

## Introduction

The Rochester Hills Fire Department Community Risk Reduction Division is made up of an Assistant Chief- Fire Marshal, Captain- Assistant Fire Marshal, two (2) Lieutenant/Fire Inspectors, and one (1) Fire and Life Safety Educator. This Division lost a Lieutenant/Fire Inspector through attrition in 2011. However, since that time the City and demand have continued to grow, while this position has not been restored.

The current staffing model of the Rochester Hills Fire Department Community Risk Reduction Division needs an infusion of additional full-time staffing to address the increasing demands of Fire Inspections and Fire and Life Safety Education. The Rochester Hills Fire Department's Community Risk Reduction Division needs to advance closer to nationally established benchmarks. "Benchmarks of performance provide external pegs against which local services measures may be compared, ideally addressing how efficiently the work is being performed, it's quality, and the department's effectiveness in achieving desired results". (Ammons, 2015)

Comprehensive Community Risk Reduction (CRR) efforts are made challenging by a number of factors:

- Shortage of Resources
- An increase in the size of the population
- Increased building
- Cultural Diversity
- Increase in hazards
- New technologies

Another challenge to a comprehensive CRR program is the rapidly aging population, which puts greater demands on services of all types, including those provided by Fire and Emergency Services. "Generally speaking the more complex a community is, the challenges it will face in establishing a comprehensive prevention effort because the scope of the programs will necessarily be broad." (ICMA)

The focal point of a fire department's efforts to minimize loss in a community is the Community Risk Reduction Division. Community Risk Reduction is considered to be the most important non-operational activity a fire department can be involved in. The main goal of the Community Risk Reduction Division is improving safety and quality of life for our citizens. The Rochester Hills Fire Department Community Risk Reduction Division is responsible for several areas:

- Fire and Life Safety Education (Public Education)
  - Senior Programs including fall prevention and fire safety education
  - School Programs
  - Public Events/Displays
  - Smoke Alarm Programs
  - Car Seat Installations
  - Community Business Programs
  - Fire Extinguisher Classes
  - CPR Classes
  - Health Fairs

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- Code Enforcement
  - Inspections
    - Routine Fire and Life Safety Inspections
    - Change of Occupancy Inspections
    - Special Event Inspections
    - Final Site Inspections
  - Plan Reviews
    - Site Plan
    - Special Event
    - Hazardous Materials
      - Aboveground Tanks
      - Special circumstances based on the Building Department's request (High Hazard Facilities)
  - Pre-construction Meetings
    - Roads
    - New Developments
  - Active Project Coordination
  - Pre-planning
    - Review of data
    - Input of data
  - False Alarm Maintenance
  - Fire Sprinkler, Alarm, and Special Hazard Maintenance
  - Knox Box Maintenance
  - Court Appearances
  - Car Seat Installation
  - Public Education Display and Events
  - Training and Continuing Education
  - Internal Meetings (Daily Briefings)
  - Meetings with other City Departments

The Federal Emergency Management's Agency website, Ready.gov states that "Fire is the most common cause of all business disasters. Each year fire causes thousands of deaths and injuries and billions of dollars in damage." (2012) When a business burns, the community may suffer a greater loss than the business owner. There is a much larger indirect cost when a business burns, including the following:

- Community perception that a burnt-out shell of a building indicates an incompetent fire department.
- Potential lost sales, and personal and property tax revenue.
- Lost work for businesses who supply the damaged business with goods and supplies.
- Lost wages for the employees of the affected business.
- The possibility the business may not rebuild and may move to another location.

During the Insurance Service Office review in 2018, the Rochester Hills Fire Department's Community Risk Reduction Division Staffing was one (1) area that was identified as deficient. The score received for Fire Prevention staffing was **2.58 out of 8** possible points. The CRR Division is unable to perform the

necessary duties that are required under the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (ISO), which recommends inspecting each occupancy every year.

### **Background and Significance**

The International Fire Code Section #103.1 states, "The bureau of fire prevention is established within the jurisdiction under the direction of the fire code official. The function of the Bureau of Fire Prevention shall be the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the provisions of the code." The preface of the International Fire Code states that: "Internationally code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date fire code addressing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire, handling of hazardous materials, and the use and occupancy of building and premises." (2012)

Currently, Rochester Hills has approximately 2,636 inspectable properties/occupancies within the City. The range of occupancies include all types and sizes, each bringing their own unique hazards. For example:

- **Assembly Occupancies- Emagine Theater, Churches, Restaurants**
  - An occupancy where 50 or more people gather for the amusement, entertainment, eating and drinking, worship or similar activities.
- **Business Occupancies- Doctor's Offices, Banks, Real Estate Offices**
  - Occupancy used to deliver service type of professional transactions.
- **Industrial Occupancies (Low and Moderate Hazard) - Molex, Jenoptik, A. Raymond, Fanuc-America**
  - Occupancy used for manufacturing, repair, or processing operations.
- **Industrial Occupancies (High Hazards) – 3 Dimensional Service, Universal Tube, Hi-Tech Mold**
  - Occupancy used for manufacturing, processing, generation or storage of materials that constitute a physical or health hazard based on quantities of chemicals.
- **Multi-family Residential Occupancies- Bedford Square, Cliffview, Northridge**
  - Structure that contains three (3) or more housing units.
- **Day-care Occupancies- KinderCare, Kiddie Academy, White Rose Academy**
  - Occupancy used to provide care to a minimum of four (4) clients for less than 24 hours at a time.
- **Dormitory Occupancies- Rochester College**
  - Structure providing sleeping accommodations for 16 or more persons in a series of closely associated rooms.
- **Hotel Occupancies- Days Inn, Red Roof, Holiday Inn Express, Woodsprings Suites**
  - Structure under the same management that provides sleep accommodations for more than 16 persons.
- **Mercantile Occupancies- Meijer, Wal-Mart, Target, Dick's Sporting Goods**
  - Occupancies open to the public that are used to store, display, and sell items.
- **Multiple-Use Occupancies- Strip Malls**
  - Structure with multiple occupancy types intermingled.
- **Storage Occupancies- Beyond Self Storage, U-Store-It, Compass Self Storage**
  - Occupancy that is primarily used for the storage of materials, merchandise, etc.

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Fire damage is the single largest cause of property loss in the United States. Property loss is homes, apartment buildings, businesses, libraries, schools and a host of other valuable community assets. Monetary losses incurred by structural fires amount to more than the combined losses resulting from hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, mudslides and all other types and sizes of natural disasters. It is estimated, that in 2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,345,500 fires. These fires were the cause of 3,280 civilian deaths. There was also an estimated 15,700 injuries that year as well. It was found, that on average fire departments in the U.S. responded to a fire every 23 seconds. Commercial Property damage results for 2017 include \$763 million in store and office properties, an increase of 75%; \$503 million in industrial and manufacturing properties, a 20% increase, and \$51,000,000 in educational properties, a 50% increase. **(See Table 1 below)** Conditions in buildings rarely remain the same. Changes in ownership, processes, and renovations can result in buildings being used in ways they were not originally intended. Forty to sixty percent of businesses do not reopen after a disaster and another 25 percent fail within one year according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Similar statistics from the United States Small Business Administration indicate that over 90 percent of businesses fail within two years after being struck by a disaster.

Property Use	Structure Fires		Property Loss <sup>1</sup>	
	Estimate	Percent change from 2016	Estimate	Percent change from 2016
Public assembly	14,500	+4%	\$285,000,000	-7%
Educational	5,500**	+38%	\$51,000,000	+50%
Institutional	7,000*	+27%	\$40,000,000	+8%
Other residential <sup>3</sup>	22,500	+15%	\$162,000,000	+8%
Stores and offices	18,000*	+13%	\$763,000,000	+75%**
Industry, utility, defense <sup>4</sup>	8,500	0%	\$503,000,000	+20%
Storage in structures	27,500	+2%	\$834,000,000	+25%
Special structures	39,000*	+34%	\$331,000,000	+70%**

**Table 1**

Business owners have a legal and ethical responsibility to keep their employees and customers safe. Businesses, no matter how large or small they may be, are legally obligated to understand and follow fire safety laws. However, many business owners don't understand fire safety requirements and ordinances to the fullest extent. It is our responsibility as an organization to educate our business owners in providing a consistent inspection frequency that reminds the occupants of the dangers of fire. Keep in mind that prevention measures will vary depending on the type of business. A welding business is going to need different safety protocols than an office that uses computers for the majority of its

work. A kitchen, where open flames are a daily occurrence, is going to have an even more lengthy set of requirements that need to be met.

America leads the industrial world in fire-related deaths. "The annual losses from floods, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and other natural disasters combined in the United States average just a fraction of the losses from fire." (2004) Code enforcement is a critical element in the success of fire prevention programs. Almost every aspect of a thorough fire prevention program is affected by code enforcement in some way. It plays a major role in fire and life safety inspections, plans review, hazardous materials and environmental investigations, and the issuance of fire prevention code permits. Code enforcement plays an important but more limited role in fire investigations, public education programs, and fire research and analysis.

### **Inspection Program**

The Rochester Hills Community Risk Reduction Division is a division of the Fire Department with the goal of providing the highest level of fire and life safety to all citizens and visitors of the City of Rochester Hills. The Division is responsible for providing inspection services to the business community and to ensure buildings are safe for both occupants and visitors while educating the public about fire prevention and life safety. The division prides itself in providing the most proactive fire and life safety guidance to our community as possible with its available resources. A routine fire inspection not only provides the fire department with valuable information for site planning but provides us with a chemical inventory of a business and risk assessment in case of an emergency response.

Together with the provisions of Chapter 58 of the City Ordinance, the City of Rochester Hills has adopted the 2006 International Fire Code (IFC) as published by the International Code Council and is known as the Rochester Hills Fire Prevention Code. The City of Rochester Hills Fire Department has the authority to inspect a business under Public Act 207 of 1941 – Fire Prevention Code, Section 29.8, "authorizes inspections and examinations of buildings and premises for the purpose of finding, reports, and recommendations related to the fire hazards." With very few exceptions, almost all buildings and structures are within the scope of the model fire code. Why are annual fire inspections important? Damage to business property and equipment, rising insurance premiums, and lost profits and productivity are just the beginning of fire recovery expenses. It is business critical to ensure fire and life safety systems are up-to-code.

