

ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE WILDLAND FIRE RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

Ashland Fire & Rescue provides fire and life safety services with a dedicated staff of thirty-two full-time employees, distributed between two municipal fire stations. The fire stations are strategically located to provide optimum response times to incidents throughout the city. During the business day firefighters and their assigned apparatus may be found absent from the fire stations and out working with members of the community throughout our 6 square miles of service area. In addition to providing fire services within the city, we also provide ambulance services to a 650 square mile service area in south Jackson County. The boundaries of this service area are the California state line on the south, Klamath County line on the east, northern city limits of Talent to the north and up into the Ashland Watershed on the west side.

PERSONNEL STAFFING PATTERNS

The scheduled staffing pattern provides for a total of nine firefighters on duty each day, distributed between the two city fire stations. Staffing consists of one Captain, two Engineers and six firefighter medics, who staff a total of six emergency vehicles as needed. All employees assigned to shift schedules are cross-trained in both fire and emergency medical disciplines. Due to the occurrence of employee vacancies such as vacation scheduling, educational leaves, family leaves, sick leaves and compensatory leave, the minimum staffing level maintained is seven firefighters on shift. Based on required authorized employee leaves, the department operates at the minimum staffing level approximately 65% of the time. Union contract provisions require an allowance for up to two employees off on approved leave at the same time when requested. Minimum staffing requirements are designed to minimize reliance on call-back paging of personnel for routine emergencies, and to enable the department to carry out a full range of services to the public on an ongoing basis.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION PATTERNS

Ashland Fire & Rescue firefighters are cross-trained for both structural fire and wildland firefighting assignments. Wildland fire responses in the Ashland area consist of two engines and one brush unit from Ashland Fire & Rescue, along with a coordinated response from Jackson County Fire District No. 5, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Ashland Ranger District. A typical summer fire season wildland fire burning in the Urban-Wildland Interface will prompt the response of four structural fire engines, four brush engines, three chief officers and several support units. All agencies which comprise this mutual-response to wildland fire emergencies share common radio frequencies and operating guidelines.