

# VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

**DATE:** January 18, 2013

**TO:** Randy Recklaus  
Village Manager

**FROM:** Brian Leahy  
Fire Chief

**SUBJECT:** Sharing of Services with the Hinsdale Fire Department

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After about one year of work an IGA was approved and the Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills fire departments formally began the sharing of fire/ems services in August of 2010.

We have now been sharing these services for more than two (2) years.

## **DISPATCHING SERVICES**

- In April of 2010, the Hinsdale Fire and Police Departments moved all of their 9-1-1 and dispatching functions over to Southwest Central Dispatch (SWCD). Their fire and police departments moved their operations over to the respective fire and police radio systems used by Clarendon Hills.
- Certain specified calls in the SWCD Computer Aided Dispatch CAD system at SWCD are dispatched to both fire departments at the same time automatically to reduce response time and provide more resources on the emergency scene quicker.

## **FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

- In April of 2011, an automated-remote control fire lane gate was installed at the Lions Park Pool on Byrd Ct. All Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale fire department vehicles are equipped with a remote control to open and close this gate. This gate is used for emergency purposes only and reduces response times to the south portions of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale. The Clarendon Hills Public Works Department provides snow removal through this fire lane gate area. Three (3) Public Works vehicles are also equipped with remote controls for this gate.
- With the beginning of the shared fire-ems services in August of 2010, part-time on duty staffing for the Clarendon Hills Fire Department was increased from 2.5 firefighters on duty to 3 firefighters on duty. The number of personnel on duty now is less than recommended in the PAR Staffing Study report that was done in 2007. This report recommended staffing the Clarendon Hills Fire Department with 4-5 firefighters at all times. This shared services arrangement has allowed us to keep our staffing at 3 firefighters per shift at this time. If the number of emergency calls increase in the future, this staffing number will need to be evaluated.

- Fire-Rescue call response on scene times have been reduced by almost one (1) minute because of the increased staffing and also the automatic response from Hinsdale FD. At the end of this report I have attached a listing and graph showing response times for 2009, (before sharing) and then for 2010, 2011 and 2012 with the sharing in place. Below that you will see a listing of area fire department response times.
- In April of 2010, the villages of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale restructured their ambulance response fees to be identical. Also residents of both Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale are treated as residents in both villages for billing purposes, (reduced fees).
- Fire Chiefs from both Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale are constantly working together to refine procedures for standardization purposes. This is an ongoing project.

## **TRAINING**

- Training Officers from both the Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale Fire Departments meet or speak weekly to discuss training drills and explore joint training exercises.
- As time progresses, additional joint training is being scheduled and conducted. Recently live fire training was conducted with the two (2) departments at 421 E. Ogden Ave. in Hinsdale for two (2) days.
- Personnel from both fire departments continue to perform building familiarization at many buildings in both Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale.
- Personnel from both fire departments also perform street and address familiarize exercises and drive arounds with fire apparatus to become more familiar with the streets in both villages.
- Personnel from both departments also become more familiar with the equipment each department carries on their vehicles and how to use it.
- Training Officers are currently researching Officer Development training for both departments.
- Both departments share their NIMS instructors.

## **FIRE PREVENTION**

- Fire Prevention Officers from both Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale assist each other from time to time on various projects.
- Fire Prevention Officers have helped each other on large building fire inspections where it is more efficient to have two (2) inspectors on site when testing systems.
- Firefighters from both department attend the fire prevention open houses in both villages that are held in October of each year.
- The Hinsdale Fire Department loans the child safety trailer to us when we need it for Public Education Purposes.
- In April of 2010, the villages of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale restructured their fire and life safety inspectional fee schedules. Both villages now have identical fee schedules.