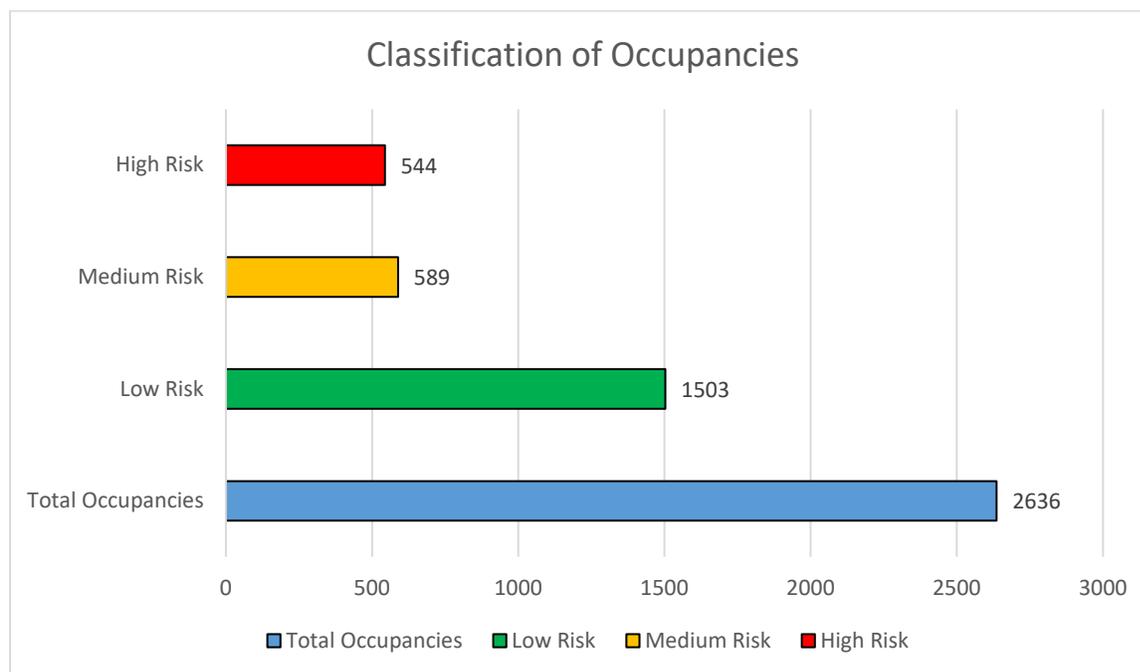
For Rochester Hills, delivering high levels of safety are accomplished by two important tasks that are currently being directed by the division. These tasks are educating the public in fire and life safety messages as well as maintaining fire and life safety components in existing buildings through routine fire and life safety inspections. This process attempts to deliver a proactive approach to not only assist in maintaining safe environments, but also to decrease the severity of dollar loss associated with building fires and with business interruption. Safety, as being our number one goal, is not only a key priority for our customers but a critical priority for our staff members. Firefighter's jobs are inherently dangerous, but the risk can be reduced by conducting routine inspections on a consistent frequency.

**Frequency of Inspections**

Community Risk Reduction is defined as “programs, actions, and services used by a community, which prevent or mitigate the loss of life, property, and resources associated with life safety, fire and other disasters within a community”. (NFPA 1035) The direction of the division is established by best practices by the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA). NFPA who writes codes and standards related to all aspects of the fire service also writes standards specific to Community Risk Reduction Divisions. Some of these documents include topics addressing Fire and Life Safety Educators, Fire Inspectors, Fire Marshals, Fire Investigations, Fire Plan Reviews and organization and deployment of Community Risk Reduction Divisions.

On June 15, 2015, the National Fire Protection Association published NFPA 1730: Standard on Organization and Deployment of Fire Prevention Inspection and Code Enforcement, Plan Review, Investigation, and Public Education Operations. One of the most notable features about NFPA’s code development process is that it is open and consensus-based. Before this standard, there were no frequency recommendations or an industry standard that recommended a frequency of annual fire and life safety inspections. The most common goal was to inspect every occupancy on an annual basis. Now that NFPA 1730 has been developed there are clear suggestions related to the recommended frequency of fire and life safety inspections, which is a 3-year cycle. The goal of the Rochester Hills Fire Department Community Risk Reduction Division is to perform inspections on a 1, 2, or 3-year rotation depending on the type of business/occupancy.

NFPA 1730 recommends a community risk assessment to take place in which this process assists in developing occupancy risk classifications for all of our inspectable properties. In October 2018, the division conducted a risk assessment of our community, which classified our 2,636 addresses into the following hazard categories (**See Table 2**):



**Table 2**

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Occupancy risk classification can be divided into four categories that include high, moderate, and low risk along with buildings that are considered critical infrastructure. Examples of each occupancy risk classifications are as follows:

**High Risk:**

- Apartment Buildings
- Hotels, Lodging and Rooming
- Assembly Uses (Restaurants and Theaters)
- Child Care
- Senior Living Complexes
- Site Specific Locations (Fire Marshal Bulletin 9 – Fire Fighter Right To Know Locations)
- Educational and Health Care
  - Note: These facilities fall under the jurisdiction and authority of the State of Michigan Bureau of Fire Services.

