

Mobile Fire Rescue

Community Risk Reduction Division



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Greetings

The 2019 year has come and gone, but not without a few notable advancements of your Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Team. Your CRR team consist of 1 District Chief, 2 plans reviewers, 5 fire inspectors, 5 fire investigators, and 2 office executives. As we embrace the upcoming New Year, so will we embrace the new naming of CRR. One of the common questions is: What exactly does CRR mean? Some may think of it as handing out coloring books and plastic fire helmets. That is Public Education, which is important, yet it does not reflect the full spectrum of a CRR program. **Community Risk Reduction** is the identification and prioritization of **risks**, followed by the coordinated application of resources in order to minimize the probability or occurrence and/or the impact of unfortunate events. In short, true CRR involves targeted analytics, deliberations and mitigations. CRR attempts to deal with a potential event before the hazard occurs.

Target analytics is reviewing the data and the response of the department. The department has the new software of Image Trends. Image Trends and soon to be added MOBILEeyes along with other data collecting agencies, aide in tracking this information. This allows your CRR team to strategically focus on the precise challenges within the city. In doing so we can be deliberate in mitigation. This would intentionally put our resources and personnel in these areas to eliminate or reduce that hazard. A whole integrated CRR management consists of a close examine of four areas: natural environment; built environment; social environment; and response environment. The areas of vulnerability are: human, economic, social, political, and environmental.

In closing, CRR involves a host of concepts that is all-inclusive relating to prevention. I ask that you call our office with fresh and innovative ideas that will raise the level of the safety climate. This is the world we work in; we are your CRR team. *What Is Past Is Prologue- Shakespeare*

Yours in Protection
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<https://www.cityofmobile.org/fire/useful-information-on-fire-prevention/>

Meet Your CRR Team

Community Risk Reduction Team

District Chief D. M. Penn Sr.

