

Government Innovations

Public Works Answering Fire and Rescue Calls

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BRISTOL IS NOT THE FIRST OR ONLY

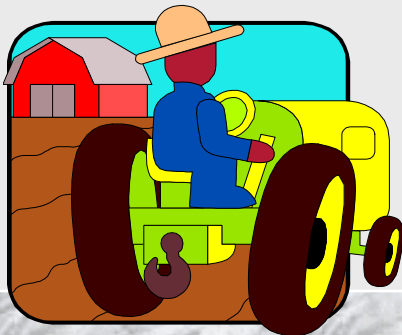
- ❑ Other towns have adapted similar programs out of necessity
- ❑ The innovation award from the Ford Foundation is to help us promote this idea
- ❑ Bristol will host a web site for municipalities to communicate



Historical Perspective

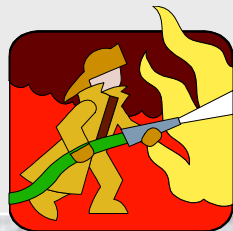
Bristol is a small town

- ❑ Daytime help is sparse, lack of
 - ❑ Farmers
 - ❑ Local Businessmen
 - ❑ Stay at Home Moms
 - ❑ Second and Third Shift Workers



Then and Now

- ❑ Twenty years ago, small amount of rescue calls and many fire calls
- ❑ Presently, many rescue calls and few fire calls
- ❑ The future may be more rescue and fewer fire calls



Problems with Rural Fire Departments

- Full time fire department is not cost effective

- Not enough daytime volunteers

Solutions

- ❑ We need volunteers around for daytime calls.
- ❑ Public Works employees are around and can help



Bristol's Costs

- ❑ Run 500 calls yearly
- ❑ 32 square miles
- ❑ Population of 4,500
- ❑ \$20,000 yearly
- ❑ 6 people available during the day
- ❑ Current pay scale \$.75 per hour
- ❑ Future employees scale \$1.25

Possible Problems/Solutions

- ❑ Calls during emergencies (snow storms, water main breaks etc)
 - ❑ Operate with a skeleton crew until the F/R incident is over
- ❑ Volunteers upset daytimers getting paid
 - ❑ Communicate the need to provide the service
- ❑ Public works employee's may stop answering fire/rescue
 - ❑ Workers will lose pay incentives
- ❑ Neighboring full time departments negative of program
 - ❑ Communicate the municipality is doing the best it can to provide the service efficiently

Summary

- ❑ Need to look at the whole picture
- ❑ Civil servants serve the public as needed
- ❑ Possible uses of the program
 - ❑ Small municipalities
 - ❑ Larger municipalities that need manpower for larger fire incidents
- ❑ Web site is : town.bristol.wi.us