**Moderate Risk:**

- Ambulatory Health Care
- 4 or more patients on an outpatient bases
- Industrial

**Low Risk:**

- Storage
- Mercantile
- Business

**Critical Infrastructure: (Classified as High Risk)**

- City Buildings
- Public Safety Buildings

Occupancy classification based on risk factors then is given a frequency of inspection based on the recommendations from NFPA 1730. The frequency of inspection is as follows (**See Table 3**):

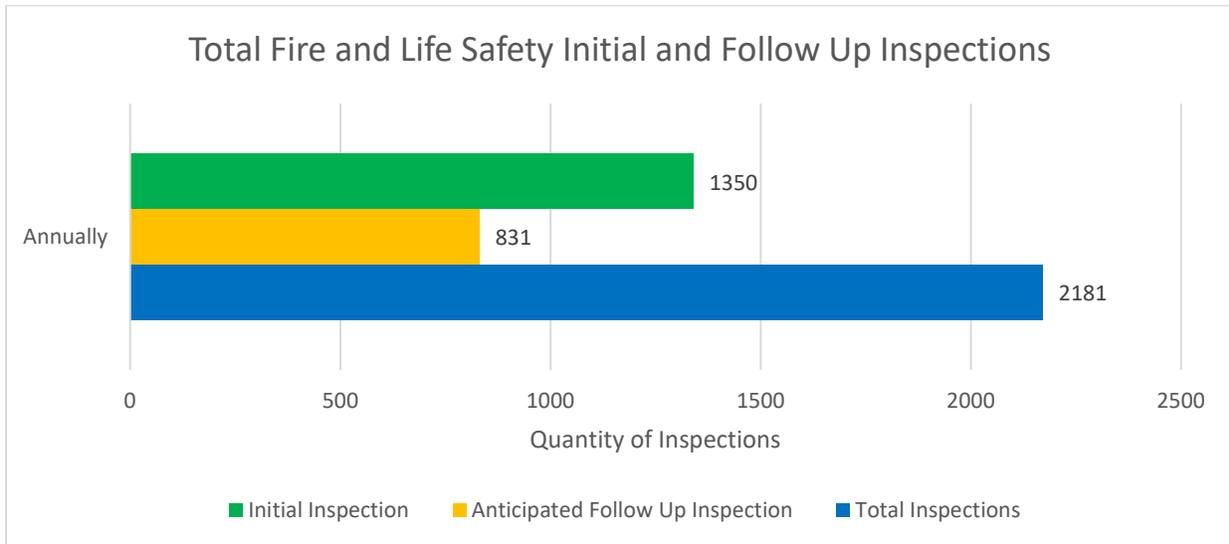
Occupancy Risk Classification	Frequency
High	Annually
Moderate	Biennially
Low	Triennially
Critical Infrastructure	Annually

**Table 3**

This standard (NFPA 1730) differs from the required inspection frequency as outline in the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (ISO). The division feels that the NFPA 1730 is a more realistic obtainable goal, which is also fiscally prudent in providing an adequate frequency in regards to fire inspections. Defining the volume and frequency of inspections per year allows us to determine how to achieve these

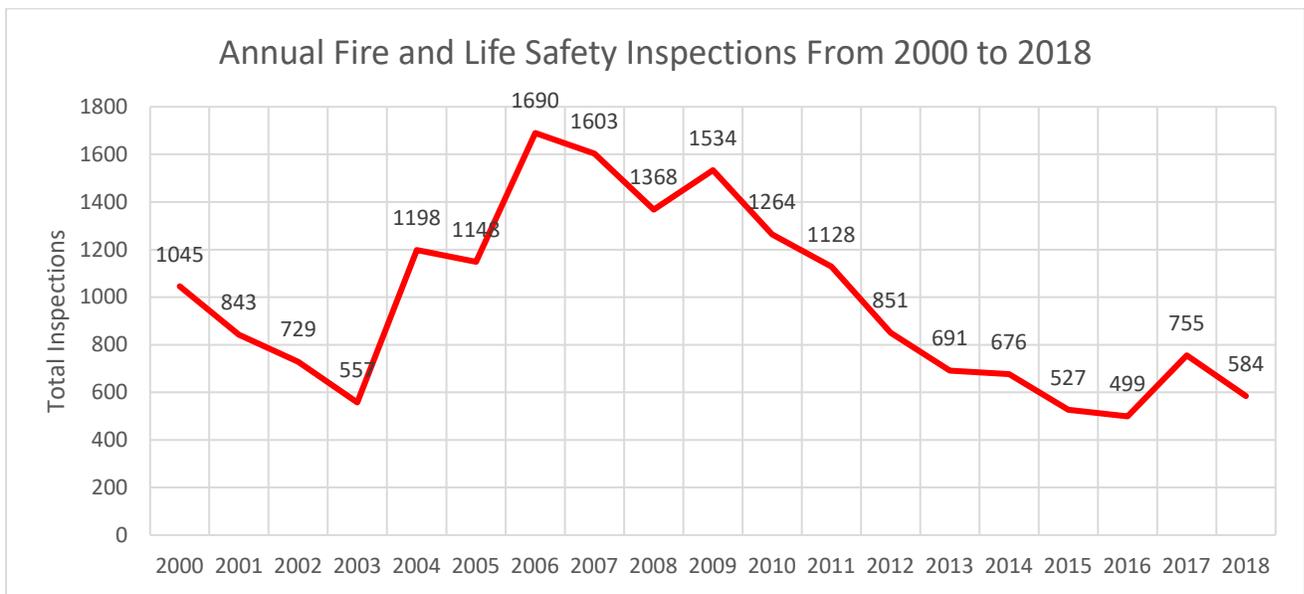
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goals. The following helps to visualize the number of inspections required each year of the inspection cycle to keep up with the recommended frequency (See Table 4 below):