Mrs. Faith Koppersmith Sec. III

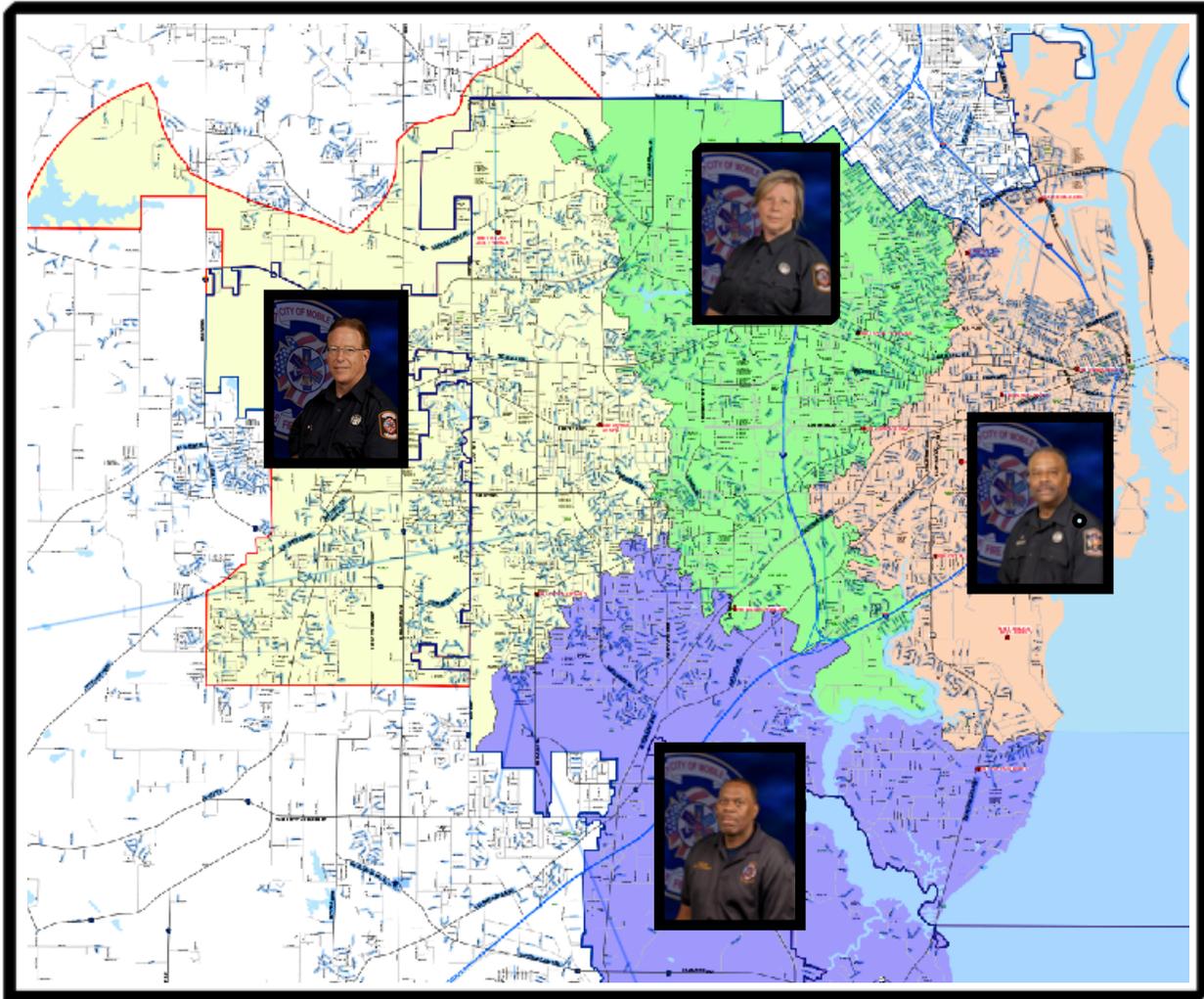
Mrs. Mary Jane Price Sec. II



Plan Reviewers Inspectors & Investigators



Inspector's District



Inspector Sessions - District 1
Capt. Campbell - District 2

Inspector Moses - District 3
Inspector Ramsey - District 4

Loss of Life

One single fatality in the City of Mobile is one too many. Every effort from the chief's office to the last hired recruit makes a tremendous determination to eliminate any loss of life. Nevertheless, when it occurs the tragic event gets a full compliment of trained and talented personnel to seek out the origin and cause in hopes it never happens again. Through robust and proactive CRR programs, along with the entire department, we are relentless in reducing loss of life and property. For a city our size we have seen a decrease in the loss of life. Most of the loss of life in 2019 is on the decline from previous years in that they are due to residential fires where the home is without smoke alarms. Measures used to prevent loss of life are active smoke alarm installations as well as educating the public, in hopes of eliminating and reducing the hazards. These hazards often come from cooking, with the origin being the kitchen area.

DOB	Sex	Race	Date of Fire	Date of Death	Cause of Fire	Smoke alarms present	Comments
8/15/91	M	Hispanic	2/8/19	2/8/19	water on molten metal	n/a	Industrial Accident
5/25/34	F	White	2/25/19	5/11/19	accidental	no	Appliance
1/11/96	M	Black	6/13/19	6/13/19	accidental	no	Appliance

