

**Thomasboro Fire Protection District  
101 North Church  
Thomasboro, IL 61822**



**I. Information about the Fire Protection District.**

The Thomasboro Fire Protection District (hereinafter the "TFPD" or the "District") has a long history of protecting the citizens and visitors of Village of Thomasboro and within the fire protection district, located in rural east central, Illinois. The TFPD was first organized in 1957 from being a village department in Champaign County, Illinois. The TFPD is responsible for providing services that include but not limited to fire suppression, first response emergency medical services, rescue services, fire safety education, and training.

The TFPD is led by a board of three trustees that are appointed by the Champaign County Board.

The Fire Chief, who serves at the pleasure of the board of trustees, oversees the day-to-day operations of the District. The organizational structure of the TFPD is made up of the Fire Chief, Two Assistant Chiefs, Two Captains, Two Fire Lieutenants, firefighters, and a clerk. The largest contingent of personnel in the TFPD is comprised of the volunteer company level officers and volunteer firefighters.

**II. Summary of Services Performed.**

The TFPD is comprised of twenty-three (23) men and women who voluntarily devote their time to serve the District as firefighters and emergency medical service providers. They provide these services out of one station that is located in the Village of Thomasboro.

Fire suppression, first response emergency medical services, rescue services, and fire safety education is provided by the members of the TFPD to 3500 residents of the 77 square miles within Champaign County.

The members of the TFPD also provide automatic mutual aid support to the Village of Rantoul, Gifford FPD, Carroll FPD, Edge Scott FPD, Sangamon Valley FPD, Eastern Prairie FPD, St Joseph Stanton FPD and the Ogden Royal FPD.

The members of the TFPD also provide other mutual aid support through the district's proud membership in the Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 28. MABAS Division 28 is made up of the other fire protection districts located within Champaign County, as well as the districts located in the south-east portion of Ford

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County and the east-half of Piatt County and Western Vermilion County encompassing a total of more than 1,000 square miles. As a member of the state's Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, the members of the TFPD are subject to be dispatched to incidents that not only occur within Division 28, but they can also be dispatched to incidents throughout the 102 counties within the state of Illinois and nationally, if additional services are needed.

The TFPD responded to the calls for service as follows:

Year Number of Calls

2020 414

2021 465

2022 441

2023 392

Furthermore, as of June 18, 2024 the members of the TFPD have responded to 175 calls for service.

### III. Committee Information.

#### A. Committee Members.

The Decennial Committee for the TFPD are as follows:

Kris Ehler, Trustee Chair

Kevin Wolken, Trustee

Mike Tittle, Trustee

Paul Cundiff, Fire Chief

William Wilken, Resident, Thomasboro School Board Member

Tony Grillo, Resident, Village Board Member

#### B. Committee Meeting Dates.

The Decennial Committee for the TFPD held the following public meetings:

Organizational Meeting: May 16, 2023

First Meeting: June 20, 2023

Second Meeting: September 19, 2023

Third Meeting: July, 16 2024

#### IV. Review.

The TFPD Decennial Committee reviewed the following, non-exhaustive list of laws, policies, ordinances, training materials, intergovernmental agreements, and other agreements documents applicable to the District to evaluate the District's compliance and efficiency, and determine if any amendments or updates need made to the District's ordinances, procedures, and

bylaws:

- Illinois Decennial Committees of Local Government Efficiency Act (50 ILCS 70/1 e1. seq.)
- Illinois Fire Protection District Act (70 ILCS 705/1 e1. seq.)
- Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 12011 e1. seq.)
- Illinois Freedom of information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 e1. seq.)
- Illinois Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act (50 ILCS 105/4.1)
- Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/2-109(c))
- Thomasboro Fire Protection District Ordinances, Resolutions and Minutes
- Thomasboro Fire Protection District By-Laws
- The Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Agreement
- Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Thomasboro Fire Protection District and the Metropolitan Computer Aided Dispatch (METCAD) (911) Regarding Fire Department Response and Operations