**Table 4**

On a five (5) year average, data shows that division members conduct approximately 608 inspections on an annual basis. These inspections total represent only 23% of our 2,636 known inspectable addresses. This percentage is mostly comprised of the 554 high-risk occupancies we have identified in our community and that we have chosen to inspect on an annual basis due to the potential high life and use risk associated with these facilities. (See Table 5)



**Table 5**

Over the years 2000 to 2018, records show staffing of Fire Inspector positions varying from two (2) inspectors to four (4). From the years 2004 to 2011, the division held the most Fire Inspector positions with four (4). During these years, data shows the most annual fire and life safety inspections being completed with the highest number of inspections on record being 2006. In 2011, the department lost a Fire Inspector position due to funding. These years were also pre-community risk reduction focused and do not represent that scope of work a current Fire Inspector is responsible to complete. Since modifying our vision in 2015 to a more modern set of responsibilities and renaming the division from the Fire Prevention Bureau to the Community Risk Reduction Division, staff members have been able to accomplish approximately 304 initial fire and life safety inspections per year with approximately 182 follow up inspections. Data shows approximately 60% of an annual fire and life safety inspection requires a follow-up inspection. Therefore, approximately 500 fire and life safety initial and follow up inspections can be anticipated by one inspector on an annual basis.

### **Discussion**

#### **What is best for the community?**

With not having a formal inspection frequency adopted and by only inspecting high-risk occupancies annually, our current staffing model is capable of making contact with only 23% of our city's properties. 77% percent of our occupancies are not on a reoccurring fire inspection schedule, and have not been inspected on a regular frequency since the decline in the Division staffing level in 2011, and as the City continued to grow at a rapid pace. Popular locations such as nationally franchised mercantile stores that our citizens visit very frequently may have not been inspected by the Fire Department for more than six (6) years. Light hazard industrial buildings have also been without an inspector's visit for nine (9) years. Other new businesses to our community may have never received a fire and life safety inspection since their certificate of occupancy inspection that was conducted when they moved into the facility. These numbers are troubling and do not provide the level of safety our community deserves. Our community should have no doubt they are walking into a safe facility no matter what type of occupancy or risk assessment it has been assigned.

#### **What is best for the department?**

The members of the Rochester Hills Fire Department are put into very dangerous situations on a daily basis. Our total calls for service continue to increase on an annual basis which inherently increases the level of risk staff has to encounter. Our division's goal of providing a safe environment is not only for the citizens and occupants of our businesses, but for our members who may have to enter one of our buildings at its worst time, when the emergency is taking place. Risk can be reduced by conducting regular fire and life safety inspections which ultimately, creates a safer working environment for our members.

#### **What is best for the employee?**

Community Risk Reduction staff are working at an extreme pace to keep up with daily community demands and only addressing items they are being made aware of. The historical proactive approach to fire and life safety education and enforcement has unfortunately become reactive in nature. Staff is troubled and working over capacity to keep up with the current community demands.

### **Recommendation**

In order to provide inspection services to all of the city's current occupancies, staff would be responsible for 2,636 initial inspections along with 1,581 potential follow up inspections to total approximately 4,217 total inspections. To accomplish this task, it would take more than eight (8) inspectors based on the principle that one (1) inspector can accomplish approximately 500 inspections annually.

With a current inspection demand of 1,350 inspections based on a three-year cycle and anticipated number of 810 follow up inspections, 2,160 total annual inspections will be necessary. The number of follow-up inspections should decline over the years due to businesses becoming more educated in fire and life safety, but this number does not include anticipated growth in the city. Based on our research, we can identify the need for two (2) additional Fire Inspectors to keep up with today's workload and demands.

The recommendation is to adopt the inspection frequency schedule which would then allow for all of our buildings in Rochester Hills to be provided with a fire and life safety inspection no more than every three years. The frequencies noted within NFPA 1730 provide a much more manageable and systematic approach to conducting fire and life safety inspections within our community. This schedule would improve our current level of safety in our City as it would bring it back to where it was almost ten years ago. It is our recommendation to adopt this frequency as our standard for the City of Rochester Hills.

