

GOAL 1

Improve the level of public safety

EXHIBIT E NevadaStakeholder Document consists of 2 pages.

☒ Entire document provided.A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail library@lcb.state.nv.us. Meeting Date: 9/10/10

OBJECTIVE #5

Enhance fire prevention and firefighting capabilities

Fires, both arson and accidental, diminish Nevadans' safety at home and work. Having an efficient and effective fire department can help minimize injury and losses from fire.

METRIC

Firefighters per capita

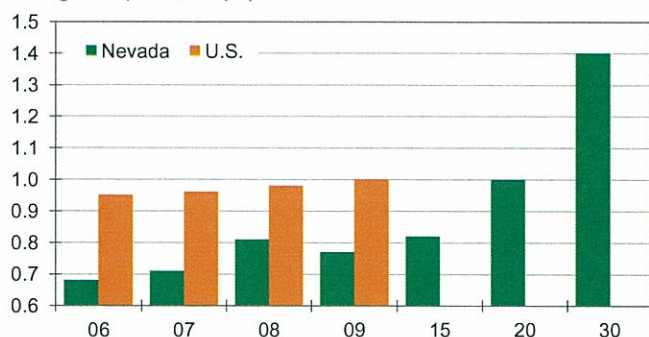
Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' occupational employment statistics and Census Bureau population estimates are used to create the metric, which reflects the coverage of the state's firefighting agencies. Efficient response times and cooperation among agencies will improve the safety of Nevada's residents.

The metric is a proxy for fire response. It is an indirect measure, and it does have some limitations. It does not capture response times nor overtime hours required to meet coverage needs. The per capita measure also understates coverage per person because of the large number of tourists who visit the state.

Because the per capita figures for the Mountain West, excluding Nevada, are generally in line with the national average, the interim goals are focused on the national average. The national standard established by the International City Managers Association of 1.4 firefighters per 1,000 residents is the long-run goal. Nevada falls well short of the average, especially if the resident population is augmented by the large number of tourists. The goal is to extend recent improvement in 2015, to meet the national average by 2020, and to meet the national standard by 2030.

Enhance Fire Prevention, Firefighting Capabilities

Firefighters per 1,000 population



Sources: State of Nevada Department of Public Safety, BLS, Moody's Analytics

STRATEGIES

Encourage fire departments to consolidate

Consolidation among fire departments can lead to greater efficiency. Encouraging such consolidation can lead to better use of resources. Given the funding issues that face fire departments, consolidation to enable the sharing of resources should be encouraged. Programs should use a bottom-up approach, with local departments taking the initiative. At the same time, the state can work from the top down to provide a framework for collaboration. The state can promote and encourage, without coercing.

Fire departments should be sure to focus on maintaining safe response times, even when there has been consolidation among fire departments. The national standard, as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association, for a fire department to respond to a call is within four minutes. This is particularly important because of the high share of medical calls to which fire departments respond. Ensuring that responders are there within four minutes will increase their effectiveness. Attention to response

times will be more of a concern in Nevada's rural areas.

Encourage greater resource sharing

While resource sharing would be a natural outcome of department consolidation, this approach can be encouraged even in the absence of consolidation.

Since training and preparation are critical to firefighting, it is important to have a properly prepared workforce. When residents call for help, departments need to ensure the response is appropriate. Joint training efforts not only improve departments' capabilities but also foster closer working relationships.

Departments can also work jointly on supply acquisition. Fire departments' equipment needs are similar, and a joint facility could streamline ordering and purchasing. This could be modeled on the U.S. Army's approach to centralized supply.

STRATEGIES (Continued)

Ensure efficient use of technology

Coordinating the use of technology across agencies is another key strategy for improving the compatibility of communication and database systems, enabling efficient cooperation among public safety agencies. The fire alarm office is one area for IT innovations. Upgrades to this joint agency venture would not only help improve responses to calls but would also be more financially efficient, if appropriately implemented.

Fire departments would also benefit from widespread use of geographic information systems, which would allow effective use of and proper analysis of the overall emergency management system. Used to map out plans for fire departments, GIS would also allow departments to better serve their communities.

Focus on preventing youth from setting fires

As mentioned under the objective to discourage juvenile crime, the existing Las Vegas Youth at Risk program could be expanded or used as a model for other jurisdictions. This is particularly relevant to fire safety because, among its other objectives, the program focuses on preventing youths from starting fires.