

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

315



FROM: FIRE

SUBMITTAL DATE:
February 10, 2005

SUBJECT: Improvement to Hazmat Response System and Expansion of Paramedic Services to Eastern Riverside County

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board:

1. Approve reorganization and relocation of the Hazardous Materials Response Units.
2. Utilize the savings from Hazmat reorganization to fund a FFII-Paramedic position assigned to Engine 32 (La Quinta) enabling paramedic services to be expanded to county residents throughout the adjacent unincorporated area.
3. Utilize the savings from the Hazmat reorganization to upgrade three FFII's to three FFII-Medics at Station 81 (No. Bermuda Dunes).

BACKGROUND:

Hazmat Response System Improvements:

Currently we have a Hazardous Materials Support Unit and Hazardous Materials Unit cross-staffed with Engine 81, Bermuda Dunes. After careful evaluation, staff has determined that the Hazmat Response System can be improved by relocating the Hazmat Unit to Cabazon and maintaining Hazmat Supports at Station 81 and 34. A Hazmat Unit is staffed with three personnel on a vehicle containing all of the hazmat equipment needed to handle the various hazmat responses occurring in the County. A Hazmat Support Unit is a smaller vehicle staffed with two personnel carrying the equipment needed to quickly assess a hazardous materials incident. (Continued on Page Two)

Craig E. Anthony

Craig E. Anthony, County Fire Chief

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	For Fiscal Year:	04/05
SOURCE OF FUNDS	Structural fire taxes, general funds and contract reimbursement			Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 <input type="checkbox"/> Requires 4/5 Vote <input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature *Bob Schwell*

Dept Recomm.: Consent Policy
Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** ALL | **Agenda Number:**

3.18

Departmental Concurrence



By relocating the unit to Cabazon, the equipment and personnel will be able to respond faster to a wider service area. The Hazmat Support Units generally are first responders to an incident and assess the need to the expanded hazmat service provided by the Hazmat Unit. Full hazmat response is frequently unneeded and most often the incident has been handled by Hazmat Support before the Hazmat Unit can arrive on the scene. By reallocating the hazmat resources to these locations, equipment and personnel will be used more efficiently and effectively. Estimated contract savings for FY 04/05 is \$293,311.

Paramedic Upgrade – Engine 93/LaQuinta:

Currently the City of La Quinta has 2.0 staffing at their stations, but also funds a 2-person paramedic squad that currently services only La Quinta. The La Quinta fire engines respond into the County areas on a routine basis. For example, almost 60% of the calls handled by Station 93 are outside the city limits. La Quinta has agreed to go to 3.0 staffing by eliminating the paramedic squad and placing all the paramedics on the engines if the County will provide and fund one additional FFII Paramedic on Engine 93. In return, the City of La Quinta will expand their paramedic services to include residents outside the city limits. City of La Quinta also intends to continue paying for all materials and medical supplies related to this expanded paramedic service. The department believes encouraging and supporting La Quinta's 3.0 staffing on all their engines will enhance the County's integrated fire system and expand critical public safety services to the Eastern County residents. Current year cost is estimated at \$66,231.

Paramedic Upgrade – Engine 81/No. Bermuda Dunes

The savings from reorganizing the Hazardous Materials Unit also allows the scheduled FY 05/06 Medic upgrade at Station 81 to be implemented 4 months ahead of schedule. This involves upgrading three FFII's to three FFII-Medics at a current year cost of \$14,379 and annual cost of \$43,138.

Current Year Savings:

Reorganization of Hazmat Units - Savings	\$ 293,311
County Funded FFII Paramedic/Engine 93	\$ <66,231>
Upgrade 3 FFII's to Medics/ Engine 81	\$ <14,379>

Net Savings 04/05	\$ 212,701

Annualized Savings:

Reorganization of Hazmat Units	\$ 703,946
County Funded FFII Paramedic/Engine 93	\$ <113,539>
Upgrade 3 FFII's to Medics/Engine 81	\$ < 43,138>

Net Savings FY 05/06	\$ 547,269