

**DEPARTMENT:** San Antonio Fire Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Charles N. Hood

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** City Wide

**SUBJECT:**

The Public Safety Committee will be provided with a briefing of the San Antonio Fire Department's response times, logistics, personal protective equipment, and mental health programs available to firefighters. This presentation will include departmental innovations in the industry and departmental statistics.

**SUMMARY:**

The San Antonio Fire Department has a robust logistical network that works diligently to meet the needs of one of the nation's largest fire departments. This informative presentation will give the Public Safety Committee with an overview of the department's response data, personal protective equipment logistics, and mental health programs. There will also be an overview of the capabilities of the department's logistics system and how this system has adapted to emerging challenges.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Department Metrics**

Data driven decision making is key in today's fire service. The San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) maintains operational performance measures intended to assess department's response availability, optimize its capability to arrive and mitigate an incident, and evaluate effectiveness of on-scene operational performance. The SAFD tracks and monitor metrics with the goal of achieving positive outcomes for the community, firefighters and any property involved. Response time information will be presented to the Public Safety Committee along with an overview of the criterion the SAFD has to comply in order to maintain its current Accreditation Status.

**Department Logistics**

The SAFD is an all hazards department that responds to a wide variety of incidents and situations. To meet the demands of this mission the department has developed a large logistics network that is housed in the Fire Department Services and Logistics Facility. Logistics in Fire Service includes the deployment and tracking of supplies, equipment, and services to support emergency operations.

The SAFD Logistics facility was constructed in 2013 and provides fleet maintenance, equipment maintenance, and air services for the department. The on-site warehouse stores medical equipment, fire equipment, station supplies, medical PPE, and other items used by the department.

### **Employee Wellness Programs**

Firefighter health and safety are top priorities of the SAFD. The Department has established a wellness and prevention program to assist firefighters manage their own health and decrease the potential for debilitating illness down the road.

The SAFD has taken a hard stance to prevent firefighters from being exposed to carcinogens at fire scenes and work locations. As part of this “cancer initiative” the fire department has established an innovative program to ensure that apparatus and protective clothing is properly cleaned and stored, protecting firefighters throughout their careers.

The physical demands that first response activities place on firefighters and EMS personnel are well known, however it is also critical to address the impact that responding to these emergencies has on the mental wellbeing of first responders. The behavioral risks that first responders face include anxiety, depression, burnout, post-traumatic stress disorders among others. Taking care of mental health is as important as physical health.

In recognition of these challenges, the department has developed several programs to ensure that firefighters remain resilient, mentally focused, and strong. Programs include a combination of technological and traditional methods to provide as many tools as possible to care for our personnel. The presentation will include an explanation of both internal and external offerings to firefighters for their mental health.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

This presentation is for informational purposes only.