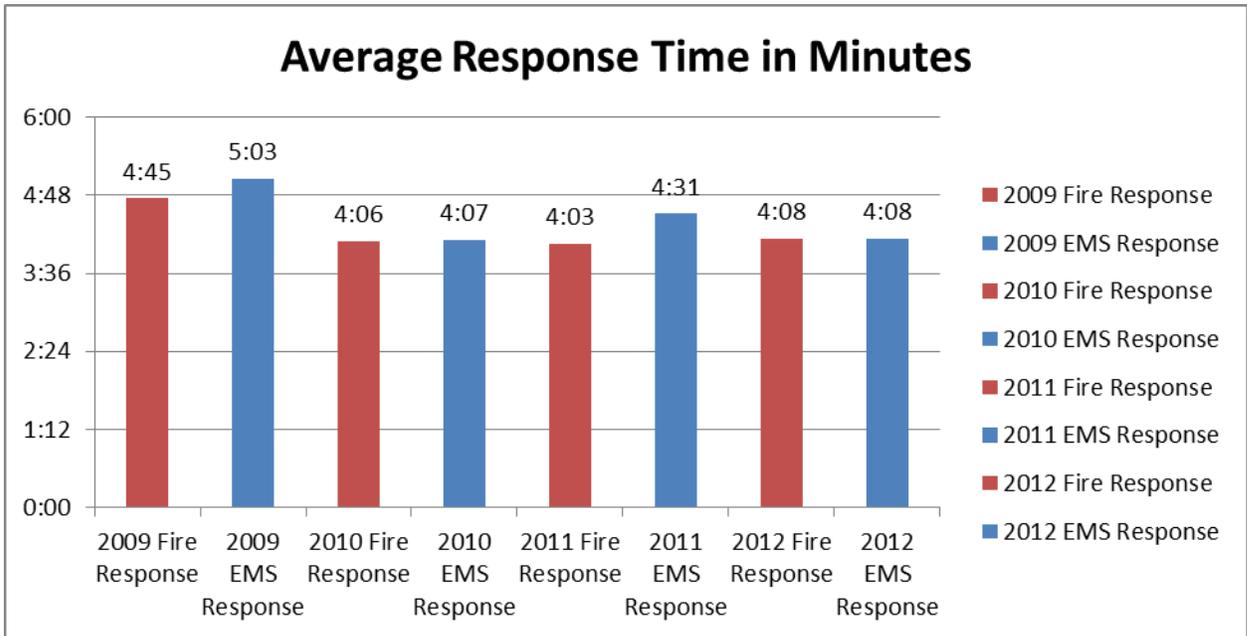
## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

- Both fire departments have taken the lead on the development of coordinated Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) for both villages.
- Both villages now have their EOP's loaded on the DuPage County Emergency Management Program (CEMP) server.
- Soon representatives from either village will have access to the CEMP's for Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale.
- Outdoor warning sirens for both villages have been placed on the same radio frequency for remote activation. SWCD can now activate the outdoor sirens in both villages at the same time. As a back-up each fire station has the same remote capability.
- Emergency Management Coordinators are now working together to try and develop joint Emergency Operating Centers (EOC). These joint EOC's might be used when or if an incident covers or affects the resources of both villages. Doing this could create more efficiency and better delivery of emergency services to the residents of both villages.

## **FUTURE PROJECTS**

- In the future we are looking into the possibility of having both villages amend their building and fire prevention codes so that they can be as similar as possible. This will be a big project and the estimated time to achieve this is unknown at this time.
- The two (2) Fire Chiefs are currently looking at various equipment and vehicle inventories to see if any equipment can be shared and possibly vehicles shared in some way. Right now the Hinsdale FD is in the process of possibly purchasing a new Engine to replace two (2) older engines. This would reduce their fleet by one vehicle. We are also looking at purchasing a new Heavy Duty Rescue Squad in Clarendon Hills in 2016 and providing space in this vehicle to place various pieces of specialized equipment that could be utilized by both departments.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me.



### AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>FIRE</u>	<u>EMS</u>
Hinsdale	4:06	4:06
Tri State	5:00	4:30
Westmont	4:46	4:25
Oak Brook	4:51	3:51
<b>Average</b>	<b>4:44</b>	<b>4:08</b>

