

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RALPH M. TERRAZAS
FIRE CHIEF

July 27, 2015

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 15-083

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT ON
BACKLOGGED INSPECTIONS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER -APRIL
THROUGH MAY 2015

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

The goals of the Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) as stated in the FPB Strategic Plan clearly identify inspection deficiencies levels. In early February 2015, the FPB implemented a data clean-up and inspection process that reduced inspection backlog by over 45%. This program is scheduled to last an additional eight months. "Operation Catch-Up" will utilize newly appointed staff and existing experienced Inspectors. With the exception of dedicated V-hours, it is anticipated that this focused approach will have zero fiscal impact on our budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:
Receive and file this report.

DISCUSSION

The FPB developed its strategic plan that focused on accomplishing the Mayor and Fire Chief's goals and concepts. This plan caused the FPB to assess and modify its business model to better meet the inspection needs of our Community.

By utilizing a weekly and monthly FireStat process, partnering with other City Departments and contracting with private industry, we have transitioned into a data driven Bureau, capturing and tracking efficiency levels down to daily activity and success of our members. These actions have provided the Bureau with the ability to plan, organize, and project Bureau production on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual basis.

Recently, the Fire Chief has filled eight vacancies in the Inspector I rank. These eight Inspectors will focus their efforts on our back-log of inspections. At the completion of "Operation Catch-Up" these Inspectors will be appropriately placed in their respective Units.

We have improved our partnership with City agencies such as the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) resulting in technology assistance and improvements. The development and expansion of the Fire Inspection Management System (FIMS) has expedited the completion of new construction projects within the City with the hiring of five Fire Protection Engineer Associates (FPEA) and staffing additional plan check counters. We have managed to reduce our counter wait time by 29%. Our Inspectors are able to conduct inspections within 24-hours of a request.

We have also implemented a remote access inspection program that utilizes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping for brush inspections.

In an effort to be more transparent, we have conducted an "All Members" meeting where we discussed the FPB strategic plan and goals with FPB personnel. We anticipate completing another "All Members" meeting within the month and have scheduled a similar meeting to be conducted semi-annually. The FPB has also implemented a FPB quarterly newsletter that provides the Department with brief overviews of changes and direction happening in the FPB.

After review of the State-mandated inspection responsibilities, it was determined that all State building inspections, except for the Coliseum and Sports Arena site, should be returned to the responsibility of the State. This transition is in its development stage and anticipated to be complete by September 2015.

Annual inspections are scheduled and completed by Fire Inspectors on an annual basis. This data represents progress which began in February 2015 on reducing the back-log of inspections.

Industrial & Commercial Section and Public Safety Section
Reduction of back-log

Annual Inspections As of 2-20-2015	Backlog 10,013	% Improvement 0
Annual Inspections As of 5-1-2015	Backlog 6,250	% Improvement 37.58%
Annual Inspections As of 6-24-2015	Backlog 6,477	% Improvement 35%
Annual Inspections As of 7-16-2015	Backlog 5,475	% Improvement 45%

Data collected from Overdue Inspection Report within FPA.

The following data was collected from Envision Connect and reflects the status as of June 30, 2015 on triennial and annual inspections.

CUPA Section July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

C U P A Section	I n s p e c t i o n s			
	Total	Triennial Total	Fiscal Year to Date	Fiscal Year to Date %
Triennial Inspections				
HAZ MAT	6,933	2,311	1,317	56.99%
A P S A	127	42	55	100.00%
Cal ARP	46	15	11	73.33%
Annual Inspections				
U S T	1,326		1,092	82.35%

Data collected from Envision Connect.

The following data was collected from Fire Prevention Application (FPA) and reflects the status of the first and second quarters of 2015 for the number of annual inspections completed and inspections that are backlogged.

Statistical Summary of Completed Inspection

	I n s p e c t i o n s					
	Total	Completed			Backlog As of 7-16-15	
		1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	Overall %	Count	%
Industrial Commercial Section	9,729	1,968	2,285	44%	1,956	19%
Central Industrial Unit	2,841	604	722	47%	456	16%
Harbor Industrial Unit	1,976	282	426	36%	660	33%
High Rise Unit	671	177	177	53%	62	9%
Valley Industrial Unit	2,345	565	417	42%	565	24%
West Industrial Unit	1,896	340	543	47%	213	11%
Public Safety Section	10,612	1,944	2,005	37%	3,519	27%
Film Unit	441	154	115	61%	31	7%
Institutions Unit	946	205	139	36%	402	42%
Public Assemblage Unit	1,594	437	390	52%	89	6%
Schools & Churches Unit	3,957	504	547	27%	2,047	52%
Valley Public Safety Unit	3,674	644	814	40%	950	26%

Data collected from FPA.

The following data was collected from the Vegetation Management System, (VMS) and reflects the status of the first and second quarters of the completed brush inspections.

Brush Clearance Unit							
	I n s p e c t i o n s						
	Total	Completed			Notices	Parcels to Bid Packages	Re-Inspections
		1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	Overall %			
Brush Clearance Unit	132,968	4,346	33,842	29%	4,196	588	1,839

Data collected from VMS.

The following data was collected from Q-Matic and Fire Inspection Management System, (FIMS) and reflects the status of counter wait time, number of customers served and field inspections from the first and second quarters of 2015.

Fire Development Services Section								
Average Counter Wait Time (min)								
Central			Valley			West		
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	Improvement	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	Improvement	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	Improvement
16	13	23%	11	10	9%	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total Number of Customers Served							
	Central		Valley		West			
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter		
	2,993	3,091	836	908	N/A	N/A		
	Number of Field Inspections Conducted							
	Central		Valley		West			
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter		
	N/A	167	N/A	77	N/A	112		

Data collected from Q-Matic and FIMS.

As we have expanded our partnership with Brycer, a third party reporting agency of fire/life safety system compliance, we have improved our high-rise building compliance by approximately 37% utilizing "The Compliance Engine."

The following data collected reflects the status of past due fire/life safety systems inspections in high-rise occupancies as of July 23, 2015.

Testing of Fire Protection Systems High-Rise							
Pre Go Live 2-1-2015		July 23, 2015					
Past Due		Past Due		Difference			
# of Systems		# of Systems		# of Systems		in %	% Difference
Grand Summary:		4624	62.18%	2146	37.03%	-2478	25.15%
							37.33%

Data collected from The Compliance Engine.

CONCLUSION

Through the efforts of the FPB personnel and the Department's overall commitment to fire/life safety, we have aggressively moved the FPB towards succeeding in the completion of tasks. Our focused approach and accountability measures are providing the expected results. As we seek opportunities to improve efficiency and enhance service levels we continue to rely on the commitment of all involved.

Board report prepared by John N. Vidovich, Deputy Chief, Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau.

