VISION

The Guam Fire Department will maintain a high level of readiness by focusing on the professional development of our personnel and providing them with the necessary equipment to safely and effectively perform their mission. We will be able to meet the dynamic needs of our island community by way of a modern and technologically advanced Fire Department.

Fire stations will be the cornerstone of each community; safe havens for the sick and injured. They will be staffed with career professionals of the highest standards, ready to respond to all emergencies. They will serve the populace by providing training and implementing fire prevention, public out-reach, and public education programs.
Performance Measurement

Sick/Ill Person– 8022
Sick/Ill with ALS Transport– 2239
Injured Person– 2313
Injured with ALS Transport– 75
Cardiac Arrest– 195
Behavioral Emergencies– 78
Expectant Mother– 531
First Aid Service– 69
Direct Admittance– 193
Medical Evac (MEDI-VAC)- 61
Stretcher Case– 538
Public Service– 382
Fire Hydrant Maintenance– 132
Fire Alarm– 67
Vegetation/Grass Fires- 438
Trash/Debris Fires– 183
Unauthorized Controlled Burning– 1170
Electrical Fire– 67
Structure Fire-69
Unattended Cooking– 20
Auto– Accident (10-30) - 141
Auto– Accident (10-29) - 665
Auto– Accident (10-28) - 53
Auto Fire– 68
Near Drowning– 17
Drowning– 25
Rescue Service– 72
Hazardous Material Incidents—15
Industrial Accidents– 9
Bomb Threats– 8
Live Ordinance– 24
Fire Inspection– 1947

FY ‘12 Calls by Volume
23,139

Guam Fire Department Personnel Listing as of August 2013

Uniformed Positions
Fire Chief– 1
Assistant Fire Chief- 1
Fire Battalion Chief- 2
Fire Captain- 40
Fire Lieutenant- 72
FF I - 59
FF II- 72
Firefighter Recruit– 27

Non-Uniformed
Emergency Medical Dispatchers– 23

Total Civilian Positions
Administrative Personnel– 9
The main operating fund of the agency is the General Fund. As noted in the Deloitte’s Government of Guam Independent Auditors’ Report, the general fund is the chief operating fund of GovGuam. Alternate funding sources that the agency uses are classified as Special Funds (revenues that are restricted for specific purposes).
In 2011, the Guam Fire Department was in shambles. Lacking the most basic resources, response vehicles, equipment, and supplies to perform their mission, firefighter morale and safety was at an all-time low. Throughout the year, the GFD was operating with as few as one ambulance to serve the entire island. Fire trucks, rescue boats, and auxiliary vehicles were in a state of disrepair, breaking down at an alarming rate.

The incoming Administration realized that competent fire leadership was difficult to find as four different Acting Fire Chiefs were nominated but never appointed. In September 2011, amidst an EMS crisis, a Chief was finally selected to lead the department out of disarray. Under the new leadership, the GFD has made tremendous strides and achieved several milestones due to the strong commitment of this Administration to the Fire Service. A year later, there are seven newly purchased ambulances in operation with four more on the way and over $1.5 million spent on equipment ranging from personal watercraft, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, and individual facemasks, to trauma bags, extrication tools, and computers for in-house training.

The full implementation of our ambulance billing system was a huge milestone in the history of the Guam Fire Department. This public-private partnership has finally given us the ability to properly recover over 25% of the cost for our services. With the final certification for Medicare/Medicaid billing, we expect a truly consistent revenue source for years to follow. The purchase of Toughbook computers has now replaced our clipboards and paper reports as part of our paperless initiative. Although the advanced software required extensive training and a long transition period, we now have the advantage of compiling accurate response statistics to support focused analysis and grant projects. An organization’s most valuable asset is the employee. That is why we are focusing our efforts on training for our personnel utilizing national standards and certifications to bring added value and improvement to the service we provide to the community. For the first time, the GFD Fire Prevention Bureau is 100% nationally certified to conduct Fire Inspections, Plans & Review and Fire Investigations. Our Emergency Medical Dispatchers have achieved Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) certification for emergency tele-communicator, and our Firefighters are in the process of transitioning into the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. Most recently, 40 firefighters have obtained Pro-Board certification to the level of Hazardous Materials Technicians. As recommended by the Guam National Guard, our Hazardous Materials Response capability will be capable of isolating and mitigating any domestic all-hazard incident, thereby reducing the reliance on military Civil Support Teams.

Our Fire Prevention Bureau has the daunting task of enforcing the Fire Code for over 30,000 businesses and the more than 1,000 permit-required events every year. Essential to execution of this task is our citation program initiative. As of June of this year, we have established the processes to support enforcement of Fire Code regulations. This ultimately results in a safer community for our residents and visitors. Understanding our role in the forward progress of our economy, our Fire Marshall has made great strides towards greater efficiency, fire code education outreach and quicker response to the needs of our community.