

State of the Fire District

Public Communication and Information Accuracy

The Fire District is aware that information, commentary, and statements have been circulated through informal communication channels and social media regarding department operations and recent organizational changes.

As a public safety agency, we recognize that periods of transition may generate discussion and differing perspectives. However, operational decisions, staffing, training, equipment upgrades, and service delivery are conducted under the authority of the Fire District and in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and standards.

Much of the information currently circulating publicly is not based on verified operational knowledge or direct involvement with current Fire District activities. As a result, certain statements being shared do not accurately reflect the present condition, capabilities, or direction of the Fire District.

The Fire District encourages the public to rely on official communications for accurate and up-to-date information regarding operations and service delivery.

We remain committed to transparency, accountability, and professionalism in all aspects of public service. Our focus remains on the safety of our firefighters and the citizens we serve.

Overview Statement

The Fire District has made substantial progress in addressing critical safety, equipment, training, and operational deficiencies identified at the time of transition.

These efforts remain ongoing and are focused on one primary objective:

To ensure the highest level of safety, professionalism, and emergency response capability for the citizens and firefighters of this district.

We appreciate the ongoing support of the community as we continue to improve, repair, upgrade what we are already building into a fully compliant, modern, and professionally operated fire service.

This report provides an operational update regarding the current status of the Fire District, corrective actions taken since assuming authority, and ongoing priorities to ensure safe, compliant, and effective emergency services to the community.

Initial Operational Assessment (Upon Transition)

Upon assuming operational authority of the Fire District, a full assessment of facilities, apparatus, equipment, training, and operational readiness was conducted.

This assessment identified multiple areas requiring immediate corrective action to ensure firefighter safety, operational reliability, and effective emergency response capability.

The following conditions were identified:

- Firefighter protective equipment (turnout gear) beyond service life and no longer compliant with current safety standards
- Apparatus mechanical and electrical deficiencies impacting reliability and response readiness
- Expired and insufficient fire hose inventory on frontline apparatus
- Expired or inadequate rescue and emergency response equipment
- Deferred maintenance issues within station facilities impacting safety and sanitation
- Lack of standardized operational policies and procedures aligned with modern fire service standards
- Absence of structured EMS licensing and formalized medical response capability
- Additional varying smaller issues

These findings required immediate corrective action to ensure safe and effective operations.

Corrective Actions Completed

Since assuming operational responsibility, the Fire District has implemented the following corrective measures:

Firefighter Safety and Protective Equipment

- Initiated full replacement of expired and out-of-date turnout gear
- Transitioned personnel into compliant, modern protective equipment to improve firefighter safety and reduce liability risk

Apparatus Repairs and Mechanical Systems

- Repaired long-standing electrical wiring issues affecting apparatus reliability and safety

- Corrected alternator and charging system deficiencies impacting response readiness
- Repaired air conditioning systems to ensure operational safety and personnel readiness
- Implemented corrective maintenance measures to address deferred mechanical issues

Hose, Water Delivery, and Fire Suppression Capability

- Ordered approximately 25 sections of replacement fire hose
- Placed initial 10 sections into service on frontline apparatus
- Removed reliance on expired hose to improve operational safety and reduce risk of equipment failure during fire suppression

Rescue and Emergency Equipment

- Replaced expired rescue equipment previously beyond service life
- Acquired necessary equipment to meet current operational demands and to ensure safety

Facility Conditions and Station Improvements

- Addressed and resolved pest control issues at Station 3
- Initiated ongoing maintenance of station grounds and exterior facilities
- Implemented corrective improvements to station safety and sanitation conditions

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Capability Upgrade

At the time of transition, the previous volunteer structure did not maintain a licensed EMS operational framework allowing for the provision of medical care or the carrying of medical equipment on apparatus.

Since the establishment of the Fire District, EMS capability has been significantly expanded.

The Fire District is now authorized to operate at the EMT-Basic level, which includes:

- Authorization to carry approved medical equipment on response apparatus
- Authorization to provide basic life support medical care under EMT-Basic protocols

- Authorization to administer approved medications within EMT-Basic scope of practice
- Enhanced ability to provide pre-hospital care to improve patient outcomes

This represents a significant advancement in the level of medical care available to the community.

Training, Certification, and Professional Standards

The Fire District has implemented formalized training and certification requirements to ensure operational competency and firefighter readiness.

Key improvements include:

- Structured training requirements for all personnel
- Standardized certification tracking and compliance monitoring
- Increased training frequency and accountability measures
- Alignment with recognized fire service standards and best practices

These improvements ensure that all personnel operate within a professional, accountable, and standardized system of training and response readiness.

Organizational Structure and Operational Authority

The Fire District now operates under formal governmental authority as the legally recognized fire protection agency for the district.

Key changes include:

- Establishment of a formal chain of command under the Fire Chief
- Implementation of standardized operational policies and procedures
- Consolidation of all emergency response authority under Fire District leadership
- Transition from informal operational structure to a governed public safety agency

All emergency operations, staffing, training, and apparatus deployment now fall under Fire District authority and oversight.

Ongoing Priorities and Required Actions

While significant progress has been made, additional work remains to fully stabilize and modernize operations.

Current priorities include:

- Completion of full replacement of remaining expired turnout gear
- Continued apparatus modernization and mechanical reliability improvements
- Full implementation of standardized policies and procedures across all stations
- Staffing expansion to support full operational coverage, including Shiloh Road Station
- Continued recruitment, onboarding, and integration of qualified personnel
- Strengthening of training and certification compliance tracking systems
- Continued facility upgrades and maintenance across all Fire District properties

Future Development Plan

The Fire District is actively working toward a fully modernized, compliant, and professionally operated emergency services organization.

Future development includes:

- Full staffing of all stations under Fire District authority
- Continued modernization of apparatus and equipment inventory
- Expansion of EMS capabilities and medical response training
- Strengthening of mutual aid and regional operational coordination
- Continued improvement of response times, safety protocols, and operational readiness
- Developing a Comprehensive Community Risk Reduction Plan to educate and identify public safety issues in both the public and private sectors

Respectfully,

Corinth-Shiloh Fire District