### **Funding**

Supplementary funding for two (2) additional Fire Inspector's positions will be necessary since the current budget is not sufficient to carry these costs. According to the City of Rochester Hills Fiscal Department, the annual cost of a Fire Inspector is currently budgeted at \$149,970. This cost includes wages, benefits and all necessary supplementary costs associated with the position. These additional costs would increase require a 39% increase to today's divisions budget.

The Division currently levies a cost to our business occupancies for inspection services in two separate methods. These costs are distributed for occupancies that require additional re-inspections due to non-compliance as well as Site Specific Fees for Firefighter Right-to-Know locations.

Facilities that have been established at Firefighter Right-to-Know / Site Specific Locations have an additional cost associated with their use. These locations, under the direction of the State Fire Marshal's Office, require Fire Department Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Responsibilities. These responsibilities include preparing and disseminating a site plan to our staff, which identifies the known use or production of chemicals that take place on the property. The creation of the plan as well as the maintenance of the information requires staff to assign additional resources to these facilities. It was determined in the early 2000's to establish a fee for these locations due to the additional work associated with these facilities. The costs associated with Firefighter Right-to-Know location are as follows (**See Table 6 below**):

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Michigan Firefighter Right-to-Know Site Specific Fee	
(1) Building area less than 12,000 square feet.....	\$250.00
(2) Building area between 12,000 and 25,000 square feet.....	\$325.00
(3) Building area between 25,000 and 50,000 square feet.....	\$340.00
(4) Building greater than 50,000 square feet.....	\$550.00

**Table 6**

With this current fee schedule in place, our division has collected approximately \$5,045 in Site Specific fees (on average) on an annual basis over the past four years. Fees charged for these facilities were based on how many hours of work it would take to accomplish the additional work associated with these locations.

The current re-inspection fee schedule including both fire and life safety re-inspections as well as Site Specific fees on average generate only \$9,125, which clearly is not enough revenue to support personnel costs.

**Funding Option**

The fire service has faced new challenges and continues to do so. Examples include: increased demand for public education, increased demand for emergency medical services, an ever-growing incident volume, as well as an ever-changing environment the fire service must be able to meet and adapt to. Funding to meet all these demands has created a dilemma. The Rochester Hills Fire Department receives the majority of our funding through taxes and EMS Revenue. As an organization, we have to define the basic services that can be funded through these means. The use of alternative funding can play a significant part in our ability to offset the associated cost of fire inspections. Fees can be used as a way to pay for much of the costs associated with fire inspections, which has been difficult to fund adequately through other means.

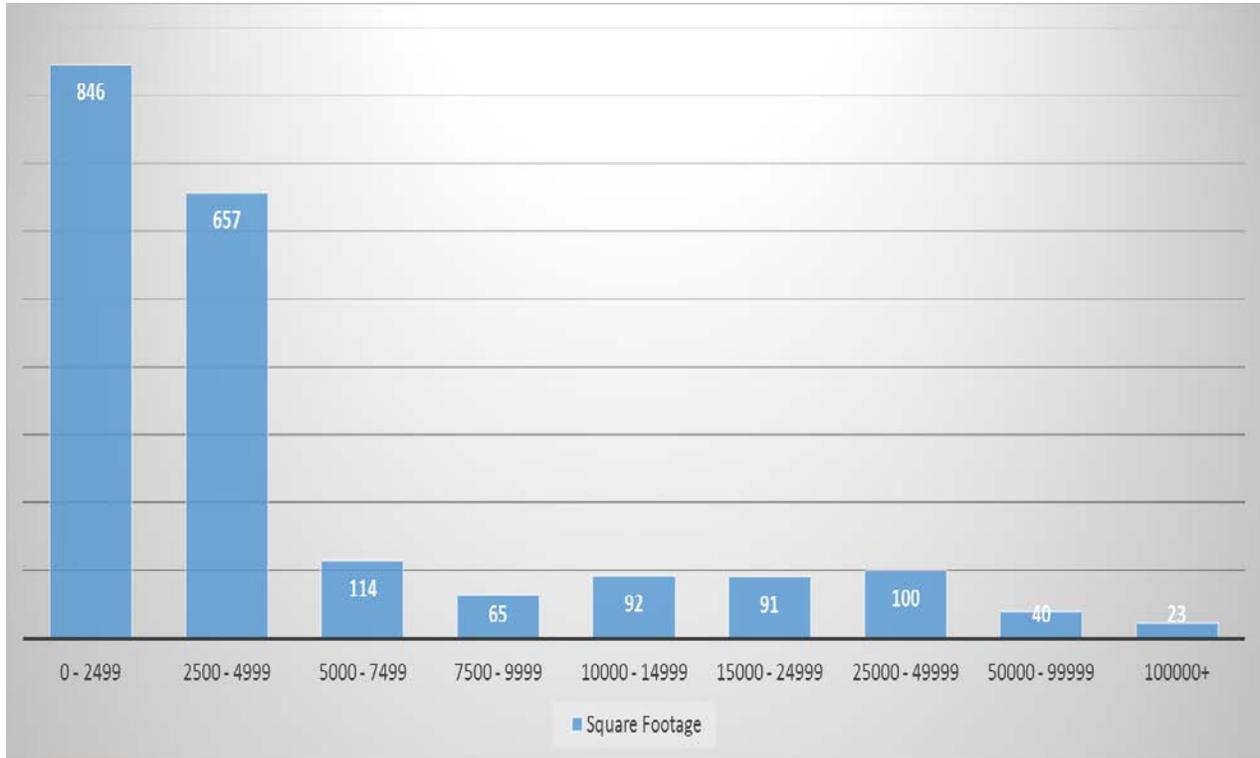
In researching the best funding option, an increase to the current fire millage was not a viable alternative. The Department determined the cost for a fire inspection should be at the level of the end user, being the business owner. Additionally, the department found that this is primarily the case with fee and permits within other City Departments. For example, the Building Department charges fees for numerous areas (permits, inspections, fire suppression permits, plan reviews, etc). The majority of the Building Department’s current budget is funded by fees (82%).