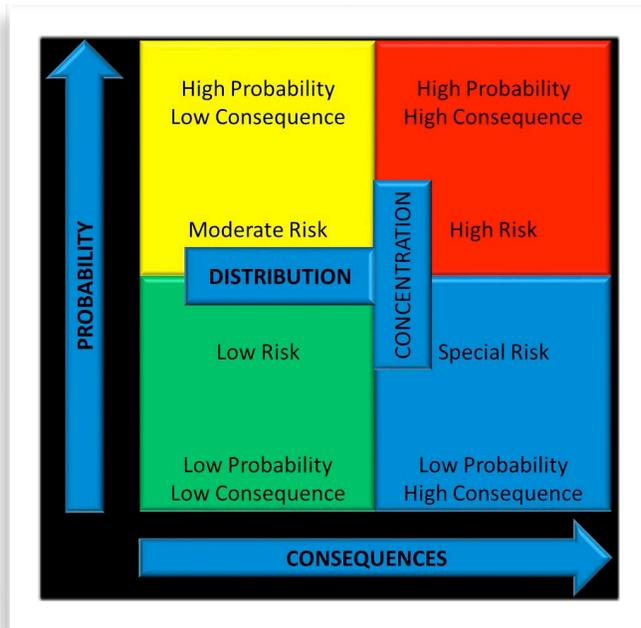
Risk Management

Your CRR team must thoroughly understand their community and the risks within the community. There are various risk/consequence or risk/probability matrices available; but regardless of the labels on the axis, they usually fall into one of the quadrants in the following figure. Utilizing data including event types, frequency of events, and resource needs, the following risk analysis can be completed.

As the risk is generally quantified into one of the four quadrants, a decision is made based upon the level of risk. It is important to recognize that it is improbable, impractical and unaffordable to completely eliminate risk to the community. Using a matrix assists fire department officials in determining the acceptable level of risk. The four quadrants in the figure below may be defined as follows:

- Low impact/Low probability – Risks in the bottom left corner are low level, with acceptable consequences if the incident occurs. These can often be considered an acceptable risk and require no further action.

- Low impact/High probability – Risks in the top left corner are moderate level – if the incident happens, the fire department can usually handle it with existing resources. However, effort should be given to reduce the likelihood that these incidents occur.



- High impact/low probability – Risks in the bottom right corner are high level if they do occur, but they are very unlikely to happen. Risks in this quadrant are prime candidates for training and contingency planning.

- High impact/High probability – Risks toward the top right corner are critical. These should be the highest priorities for the fire department and for the community. Aggressive

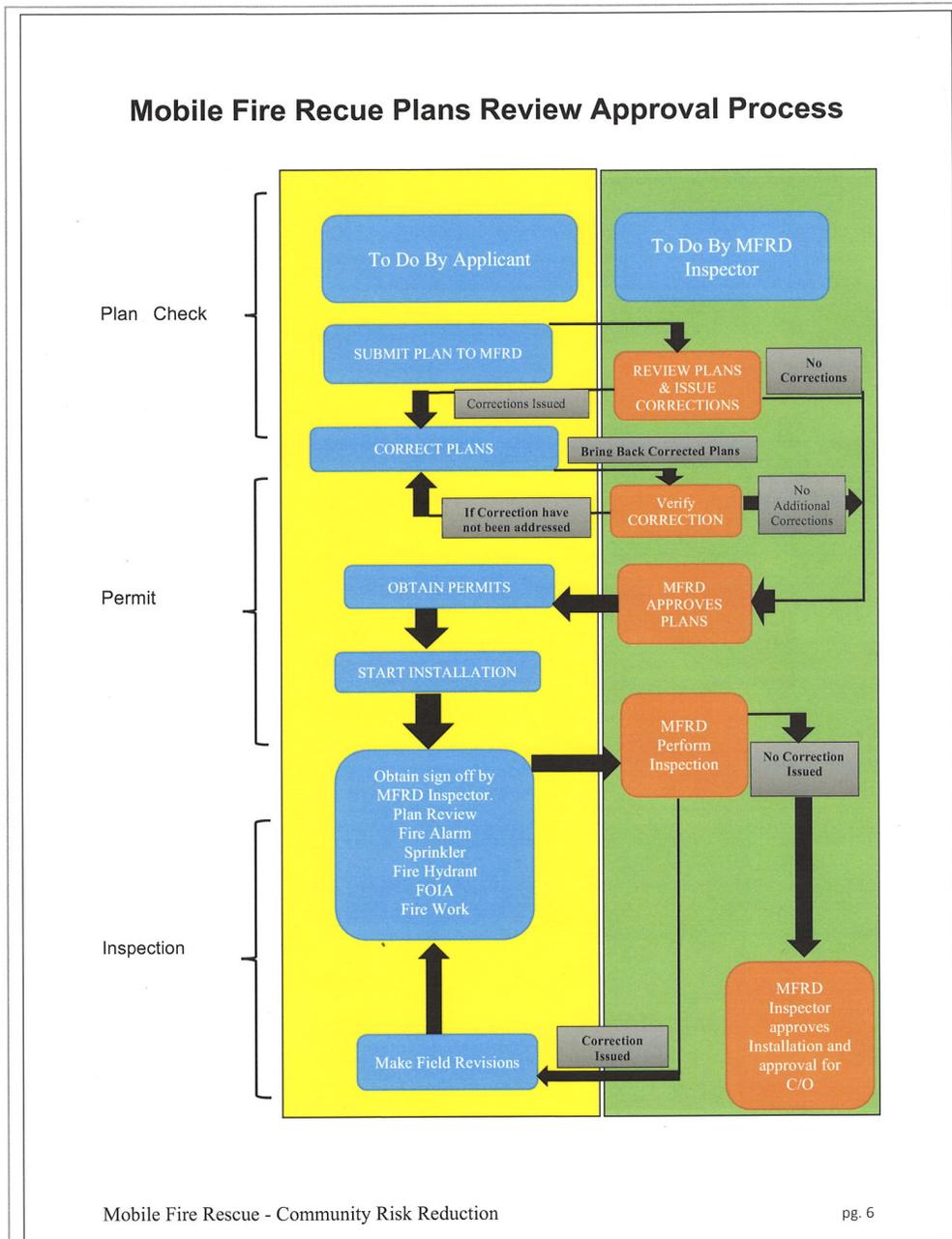
action is required such as staffing for these risks, equipping for these risks, and engaging the community in risk reduction and preparedness.

