

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

The governance of responses to the Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within sixty (60) days, governing bodies (for example, the Board of Supervisors) must respond within ninety (90) days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Advising Judge and the Grand Jury Foreperson.

Report Title: DUNNIGAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Report Date: 3/13/12

Response by: MEL GARCIA Title: FIRE CHIEF

FINDINGS

☒ I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

F1, F4 + F8

☐ I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

RECOMMENDATIONS

☒ Recommendations numbered: R3
have been implemented (attach a summary describing the implemented actions).

☒ Recommendations numbered: R1 + R2
require further analysis (attach an explanation of the analysis or study, and the time frame for the matter to be prepared by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body where applicable. The time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of the Grand Jury Report).

☐ Recommendations numbered: _____
will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable (attach an explanation).

Date: 5-17-12 Signed: Mel Garcia

Total number of pages attached 2

COMMISSIONERS

Sherri Still
Yvonne W. Strong
Anita Tatum
Kelly Strong
Bob Becker



FIRE CHIEF

Mel Garcia

SECRETARY

Sherrill Jenkins

DUNNIGAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**P.O. BOX 213
DUNNIGAN, CA 95937
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May 6, 2012

Honorable Judge David Reed
Superior Court of California
County of Yolo
725 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

RE: 2011-12 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Reed,

Before I respond to the findings, I would first like to make a correction to the Grand Jury's understanding about the District's out-of-area volunteers. Our out-of-area volunteers make up only 15% of our volunteer roster, however 50% of the volunteers work outside of the District.

The following is the my response to the 2011-2012 Yolo County Grand Jury Final Report specifically addressing the Dunnigan Fire Protection District Findings F-1, F-4, F-5 and F-8, and recommendations R1, R2, and R3.

I agree with the following findings; F1, F4 and F8. I would not necessarily agree with F-5: *"Responders to medical emergency calls often do not follow protocol. The first responder to a medical emergency may respond from their location while the second responder is in route from the fire station with equipment"*.

In my opinion, the first responder arriving at the emergency scene from a location other than the station would be more of a rarity, than the norm. A Firefighter may respond to a medical emergency from their location after being assured via radio transmission that additional firefighters are responding from the station with the appropriate equipment. This applies only to local medical emergencies; **under no circumstances** shall a firefighter respond to a freeway incident in their private vehicle.

For purposes of readability we have included the Grand Jury's recommendation in italics with our responses following.

R1 *“Implement a standard written policy to inform all volunteer firefighters of the DFPD volunteer retention procedure.”*

This recommendation will be implemented within 2 months.

We are committed to ensuring all volunteers are knowledgeable about the retention policies outline within the existing association’s by-laws. Although these by-laws are provided to the recruits when they are first accepted to our department, and the probationary period and procedures to become a fully vested volunteer are also discussed at this time, we understand a standalone document specifically designed to be given to new volunteers may help with communicating these conditions. Our goal is to support all new volunteers so they may make full volunteer status. We are planning on implementing an Annual Awards and Recognition Dinner to acknowledge the accomplishments and dedication of our members. This dinner will serve as a vehicle to celebrate our members, their efforts and commitment as volunteers who strive to serve our community. In addition, California State Firefighters Association provides a workshop for Rural Districts on the topic of Recruitment and Retention. We will make a point to send Officers to this event when it made available in our region.

R2 *“Identify and publish a protocol for response call situation that may be appropriate for the first responder to respond from their location directly to the emergency.”*

This recommendation will be implemented within 2 months

We agree with the concept that in some cases it would be appropriate for the first responder to arrive at the emergency before going to the stations as our current policies require. We will develop and publish a policy that can be used to identify what situations may be appropriate for this tactic, and how the policy can be put into practice.

R3 *“Consider increasing the number of firefighters who are EMT trained.”*

This recommendation has been implemented to the fullest extent possible.

We responded in the 2008-09 Grand Jury Report that it is always our goal to get as many volunteer firemen EMT certified as possible. We actively provide training opportunities, including medical aid training, for all who wish to undertake the training, and will continue to consider ways to promote the EMT Certification as much as possible.

Respectfully yours,

Mel Garcia, Fire Chief
Dunnigan Fire Protection District