

Briefing Paper

Public Safety and Community Health Committee

Division & Department:	Spokane Fire Department
Subject:	Wildland Fires, 5-Year Review
Date:	01/23/2018
Contact (email & phone):	Brian Schaeffer, Fire Chief 509-625-7001
City Council Sponsor:	
Executive Sponsor:	Chief Brian Schaeffer
Committee(s) Impacted:	Public Safety and Community Health
Type of Agenda item:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Initiative
Alignment: (link agenda item to guiding document – i.e., Master Plan, Budget, Comp Plan, Policy, Charter, Strategic Plan)	Memo attached
Strategic Initiative:	Standardize and integrate incident management program
Deadline:	July 2018
Outcome: (deliverables, delivery duties, milestones to meet)	Discussion only
<u>Background/History:</u> <i>Councilmember Lori Kinnear requested a five-year review of the wildland-fire incidents that occurred within the City limits. The data was requested to spur conversation of the risk to the City of Spokane from the dangers of wildland fire following the disasters in communities throughout California. Managing the resources, strategy and risk from a wildland-urban interface incident highlight's the criticality of the integrated incident management program that is standardized throughout the region.</i>	
<u>Executive Summary:</u> Wildland Fire Stats: 2013-2017 Total Responses: 701 Average Per Year: 140.2	
<u>Budget Impact:</u> Approved in current year budget? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Annual/Reoccurring expenditure? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A If new, specify funding source: Other budget impacts: (revenue generating, match requirements, etc.)	
<u>Operations Impact:</u> Consistent with current operations/policy? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Requires change in current operations/policy? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Specify changes required: Known challenges/barriers:	



BRIAN SCHAEFFER
FIRE CHIEF

January 19, 2018

To: Lori Kinnear, Council Member
From: Brian Schaeffer, Fire Chief
RE: Wildland Incident, 5-Year Perspective

Per your request, the following images illustrate the wildland incidents in the City over a 5-year period. Following our experience in the past several years, and most recently in California, the threat to our citizens from a wildland urban interface fire is a valid concern. We have made a number of preparations to prevent the consequences from the threat such as:

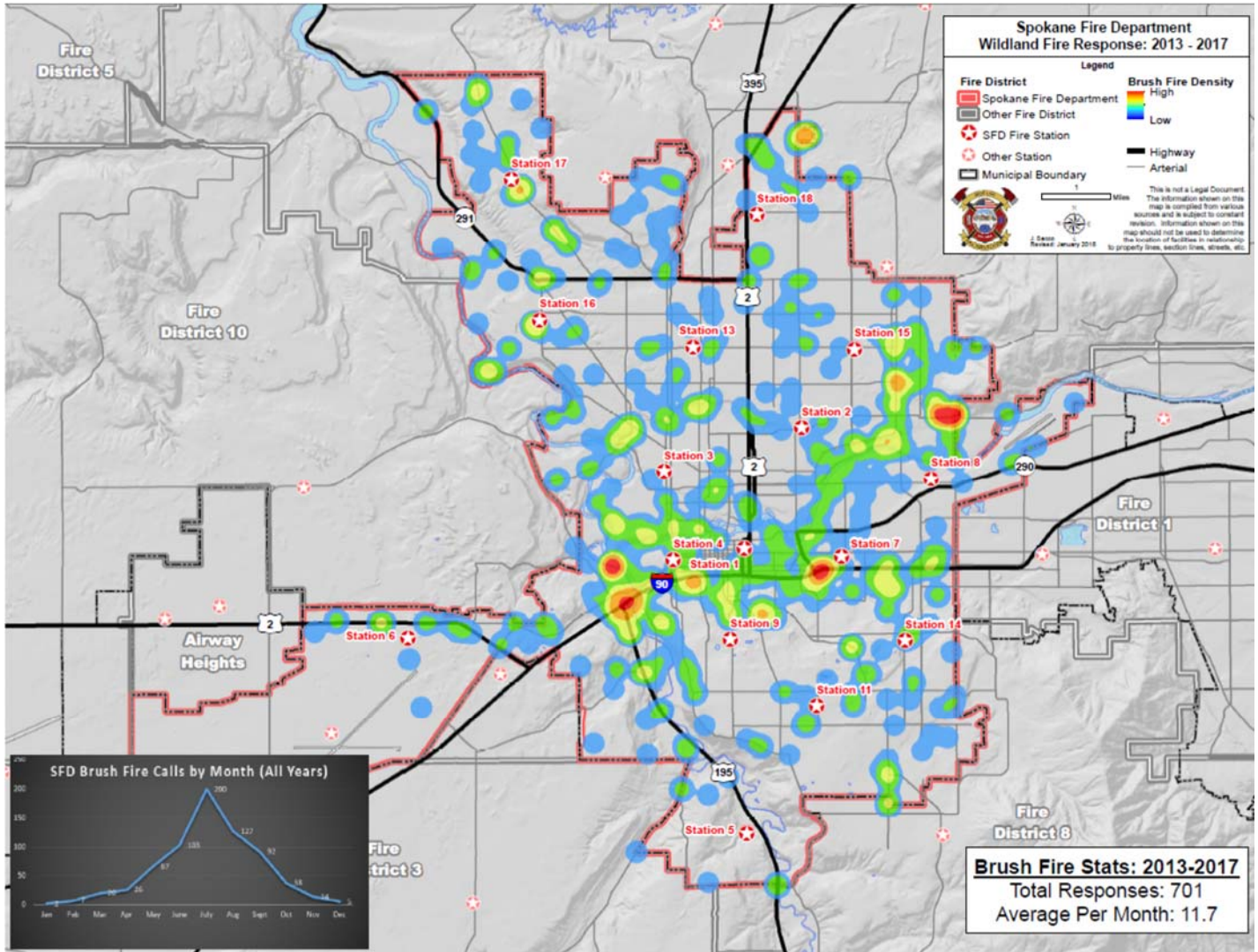
- Strategically locating firefighting resources throughout the City of Spokane with respect to response time and risk
- Added initial wildland firefighting training and certification into the entry-level academy
- Trained 100% of our firefighters to the NWCG Wildland Fire Standards
- Equipped all of the equipment with specialized wildland safety equipment such as shelters and PPE
- Added 48 firefighters to the department that improve our ability to mitigate incidents quicker and safer
- Made strategic investments with grant and SIP funding to purchase and update nine brush engines that are located in areas of high-risk and cross-staffed by SFD firefighters
- Improved automatic aid agreements to ensure the closest brush resource is sent to the incident regardless of jurisdiction
- The Fire Chief and members of the command staff function in regional leadership positions to support "large picture" incident management and resource allocation for the PNW
- The CCC is the Regional Coordination Center for State Mobilization in Northeast Washington as well as the coordinator for all resources in Spokane County.
- Purchase and implementation of FirstWatch for Area Coordinators to monitor the resource levels within the system in real time and receive notification of specific triggers (resource draws, a specific number or type of incidents...etc.)

As you can see, the SFD has spent a number of years preparing and mitigating the risk to the City from the threat of wildland fires. Despite those efforts, fires continue to occur and are handled swiftly and effectively. There remains areas of improvement within the community primarily in the areas of fuels mitigation and education. Since wildland urban-interface incidents are resource heavy and routinely stress out the deployment system for the SFD, any improvement in staffing for these incidents improves the safety of the employees working as well as the efficiency in completing the work (fire line construction, fire line reinforcement, burnout operations, progressive hose lays, and overhead/safety responsibilities, etc.). We welcome the opportunity in future sessions to discuss any detail of this issue that you feel important for the committee.



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