Work Activity

The year totaled over 3000 inspections. A predevelopment meeting is held prior to the issuance of permits. In this type meeting all disciplines can get together and explain to the potential business owner what is required. Next the plans must be reviewed for type of occupancy and type of fire protection. The plans review can be up to 10 business days. If the plans are approved, a work permit can be obtained and work can begin. At this point, each and every portion has to be inspected for accuracy and consistency of the plans. This includes fire alarms, sprinklers, fire hydrants and all components, aboveground fuel storage tanks, above ceiling inspections, hydrostatic tests and underground piping inspections. Plans review is a large portion of reducing risks. It is a critical means of being proactive in seeing what is being proposed in hopes to make the required adjustments. A simple flow chart was developed to aide in the plan review process. The three basic functions that are reviewed by our office are the plans check, permits, and the actual inspection. If passed the applicant can

move to the next process. If failed the applicant must resubmit until safety measures are met and project is complete.

Plan Review Flow Chart



Plans Review Guideline for Commercial Building Permits

Mobile Fire Rescue Department

Plans Review

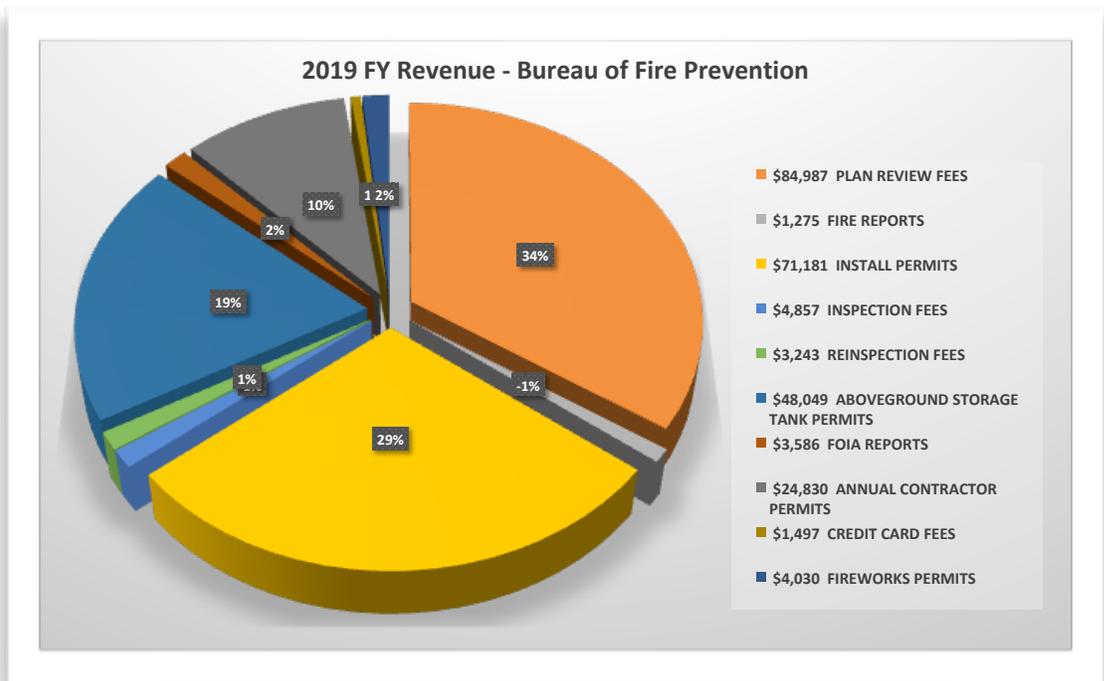
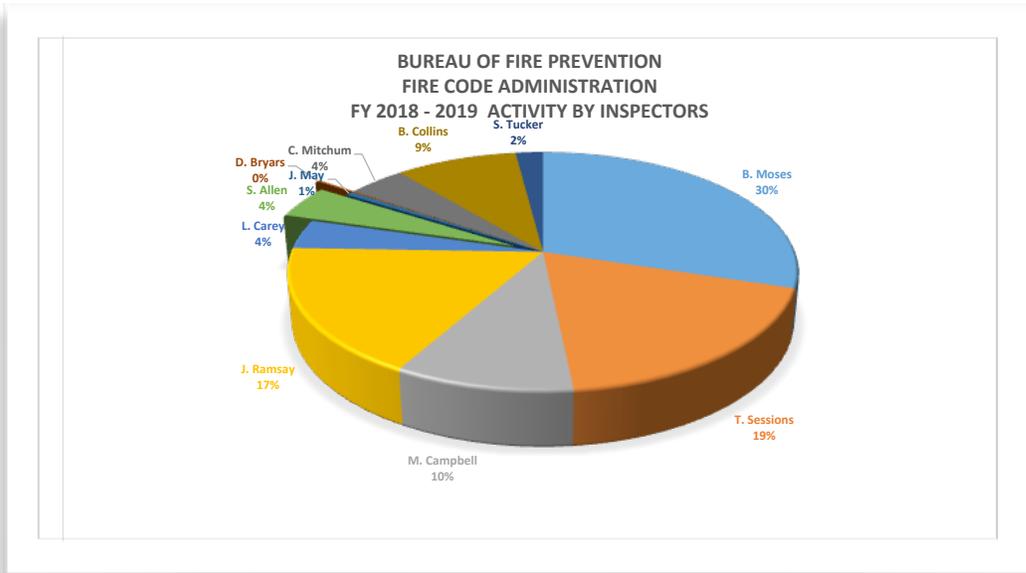
Plans Review Guideline for Commercial Building Permits

Note:

1. This applicable plan review process guideline may vary from that shown in this chart depending upon the complexity or scope of the project.
2. 10-day review refers to business days in the review cycle.
3. Contact each individual review inspector regarding Scope of Review Item not included in this chart.

