



News Release

Date: January 28, 2010
To: Area Media
From: Mark Boyer, Public Information Officer
Telephone: 910-798-7493
Fax: 910-798-7494
maboyer@nhcgov.com
Also posted at <http://www.nhcgov.com>
Re: NHC Fire Services Master Plan Report

(New Hanover County)—New Hanover County Commissioners on Monday will begin the discussion on a lengthy report outlining the possible future for fire service delivery in unincorporated New Hanover County. The master plan commissioned last year will give a number of options to provide a consistent level of fire protection from Federal Point to Castle Hayne. The board of commissioners will be asked to accept the report and request the county manager to evaluate the master plan and develop recommendations.

High among the recommendations is the continued utilization of volunteer firefighters as well as career staff to provide service throughout the county and achieve better homeowner insurance rates for residents. The study included an evaluation of current conditions, projected future service demands, and future delivery system models. The master plan also identifies cooperative opportunities between the agencies providing fire protection services. This master plan, in effect, is intended to become a guidance document for the Fire Service District for the next 20 years.

The initial phase of the report focused on a baseline assessment of the fire protection system as a whole. This was accomplished using data collected from site visits and historical data used to compare to industry standards and best practices. This information established a 'snap shot' of current conditions for the fire service in the County.

Various models of service delivery were then devised to help prepare the district for the future. Staffing levels, apparatus assignments, and response targets were combined to develop the best strategies for improvement and efficiency. Short, mid-term, and long range strategies were used to help identify future obligations of the County to continue to provide the best possible service.

MB