Fact Sheet
Missouri Fire Service Needs Assessment

There has been substantial progress in reducing many fire department needs, although more remains to be done.

Protective Equipment and Clothing

The 2010 percentage of Missouri departments without enough equipment to equip all personnel (or all personnel on a shift, as appropriate) was:

- 41% for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), compared to 66% in 2001 and 38% in 2005;

- 35% for personal alert safety system devices (PASS), compared to 66% in 2001 and 35% in 2005;

- 8% for personal protective clothing, compared to 26% in 2001 and 10% in 2005; and

- 32% for portable radios, compared to 65% in 2001 and 34% in 2005.

Training

In many fire departments, not all involved personnel have been formally trained in their emergency response duties. The 2010 percentage of Missouri departments in which not all involved personnel have been formally trained was:

- 51% for structural firefighting, compared to 74% in 2001 and 68% in 2005; and

- 51% for emergency medical service (EMS), compared to 64% in 2001 and 64% in 2005.

Fitness and Health

In many fire departments, there is no program to maintain basic firefighter fitness and health. The 2010 percentage of Missouri departments with no such program was:

- 76%, compared to 90% in 2001 and 88% in 2005.

Stations and Apparatus

Some stations lack specific features, which are required by current standards but were not required when stations were constructed. Some stations are old enough that a variety of persistent or recurring problems are to be expected and replacement might be better and even cheaper. Some departments are using old fire apparatus.

- 43% of Missouri fire departments do not have backup power for their fire stations.
- 57% of Missouri fire departments do not have exhaust emission control for their fire stations.
- 32% of the fire stations in Missouri are over 40 years old.
- 9% of Missouri fire department engines and pumpers are at least 30 years old.

Unusually Challenging Incidents

There has been little or no progress in increasing the ability of fire departments to handle various unusually challenging incidents with local trained personnel and specialized equipment alone:

- Provide technical rescue and EMS at a structural collapse involving 50 occupants; and
- Provide hazardous material response and EMS at an incident involving chemical or biological agents and with 10 injuries.
- Wildland/urban interface (WUI) fire affecting 500 acres; and
- Mitigation of a major developing flood.

However, there has been progress in the percentage of departments having written agreements for working with others. The 2010 percentage of Missouri departments with no such written agreement was:

- 57% for structural collapse, compared to 66% in 2001 and 54% in 2005;
- 51% for chemical or biological incidents, compared to 66% in 2001 and 53% in 2005;
- 30% for wildland/urban interface fires, compared to 51% in 2001 and 41% in 2005; and
- 52% for developing major flood, compared to 70% in 2001 and 58% in 2005.

Success requires more written agreements, with each participating department knowing its role, providing resources needed to play its role, and helping test the plan in simulations and rehearsals.