Scope of Review Request	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Building Plan Review For Permit	Review Code Summary for Accuracy, Type of Occupancy and Type of Fire Protection Required	Failed Review status- Plans Resubmitted and Fee may be required.	Passed Review status Permit issued. Ready to Build	Inspections of project as it is constructed- Final Inspection conducted for Certificate of Occupancy. (CO)
Fire Alarm Plan Review	Fire Protection Plans Reviewed for Accuracy of required system.	Failed Review status- Plans Resubmitted. No Fee required	Passed Review status Permits Issued. Ready to Install System.	Inspection of system installation. Testing of all activation and notification devices. Final Inspection for all integrated systems working together.
Sprinkler Permit	Fire Protection Plans Reviewed for Accuracy of required system.	Failed Review status- Plans Resubmitted. No Fee required	Passed Review status Permits Issued. Ready to Install System.	Inspection of system installation. Above Ceiling, Hydro and Flush. Final Inspection for all integrated systems working together.
Fire Hydrant Permit	Site Plan Review for location of installation meeting all distance requirements.	Failed Review status- Plans Resubmitted. No Fee required	Passed Review status Permits Issued. Ready to Install Fire Hydrant.	Underground Thrust Block inspection, Hydrant Pressure test, Flush and Insulation of Backflow Preventer. Hydrant Ready to be placed into Service.
Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA)	Customer submits request for information on any property in City Limits for Fire Code violations and Life Safety issues.	Research fee letter sent to customer. Copy of letter sent to secretaries to accept payment.	Fee is received - Energov, Tidemark and Health EMS are accessed for property info.	Results of property search sent to customer via Email.
Fire Works Permits Outdoor and Indoor	Customer submits application to State Fire Marshal's Office.	State FM sends Inspector a packet containing list of & ID of shooters, site plan of location of event and application.	Fire & Police sign application; it is sent back to Fire Marshal's office Attn: Alesha Womble or Margot Whatley	Date of Shoot: A site and product inspection is conducted. Engine Company is assigned to cover event.

FY 2018-2019 Activity By Inspector



By The Numbers

\$84,987	PLAN REVIEW FEES	34%
\$1,275	FIRE REPORTS	-1%
\$71,181	INSTALL PERMITS	29%
\$4,857	INSPECTION FEES	1%
\$3,243	REINSPECTION FEES	1%
\$48,049	ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANK PERMITS	19%
\$3,586	FOIA REPORTS	1%
\$24,830	ANNUAL CONTRACTOR PERMITS	10%
\$1,497	CREDIT CARD FEES	1%
\$4,030	FIREWORKS PERMITS	2%
	TOTAL FOR 2019	\$247,535.00

INSPECTOR	TOTAL	%
INSP. B. MOSES	898	30%
INSP. T. SESSIONS	557	19%
CAPT. M. CAMPBELL	295	10%
INSP. J. RAMSAY	522	17%
INSP. L CAREY	120	4%
CAPT. S. ALLEN	134	15%
CAPT. J. MAY	15	
OTHERS	467	9%
ANNUAL TOTAL	3008	100%

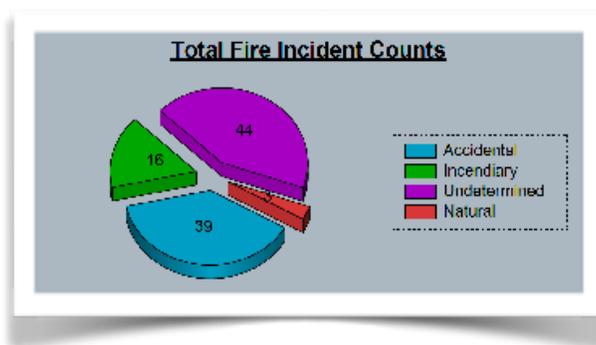
Fire Investigation

Fire investigations have been a consistent and a vital component to the CRR.

