



Colorado Centre Metropolitan District
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Mr. Dossey,

Colorado Centre Metropolitan District's (CCMD) First Responders Service plays an important role in community safety as well as community fire protection, prevention, and education. With professional emergency certifications and services such, as Firefighters and Fire Officers, Emergency Medical Technicians, Hazardous Material Operations Specialist, Wildland Firefighters, Public Information Officers, and Fire and Life Safety Educators, coupled with the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Colorado Springs Fire Department, a recent survey by the International Organization for Standards (ISO) awarded the CCMD community an insurance rating of 2. This rating is strictly based on Fire Protection to the community which is most often provided by a Fire Department. For this reason, it is my recommendation that the CCMD First Responder Service be recognized as a "Fire Department" by the State of Colorado and that be reflected in the CCMD service plan.

The most important reason for this change is to create added life safety benefits to the community as well as our Firefighters. Our current service plan listing as a First Responder Service does not qualify us for Fire Department specific grants that would improve our service delivery. For example, our current annual budget does not allow each firefighter to have a set of personal protective equipment fitted and assigned specifically to them. We have outdated equipment such as an extrication tool (jaws of life) that is no longer serviceable. We do not have a PPE extractor which removes toxic cancer-causing chemicals from our PPE after fires. The added concern to that is that if this gear is worn into a community members home, this contaminates their living space. Having said that, we continue to provide a professional emergency response and fire protection service to the community no different than other fire departments.

Each of our Firefighters has a minimum of 5 years of paid professional firefighting experience. The fire station is staffed with these professional firefighters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These firefighters are able to provide an immediate fire department specific response anywhere in the districts service area within minutes. This is then backed up by a full fire department response from the Colorado Springs Fire Department. As stated above, the First Responder Service and response that is provided by CCMD is no different than any other small size fire department in the nation. In fact, we have responded to and mitigated two structures fires in the past three months with such efficiency that fires were extinguished quickly enough that the homes were not only saved but still habitable. Further support for recognition as a "fire department" can be seen in our 911 alarm response statically breakdown over the past two years of service provided to the district which has been attached to this packet.

By definition, a first responder is "a person (such as a police officer or an EMT) who is among those responsible for going immediately to the scene of an accident or emergency to provide assistance." CCMD currently provides a **team** of professional firefighters that respond to and **mitigates** emergencies. Our firefighters are then backed up by the Colorado Springs Fire Department. This is similar to other fire department's utilizing mutual aid agreements to supplement emergency responses due to lack of funding for additional needed resources.

As a 23-year veteran of the Fire Service and as the District's Fire Chief, it is my recommendation that the service plan reflect the fire department response that is currently being provided to the community with recognition as a "Fire Department". The original service plan is outdated and it is in the community's best interest to make this change as soon as possible. For all practical purposes, the CCMD First Responders Service response model and abilities is that of a Fire Department. Thank you for your consideration in labeling the serves as what it should be, the Colorado Centre Fire Department.

Sincerely,

Josh Winter
Fire Chief
Colorado Centre First Responder Service