The Department recommends establishing a new fee for annual fire and life safety inspections similar to what other departments already have in place. This option would generate approximately \$300,000 annually. This funding would allow the department to hire two (2) additional Lieutenant/Fire Inspectors and fund these positions in perpetuity. In discussion with the Fiscal Department, these fees would cover approximately fifty percent of the total cost of the current two (2) Lieutenant/Fire Inspectors, as well as the two (2) proposed additional Lieutenant/Fire Inspectors. The remaining fifty percent would be funded out of the already established Community Risk Reduction budget.

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Below, **Table 7** identifies the occupancies that are available for Fire and Life Safety Inspections throughout our jurisdiction, broken down by square footage.

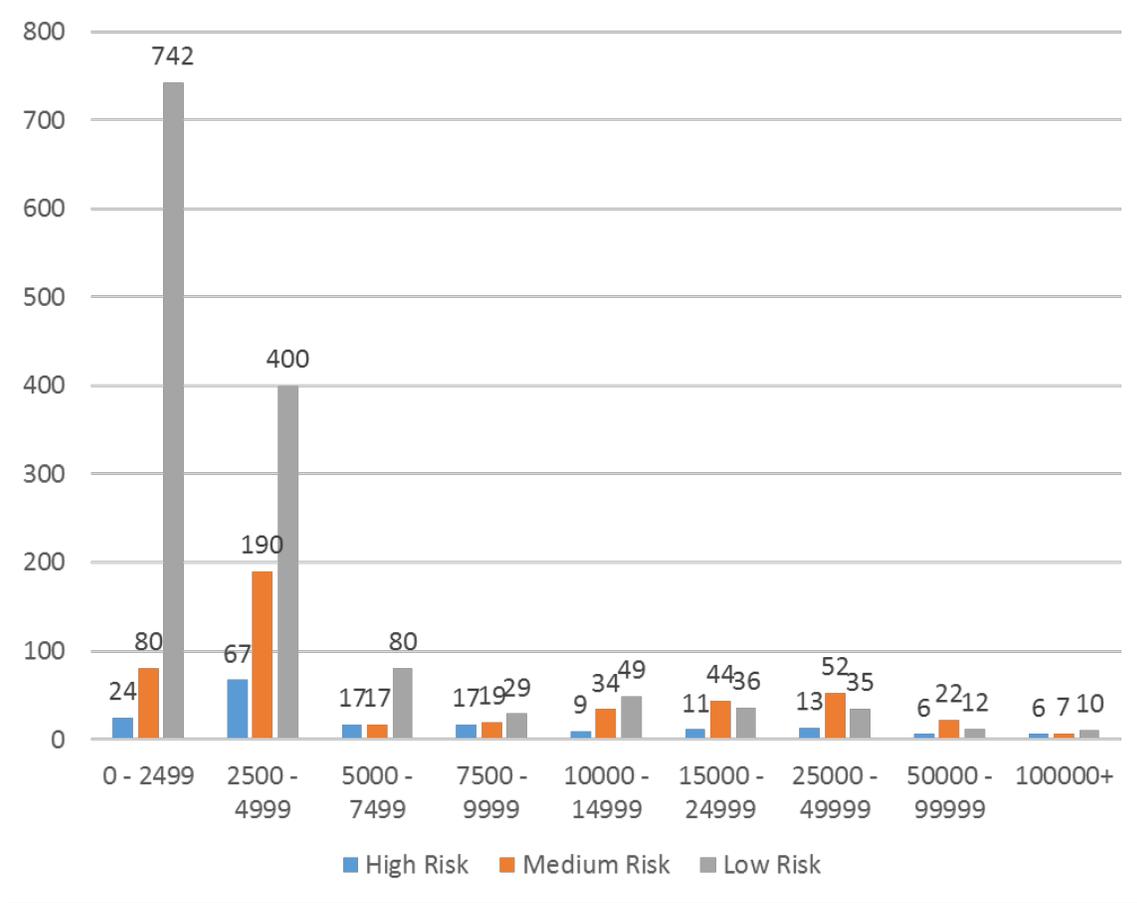
**Occupancies Based on Square Footage**



**Table 7**

Below, **Table 8** identifies the number of occupancies within each square footage category by their associated risk.