Fire Incident Status	Accidental	Incendiary	Undetermined	Natural	Total
Closed with Arrest	0	3	1	0	4
Investigation Closed	33	4	14	2	53
Investigation Inactive/ Suspended	0	0	1	0	1
Investigation Open	6	9	28	1	53
Total	39	16	44	3	111

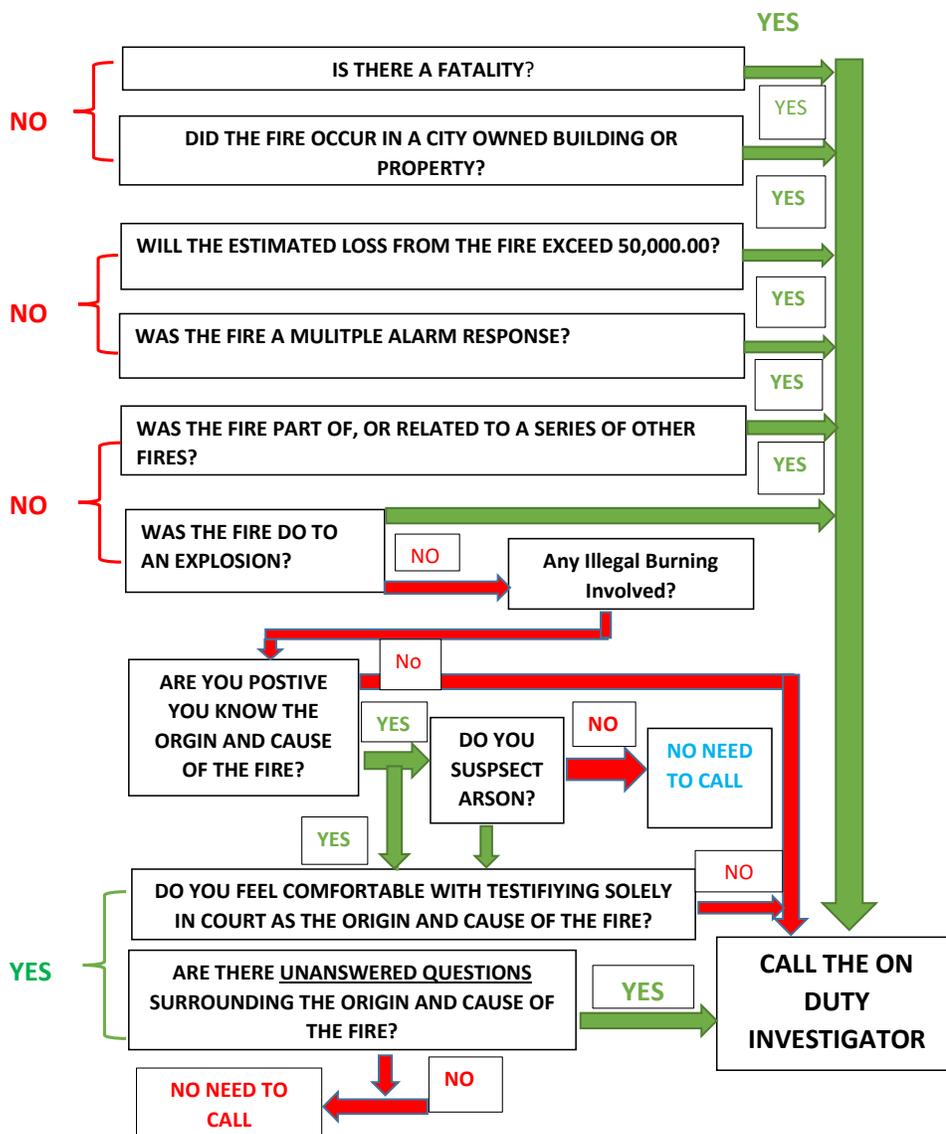
The results of the Investigation team can be measured but often what is difficult to measure is the countless number of hours spent to close a case.

County	Damage / Loss	Injured	Killed	Count
	\$0.00	0	0	2
Al - Alabama	\$0.00	0	0	1
Mobile	\$500.00	0	0	3
Mobile	\$264,551.00	0	0	62
Mobile County	\$1,341,700.00	1	3	45
Total	\$1,606,751.00	1	3	113



When Should I Call The Investigator?

DO I NEED TO CALL THE MFRD ON DUTY INVESTIGATOR?



10-8 In Service

What have you enjoyed the most about fire prevention?