#### V. Compliance Items.

As a fire protection district, the TFPD is bound to be compliant and accountable with a variety of items pertaining to the fire district and its personnel. The different organizations to which the TFPD reports to, to help keep it compliant and accountable are: the State of Illinois, the Office of State Fire Marshall (OSFM), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), the Occupational Safety and Health

Administration (OSHA), the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL), and the Insurance Services Offices (ISO). A thorough discussion of the different measures the TFPD goes through regarding training, inspection of equipment, and safety to determine the District's compliance with all of the aforementioned was conducted by the TFPD Decennial Committee.

## VI. Station Facilities.

Fire facilities must be designed and constructed to accommodate both current and forecast trends in fire service vehicle type and manufactured dimensions. A facility must have sufficiently sized bay doors; circulation space between garaged vehicles; departure and return aprons of adequate length and turn geometry to ensure safe responses; and floor drains. For fire personnel, fire facilities must have provisions for vehicle maintenance and repair; storage areas for essential equipment and supplies; space and amenities for administrative work, laundering area, and an area for personal hygiene. As a fire department facility may also likely serve as a command center for large-scale, protracted, campaign emergency incidents, the design details and construction materials and methods should embrace a goal of having a facility that can perform in an uninterrupted manner despite prevailing climatic conditions and/or disruption of utilities.

National standards, such as NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety,

Health and Wellness Programs, outlines standards that transfer to facilities such as infection control, personnel and equipment decontamination, cancer prevention, storage of protective clothing, and employee fitness. NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Firefighting and Proximity Fire Fighting, further delineates laundering standards for protective clothing and station ware.

The TFPD fire station has an emergency generator connected to an automatic transfer switch that provides an effective safeguard that permits its fire department to function fully during local emergencies when response activity predictably peaks and also contains a commercial grade extractor for the laundering of protective clothing. The TFPD has implemented SOG's that are followed by its members regarding the cleaning and decontamination of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), storage of PPE, and inspection of PPE.

## Fleet.

The provision of an operationally ready fleet of mission-essential fire-rescue vehicles is fundamental to the ability of a fire-rescue department to deliver reliable and efficient

public safety within a community. The TFPD currently operates a fleet of front-line fire apparatus as outlined in the following table:

Number	Vehicle Type	Vehicle Description	Year	Age
851	Engine	Spartin/Alexis	2009	15
852	Engine	Pierce	1995	29
867	International/UST	Pumper Tanker	2021	3
875	Light Rescue	Ford F350	2011	13
876	Heavy Rescue	International/Rosenbauer	2011	13
881	Brush Truck	Ford F450	2012	12
1924	Antique Parade Truck		1924	100

The procurement, maintenance, and eventual replacement of response vehicles is one of the largest expenses incurred in sustaining a fire protection district's fire-rescue department. While it is the members of the TFPD who provide emergency services within the district, the district's fleet of response vehicles is essential to operational success. Reliable vehicles are needed to deliver responders and the equipment/materials they employ to the scene of dispatched emergencies within the district. Replacement of fire-rescue response vehicles is a necessary, albeit expensive, element of fire district's budgeting that should reflect careful planning. A well planned and documented emergency vehicle replacement plan ensures ongoing preservation of a safe, reliable, and operationally able response fleet. A fire protection district's plan must also include a schedule for future capital outlay in a manner that is affordable to the community.

NFPA 1901, Standard/or Automotive Fire Apparatus, serves as a guide to the manufacturers that build fire apparatus and the fire departments that purchase them. This standard is updated every five years using input from the public and stakeholders through a formal review process.