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**Table 8**

By establishing a three (3) year inspection rotation based on risk, 1,350 initial fire and life safety inspections would be necessary to be performed on an annual basis. Routine inspections of specific properties should be made, outlining the scheduling of inspections for various occupancies. The frequency or priority of inspections would be based on the hazards presented by certain occupancies, such as public assembly venues or hazardous materials manufacturing facilities. These inspection totals, accompanied by the following proposed fee schedule, can generate enough revenue to successfully fund two (2) additional Lieutenant/Fire Inspector positions within the division. See **Table 9** below for the proposed fire inspection fee schedule. Fees would not be charged to churches and 501c (not for profit) organizations.

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Square Foot	Annual Fee	High-Risk (Inspected Annually)	Medium-Risk (Inspected every other Year)	Low-Risk (Inspected every Three (3) Years)
0 to 2,499 Sq./Ft	\$250.00	\$6,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$185,500.00
2,500 to 4,999 Sq./Ft	\$300.00	\$20,100.00	\$57,000.00	\$120,000.00
5,000 to 7,499 Sq./Ft	\$350.00	\$5,950.00	\$5,950.00	\$28,000.00
7,500 to 9,999 Sq./Ft	\$400.00	\$6,800.00	\$11,600.00	\$11,600.00
10,000 to 14,999 Sq./Ft	\$450.00	\$4,050.00	\$22,050.00	\$22,050.00
15,000 to 24,999 Sq./Ft	\$500.00	\$5,500.00	\$22,000.00	\$18,000.00
25,000 to 49,999 Sq./Ft	\$550.00	\$7,150.00	\$28,600.00	\$19,250.00
50,000 to 99,999 Sq./Ft	\$600.00	\$3,600.00	\$13,200.00	\$7,200.00
100,000 Sq./Ft plus	\$650.00	\$3,900.00	\$4,550.00	\$6,500.00
	<b>Total per category</b>	<b>\$63,050.00</b>	<b>\$184,950.00</b>	<b>\$418,100.00</b>
	<b>Total Collection per Year for Annual Inspections</b>	<b>\$63,050.00</b>	<b>\$92,475.00</b>	<b>\$139,366.67</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$294,891.67</b>			
<b>Site Specific Fees (\$150.00)</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>			
<b>Re-Inspection Fees (Estimated)</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>			
<b>Total including Site Specific Fee</b>	<b>\$308,891.67</b>			

**Table 9**

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The division also recommends a change to our current re-inspection fee schedule as well. The division believes it is important to withhold fees on a successful first re-inspection as it is in all of our interests to eliminate known fire and life safety code violations within our businesses. However, we also feel it is important to resolve known fire and life safety code violations as quickly as possible. Therefore, by increasing the fire and life safety re-inspection fees to the following, we believe this will help motivate business owners to resolve known issues within a reasonable time and become compliant with the Fire and Life Safety Code. See **Table 10** for the proposed re-inspection fee schedule.

Fire and Life Safety Re-inspection Fees	
First re-inspection.....	No charge
Second re-inspection (same violation) unresolved.....	\$200.00
Third re-inspection (same violation) unresolved.....	\$250.00
Fourth re-inspection (same violation) unresolved.....	\$300.00
Fifth and subsequent re-inspections (same violation) unresolved.....	\$350.00

**Table 10**

Finally, the department would also change the Michigan Firefighter Right to Know Fee Schedule. A fee of \$150.00 would be added to the initial inspection cost for all occupancies that fall under this category. This makes the process much simpler and covers the cost for any additional work required.

**Restitution Fees**

If Community Risk Reduction is required to appear in Court and judgement is found in favor of the City, hourly personnel rates would be documented and these charges incurred by the business owner.

**Closing**

The City of Rochester Hills has been a vibrant growing community for many years. Unfortunately, the Fire Department has struggled to keep up with the growing demands for service. In 2014, the City Administration and City Council took priority in establishing the Fire Department as a leader in the Oakland County Fire Service. When the citizen’s approved the millage increase in 2014, it was only the first step in a long process of bringing Rochester Hills Fire Department up to the standards of National Fire Protection Association, Insurance Service Office and what our Citizens and Community deserve.

It is crucial that the Rochester Hills Fire Department has **adequate staffing** to provide Community Risk Reduction services to the City of Rochester Hills. Essentially, the fire service exists not only to respond to emergency incidents, but also to proactively prevent or mitigate the impact of such incidents within their communities. CRR provides a more focused approach to reducing specific risks. In addition, a comprehensive CRR program involving community partners, firefighters, and other staff, can result in an organizational culture that recognizes the importance of reducing risks within a community.

The Fire Department Administration has taken the current millage, the National Standards, all available data from past, current and future projections for our services and developed this Strategic Plan to ensure we continue to meet, and exceed, the demands of our Citizens and the Community. With the national trend increasing for the Fire Department’s services we feel that having a solid strategic plan in place will help guide our Department into the future while meeting the national standards and

APPENDIX #2- GOAL 5, OBJECTIVE 5B- PROVIDE ANNUAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS TO ALL OCCUPANCIES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS.

community demands. Additionally, in the development of this Strategic Plan, the department has set infrastructure in place that will allow for the growth of the department without requiring any facility upgrades.

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