The people I have daily interacted with throughout the City and most all the coworkers whom I have learned from and worked with along the way. I have learned so much from both groups. I have enjoyed the constant learning that is required to be proficient in this position, from the steep initial learning curve to the constant research required to stay current on the many aspects of the Fire Code and related standards and applications as they apply to the many different City projects.

What is the biggest change you have seen and what is the biggest change you want to see?

The biggest change is the strong desire everyone in the Bureau has to "get it right", to apply the Code as adopted in an effort to protect the citizens of Mobile and not to just 'wing it'.

The biggest change I would like to see is as much effort being directed to 'Preventing' fires and other emergencies, as there is directed to responding to the fire. We will always have emergencies, but responding to those that we may have been able to prevent is troubling.

What would you think the future of the CRR or fire prevention will look like or should look like?

I would hope that others would see the value in what we do, the value in keeping the citizens of Mobile safe, not just rescuing them after they are in danger. I would hope the CRR would be viewed similarly as the AHA (American Heart Association) understanding that helping to prevent a person from having a heart attack is better than performing CPR on the person after they have suffered. We certainly will not be able to prevent all emergencies, and our response to them must be at the highest level, but we surely can prevent more of them.



In your career what is the most memorable event?

All the great people I have worked with, the runs we have made, the lives we have saved and lost, the skills we have learned, the good we have done, the challenges we have overcome, the satisfaction this career gives when you give it your all and the tremendous sense of pride one garners by knowing you have made a real difference in the lives of others, and all of this being accomplished by just "doing our job".

Any regrets or things you would change?

Of course as you grow older hopefully you grow wiser, and there are some things I would do differently if I had the chance. But regrets? No, everything that I have experienced in my career has brought me to the place I am today. How was your time in

CRR? My 12 years in this division have been the high point of my career. Of course in my younger days I loved the "trucks" and station life. I enjoyed the EMS staff opportunity I was afforded, and the insight it gave me into the challenges that our Fire Department staff deals with daily. But at this stage in my life moving to the Bureau gave me the opportunity to engage in not only fire department management activities, but those of other city departments we interact with on a daily basis. My knowledge and understanding of how city politics and other city departments interact with each other and how that affects the fire department has been eye opening. I have developed a greater understanding and appreciation for those in management and the challenges they face daily. I have grown to understand that all of us are working toward the same goal of protecting the citizens of Mobile. I have learned to appreciate this in my 35 years in the Fire Service.

Captain J. I. May

Letter of Appreciation

Your CRR team has the pleasure of servicing over 10,000 businesses throughout the great City of Mobile. Each and every business is highly important and we can not be effective or proficient in our work without each and every business owner's help. From time to time some of our businesses have risen to levels beyond our expectations. For that we have shown our gratitude and appreciation. The three businesses that have earned our 2019 letter of appreciation and we recognize this year are:

Fyr-Fyter Sales & Service
White-Spinner Realty Company
Dorsey & Dorsey Engineering

For that, our office would like to say THANK YOU!

B.O.L.O.

Be on the look out—Community Risk Reduction is much more than any one single aspect. It is identifying and defining your community's challenges and determining a systematic approach to solving those challenges. A CRR team must "Be On Look Out" for common trends and upticks in hazards in order to make an effective response. CRR should be integrated in to the communities' health, safety and well-being. In 2019 the fire department has laid the groundwork with two progressive analytical programs, Image Trends and MOBILEeyes. Both programs are great in collecting fire data. B.O.L.O.- This will allow your CRR team to analytically examine the challenges in our communities. The programs also allow us to review the trends from past years, in order to make an accretive stance in changing and implementing safety measures in the community.

This type of data collection will continually advance your CRR team and implement leading not lagging ideas as it relates to safety. An effective CRR team can provide a number of benefits. First, it can improve in the department and community relations. While we are sometimes called at the communities most vulnerable time, the department is always looking of ways to enhance and provide a positive experience with the community. Secondly, it assist in managing an increase call volume. Lastly, an effective CRR program can improve firefighter safety. However this cannot be done without the help of the businesses, the department and the community. We embrace and look forward to raising the level of our safety culture.