The review committee membership is made of up representatives from the fire service, manufacturers, consultants, and special interest groups. The review committee monitors various issues and problems that occur with fire apparatus and attempts to develop standards that address those issues. The Annex Material in NFPA 1901 contains recommendations and work sheets to assist in decision-making in vehicle purchasing. With respect to recommended vehicle service life, the following excerpt is noteworthy:

It is recommended that apparatus greater than 15 years old that have been properly maintained and that are still in serviceable condition be placed in reserve status and upgraded in accordance with NFPA 1915, Standard of Fire Apparatus Refurbishing, to incorporate as many features as possible of the current fire apparatus standard. This will ensure that, while the apparatus might not totally comply with the current edition of

the automotive fire apparatus standards, many improvements and upgrades required by the recent versions of the standards are available to the firefighters who use the apparatus.

A primary impetus for the recommended service life thresholds is continual advances in occupant safety. Despite good stewardship and maintenance of emergency vehicles in sound operating condition, there are many advances in occupational safety, such as fully enclosed cabs, enhanced rollover protection and airbags, three-point restraints, antilock brakes, higher visibility, cab noise abatement/hearing protection, and a host of other improvements that are reflected in each revision of NFPA 1901. These improvements provide safer response vehicles for those members who are providing emergency services within the district, as well as to those who are "sharing the road" with these responders.

Maintenance to the TFPD fleet is performed by authorized mechanics approved by the District's Chief and/or its Trustees, and the corresponding maintenance records are maintained by the district for the duration of time that the apparatus is in service with the District. Annual pump tests are performed on all TFPD apparatuses in accordance with manufacturer and industry specifications and standards.

The TFPD does not have a structured replacement plan for its first-line fire apparatus as outlined and required by NFPA 1901. It is the recommendation of this Decennial Committee that due to the TFPD currently having first-line fire engine apparatus in service that are approaching 30 years of service, that due consideration be given by the District Trustees now to implement a plan for the replacement of these vehicles. Furthermore, since the TFPD has first-line engine apparatus that are approaching or have been in service for more than 15 years of service, that the District Trustees develop an action plan to begin upgrading such first-line engine apparatus to comply with the current NFPA 1915 standard.

### Training Programs.

Essential to the success of any first responder is preparation. A robust, year-round, training curriculum is the foundation of any fire company who strives for optimal outcomes for every incident. The broad range of incidents modern firefighters respond to demands a training curriculum just as diverse and wide ranging in order to meet the challenges in the potential complexities of rapidly emergent events. Curricula that fail to address critical thinking and decision making, fine motor skill performance, teamworking principals, stress inoculation and mental resiliency - coupled with apt communication skill - hinders the fire service operator's ability to achieve said optimal outcomes.

Rather, it does the opposite, to the detriment of both the fire service and the communities they serve.

The Thomasboro Fire Protection District structures its firefighter training curriculum to ensure these concepts are adequately addressed. Utilizing practical skills evolutions, lecture, individual and group assessment, and mentorship. Building upon these fundamental concepts, TFPD designs its training to meet all applicable regulatory compliance required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshall.

A routine monthly training regimen for TFPD consists of at least six hours of fire/rescue-related training and three hours of Emergency Medical Services training (for EMS licensed members of TFPD). Trainings incorporate a variety of lecture, practical performance, and assessment. Example training will include equipment and apparatus familiarity, technique, and maintenance, SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) competency, fire suppression, Hazardous Materials awareness, communication readiness. Training subject matter and compliance is overseen by TFPD's Chief and TFPD's Training Officer as dictated by TFPD's Standard Operating Guidelines. TFPD's SOGs explicitly charge compliance to NFPA 1001 – Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications and NFPA 1403 – Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions.

Monthly routine training is supplemented by coursework sponsored by the Illinois Fire Service Institute, such as annual Fire College, numerous remote/online course offerings from the likes of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Fire Academy, as well as inter-agency training events hosted by the recently formed Northern Champaign County Training Alliance, encompassing Sangamon Valley, Rantoul, Ludlow, Carroll, Gifford, and Thomasboro Fire Protection Districts, of which TFPD was a founding member.

