



Training Investment and Serious Accident Review Team (SART) Report Update

January 12, 2017

The Cortland Incident:

- On March 29, 2015, the Fresno Fire Department experienced a tragic Near-Miss Accident. This event is now known as the Cortland Incident.

Immediate After-Incident Response:

- Eight (8) days after the Cortland Incident, a panel of six (6) experts from various fire departments, as well as a member of Local 753, were assembled to investigate the incident and all contributing factors.
 - On January 20, 2016, the SART Team released their report which included **169** recommendations; all intended to assist in preventing the reoccurrence of another such incident.
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Support from City Council, City Manager, and Mayor Swearengin:

In January of 2016, City Council approved a mid-year funding increase (\$1.5m on-going) for the Fire Department to improve training, safety, and oversight:

- \$200,000 increase in Training funds;
 - One (1) new Deputy Chief;
 - Four (4) new Training Officers;
 - Three (3) new Battalion Chiefs;
 - One (1) new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Storekeeper.
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How has this investment improved the Department?

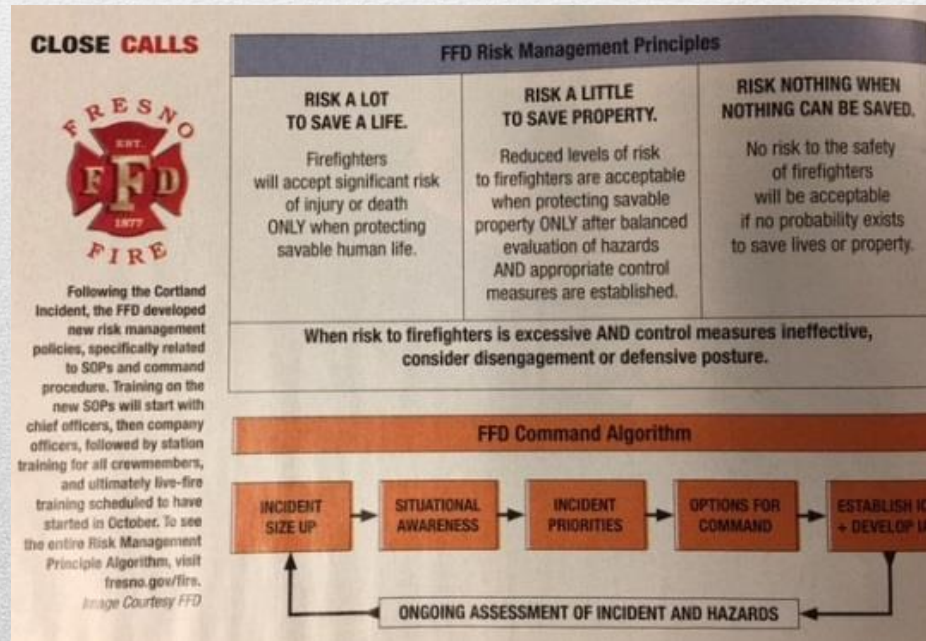
Training Staff Investment:

Training Delivered:

- **63,354** hours of training recorded to date;
 - **4,593** hours of Single-Company Training;
 - **9,392** hours of Multi-Company Training;
 - **12,978** hours of Academy Training;
 - **1,664** hours of EMS Training;
 - **1,961** hours of Officer Training;
 - Lesson Plans completed for all training evolutions;
 - A formal one (1) year Training Plan has been developed;
 - Extensive training has been conducted on the Principles of Modern Fire Behavior.
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Risk Management Policy Created, Published, and Training Initiated:

- **Command Algorithm implemented.**
(See Handout)



Investment Continued:

Improved Emergency Management (Oversight in the Field):

- Third Battalion Chief (BC) in the City opened on August 29, 2016;
- Manages day-to-day operations of multiple stations;
- Span of control improved from 1:8 to 1:6;
- Response times of BC's has improved by 48 seconds;
- Safety Chief Officer response time has improved by 22 seconds;
- Company training enhanced through BC-lead drills in the field.

A Change in Culture:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (more than turnouts);
 - Each new firefighter is issued PPE, valued at over \$5,500;
 - PPE must be worn properly during firefighting operations;
 - Maintenance and care of PPE - NFPA 1851;
 - Attitude of "button up";
 - "Slowing down" to ensure safety is first priority for fellow firefighters;
 - Members are open to and welcome new training curriculum;
 - Re-energized attitude in training.
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Investment Continued:

- **PPE Storekeeper:**
 - Maintain inventory of all PPE, including reserve stock;
 - Coordinate washing, repair and inspection of PPE;
 - Procure new PPE when needed (service life is 10 years);
 - Protect our investment of over \$1.5 million dollars.
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Within six (6) months of the **SART** Report release, remarkable progress has occurred:

- A SART Implementation Committee has been put in place, chaired by Captain Brad Driscoll;
 - 163 recommendations have been categorized into 21 objectives;
 - Prioritization is conducted based on risk level, timeline and cost factors;
 - 30 recommendations have been completed;
 - 83 recommendations are currently in process;
 - 54 recommendations have been prioritized and placed in the queue for completion.
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SART Report Actions Continued:

- Training Staff is in the process of developing an Officer's Academy;
 - Leadership Training for all Officers (BC and Captain) through several classes;
 - A Command and Control Subcommittee has been assembled;
 - Policy updates and integration;
 - Training to standardized incident management to include worksheets and tools;
 - Three (3) new training props have been custom built to support hands-on training.
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Future Training Investments:

- Two (2) Recruit Academies in 2016;
 - FFD received Local Academy Accreditation from the California State Fire Marshal's office;
 - Plans to refurbish or develop professional training facilities, including:
 - A Variable Pitch Roof and Flat Roof prop for ventilation training;
 - Modular Live Fire Prop for conducting realistic training on SART recommendations;
 - The FFD and Fresno City College are looking to future collaboration opportunities for our agencies through facilities, staffing, equipment and training opportunities.
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Leading in the Fire Service:

- No less than four (4) separate articles have been published on the Cortland Incident and FFD's response;
- Firehouse World Presentations (2016 & 2017)



In Summary:

- The Cortland Incident forever changed the FFD resulting in inspired and improved safety practices;
 - The FFD's actions are a model for the fire service;
 - The Department is steadfast in the commitment to implement recommendations of the SART Report.
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