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# Lake City Fire Department

Board of County Commissioners  
Columbia County

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Phone: 386-752-3312 Fax: 386-758-8424

Frank E. Armijo  
Fire Chief

June 19, 2013

Chief Boozer,

This letter is to advise you that the Lake City Fire Department is responsible for single alarm emergencies in the areas located in the western boundaries of the incorporated city.

This said response area was designated as the Lake City Fire Department Station One's primary and first due single alarm response area that was agreed upon. ISO recommended this area to be entered into the Columbia County Combined Communication Center mapping and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) protocol; to assist the dispatcher with the correct station response. This response protocol has been followed for the last six years with success.

Several months ago you staffed the once abandoned County Fire Station #40 (Fairgrounds location) with full time firefighters. When the County 911 Center dispatches the City Fire Station to a single alarm emergency call in the City we respond. Often times the County fire station #40 will self dispatch to the single alarm. There is no consistency, at times Station #40 responds and at other times Station #40 does not respond, (referring to single alarms).

It appears after investigating the nature of the single alarm emergencies that all three of your County Fire shifts pick and choose the single alarm calls that they feel that they want to respond to; I can show you this if you wish as our reporting software will support my findings. This freelancing behavior causes confusion that is critical to all responders as there is no consistency in your Station #40 responses.

I have four concerns,

1. These single alarm emergencies that only require one fire apparatus from City Fire gives the citizens the perception that multiple fire apparatus will respond to calls that only require one fire apparatus. I have received several phone calls from business owners, Life Guard EMS employees, citizens, and the LC Reporter as to why multiple fire apparatus respond to a medical call or a minor vehicle accident.

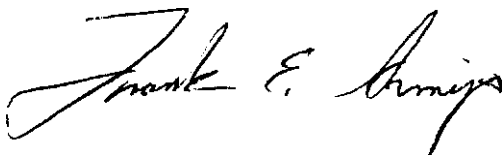
2. The risk to the citizens as well as the liability and safety of responding personnel from Station #40 to a single alarm in Fire Station One's primary response area when they were not paged.
3. When County Fire Station #40 responds to single alarms in the City Fire's primary response area, this takes that County Fire station out of service for any emergencies in their primary response area.
4. It was discussed in a single response meeting at the County 911 Dispatch Center six years ago and agreed by you, Assistant Chief Jeff Crawford, Chief Tunsil, Ron Croft, Josh Pafford and I, that Ron and Josh would provide a map to reflect in CAD. This map shows incorporated boundaries of the City, areas west of Interstate 75 single alarms (one fire apparatus) would be West Columbia (Pinemount) Fire Station #43's primary response area. At that time this station was staffed with full time county firefighters. However at this current time, this fire station is no longer staffed with full time County firefighters.

You failed to communicate this critical change with me. This area is no longer protected due to not providing a staffed full time department for fire protection, as agreed on and implemented. The Lake City Fire Department will immediately take responsibility and respond to all single alarm responses located in the incorporated City boundaries to the West of Interstate 75.

As I stated in the beginning of this letter, it is in the City of Lake City's best interest that the Lake City Fire Department will be responsible for the CAD implemented primary single alarm area.

I will meet with Thomas Brazil and have the CAD show the change in regards to the response area to the west of Interstate 75. I would also request that you inform your staff of such so that there is no misunderstanding between departments.

Respectfully,



Frank E. Armijo

CC: Wendel Johnson, City Manager  
Gene Bullard, City Risk/HR Director  
David Kraus, County Safety Director  
LCFD Members  
Fire Department File