Per TFPD's SOGs, cadets, recruit candidates, and probationary firefighters of TFPD are required to complete minimum competency training prior to participation in or performance of any duties at an emergency incident. Training for cadets, recruits, probationary firefighters consist of an additional twelve hours per month beyond TFPD's routine training regimen. Lecture, practical, and final graded performance and written assessment in a minimum twelve-month probationary period must be completed prior to consideration and election to TFPD membership.

ISO Rating.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) is a national, not-for-profit organization that collects and evaluates information from communities across the United States regarding their capabilities to combat building fires. The data collected from a district or community is analyzed and applied to ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedules (FSRS) from which a Public Protection Classification (PPC) grade is assigned to a fire protection district or community (1 to 10). A Class 1 represents an exemplary community or district fire suppression program that includes all components outlined below. A Class 10 indicates that the community's or district's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. It is important to understand that PPC is not just a fire department classification, but rather a compilation of community or district services that include the fire department or district, the emergency communications center, and the community's potable water supply system.

A community or district's PPC grade depends on:

- Needed Fire Flows (building locations used to determine the theoretical amount of water necessary for fire suppression purposes).
- Emergency Communications (10 percent of the evaluation).
- Fire Department (50 percent of the evaluation).
- Water Supply (40 percent of the evaluation).

Effective January 1, 2020 Thomasboro Fire Protection District earned an improved rating of 05/5Y from a 06 in the previous rating.

- Fire Department: 30.09 earned credit points/50.00 credit points available.

The TFPD component received significant point deficiency in the following area:

- Credit for Company Personnel: 3.67/15.00. According to the TFPD Service Area, April 2023 PPC Summary Report, on-call members are credited on the basis of the average number staffing apparatus on first alarms. As the TFPD has 2 in service engine companies, the report determined that 12 on-call personnel responding to first alarm structure fires are necessary. However, the TFPD only had an average of 8 on-call personnel responding to first alarm structure fires.

It is the recommendation of this Decennial Committee that the TFPD can seek to improve the points earned in this area by

- (1) Implementing a SOG and/or by-law that incorporates a minimum number or percent of annual calls that each member must respond to and



(2) Continue to increase efforts to recruit additional members to increase the number of total members that would be available to respond. Furthermore, due to only 20.37 out of 50.0 points were received for Water Supply.

### Fire Preplanning.

An important part of risk management in the fire service is pre-planning inspections of large, high hazard, complex buildings as well as all businesses within its district. Conducting pre-fire surveys can have a significant impact on both potentially reducing structural fire loss and on reducing firefighter injuries. By improving the firefighters' understanding of complex building and/or business layouts, suppression ground activities can be improved, and potential firefighter injuries avoided.

The process of identifying target hazards and pre-incident planning are basic preparedness efforts that have been key functions in the fire service industry for many years. In this process, critical structures are identified based on the risk they pose. Then, tactical considerations are established for fires or other emergencies in these structures. Consideration is given to the activities that take place (manufacturing, processing, etc.), and other specific aspects relating to the construction of the facility or any hazardous or flammable materials that are regularly found in the building. Target hazards are those occupancies or structures that are unusually dangerous when considering the potential for loss of life or the potential for property damage.

NFPA's 1620, Recommendation Practice for Pre-Incident Planning, identifies the need to utilize both narrative and diagrams to depict the physical features of a building, its content, and any built-in fire protection systems. Information collected for pre-fire/incident plans includes, but certainly is not limited to, data such as:

- The occupancy type.
- Floor plans/layouts.
- Building construction type and features.
- Fire protection systems (sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, etc.).
- Utility locations.
- Hazards to firefighters and/or firefighting operations.
- Special conditions in the building.
- Apparatus placement plan.
- Fire flow requirements and/or water supply plan.

- Forcible entry and ventilation plan.

The information contained in pre-incident fire plans, allows firefighters and officers to have a familiarity with the building/facility, including but not limited to its features, characteristics, operations, and hazards, thus enabling them to conduct firefighting and other emergency operations more effectively, efficiently, and safely. Pre-incident fire plans should be reviewed regularly and tested by periodic table-top exercises and on-site drills for the most critical occupancies.

The TFPD is beginning to implement a standard, ongoing pre-fire planning program that includes having said pre-plans loaded onto the IaR app so that the pre-plans are readily available, accessible, and reviewable to all members of the department at any given time. This not only allows for every responding member to be able to review the pre-plan while enroute to the call, but also eliminates the waste of precious seconds to grab a pre-plan binder out of the office when arriving at the station for the emergency call. The TFPD is also beginning to upload the location of all fire hydrants within its district into the IaR app so that all responding apparatus, including all mutual aid units can locate the closest fire hydrant to the fire scene while enroute. It is the recommendation of this committee that both of these objectives should continue to remain a high priority for the TFPD members until such time as all pre-plans have been developed and uploaded into IaR, and until such time all fire hydrant locations within the district have been mapped on IaR.

## VII. Internal Efficiencies.

- Improved ISO rating provides opportunities for potential savings to residents of the district through improved insurance rates.
- Submission of Individual and Regional Grant Applications increases revenue potential for district.
- Receipt of Individual Grant Funds increases the revenue for the district without increasing the financial tax burden on the district's residence.
- Increased fundraising efforts increase the revenue for the district without increasing the financial tax burden on the district's residence.
- Applied for and received two 0% interest loans for the purchase of fire apparatus.
- Member of Mutual Aid Box Alarm System provides the TFPD with access to more manpower through pre-designed "run" cards for mutual aid support; access to more equipment as well as access to equipment that the TFPD does not have in it's own fleet, such as ladder and/or tower apparatus; access to coverage for the district when the TFPD resources are committed to an incident for an extended period of time; as well as access to numerous specialty teams such as hazardous materials teams, underwater

rescue/recovery teams, technical rescue teams, urban search and rescue team, and incident management teams.

- Agreements with other districts and regional grant applications provide purchasing efficiency and savings through bulk purchasing with other districts.

#### VIII. Areas of Revenue and Budget.

The districts equalized assessed values for the 2020, 2021 and 2021 Assessment Years are shown in the following table:

Year	Levy	Assessed valuation
2020	\$196,100	\$69,553,380
2021	\$205,281	\$73,253,570
2022	\$215,216	\$79,350,734

Much like every other volunteer fire protection district in the nation, the TFPD's budget is primarily consumed by equipment. For the TFPD, this budget area consistently represents approximately 25 percent to 30 percent of the total budget. The next largest budget areas are payroll and maintenance on apparatus and building. This leaves little discretionary funding for day-to-day service delivery and other supplies, training and education, employee uniforms and protective clothing, station improvements, and overall new programs/improvements to the District. The TFPD conducts a Pancake and Sausage fundraiser twice a year to help increase the revenue the District receives.

The TFPD has also made a conscious effort to locate more grant opportunities and to submit more grant applications to apply for additional funding to help cover ever increasing costs of fire protection service. The TFPD Decennial Committee also recommends that the District investigate and consider hiring a grant writing company to help further grant opportunities and potentially increase approval percentage of the grant applications that the TFPD submits.

#### IX. Areas of Lost Revenue.

Champaign County is one of several counties in Illinois that implemented a tax cap in the 1980's. This has caused the TFPD to operate at the capped maximum tax levy amount since that time.

#### X. Transparency.

The Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5 ILCS 120/1 et. seq.) provides the people of the state of Illinois with the right to be informed as to the conduct of public business. The TFPD maintains a presence on social media through the TFPD Face Book page. This

presence on social media maintains transparency to the public and provides it followers with fire prevention and safety education materials, important news and other information related items within the district and provides the community with a another means to communicate with the District.

Filed this 6 day of August 2024



8-6-2024

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Kris Ehler Chairman of the Decennial Committee for the Thomasboro Fire Protection District

**FILED**

**AUG 06 2024**

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