



REHOBOTH FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS SECTION &
COMPANY 1 QUARTERS - PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

OVERVIEW

- ▶ The following presentation was produced to give you an overview of the working conditions, space restrictions and in some cases the safety concerns with the current Fire Department Headquarters and Station # 1 quarters. The department has long out grown the facility and the building has become counter productive to our mission. The cost effective solution that is being proposed is the result of three years worth of work by the PSB committee but has been a topic of discussion for eighteen years. Our firefighters protect the lives and property of the citizens of Rehoboth and those who visit it out of pure dedication and commitment to serve. The mission has changed drastically over the last twenty years and the time has long past for the facilities they operate, train and work out of to be upgraded.



▶ APPARATUS

▶ &

▶ BAY STORAGE

APPARATUS & STORAGE

- ▶ Over the course of the last twenty-two years all of the apparatus that was housed when the building was opened has been replaced with much larger and more sophisticated trucks and equipment. Tanker 1 has to be driven out the front door of the station as there is not enough room in the rear of the property to back the truck in safely or for it to make the turn out of the bay to get to Anawan Street. In cases where only the tanker is needed, Ladder 1 has to be pulled out of the way delaying response.



Cont'd

- ▶ The same situation exists with Brush #1. When a call for a brush fire is received Special Hazards or Engine #1 has to be moved to get the truck out of the station.



Cont'd

- ▶ When apparatus is parked in the building, access to hose, supplies and storage is impossible. Trucks have to be constantly moved to access these areas throughout the station. This means apparatus has to be put outside in extreme weather conditions so mission critical duties and readiness procedures can be performed. In cold weather trucks need to be kept running so water tanks and pumps don't freeze.



Cont'd

- ▶ Everything from fluid absorbents, foam, spare bottles etc. has to be stored around the perimeter of the apparatus floor. Tripping hazards abound.









Cont'd

- ▶ The self contained breathing apparatus bottle filling station cannot be accessed or used when the trucks are in quarters.



Cont'd

- ▶ Access to the overhead storage area and radio equipment room is over an old fire ladder that hangs from the ceiling by a rope. Hardly OSHA compliant.



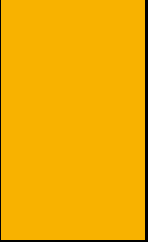
Overhead storage



Utilities

- ▶ There is a myriad of gas pipes, electrical conduits, plumbing computer and phone cables that have been introduced over the years. Care has to be used when moving trucks or doing just about anything else in the apparatus bay to avoid damaging this infrastructure.





Cont'd

- ▶ Forestry 1 is kept outside year round. It has to be drained and taken completely out of service in the Fall and put back in service in the Spring. The weather wreaks havoc with the truck and leads to unnecessary maintenance issues and costs.



Lighting

- ▶ To say the lighting in the apparatus bay is poor would be a compliment. You cannot check fluids in apparatus, read gauges, do any type of minor repair or read directions without a flashlight. This type of lighting also wastes copious amounts of energy.



Other storage

- ▶ The Department also incorporates the use of two old storage trailers to keep surplus equipment, tables and chairs for training and events and supplies. These trailers constantly develop leaks, are loaded with bees in the summer and are occupied by various rodents and birds.





▶ BUILDING

▶ EXTERIOR

FD Entrance

- ▶ This is the entrance to Fire Department Headquarters. It leaves little to be desired aesthetically. The entrance is located in the rear of the building and most people who come for the first time have trouble locating it. The access road is located 100 feet North of the East facing bays doors and is one way. There have been instances where customers have parked in front of the apparatus bay doors blocking them from response. People also arrive and leave in the wrong direction. There have been near miss collisions with other customers and fire apparatus.



Parking

- ▶ Customer parking consists of three spaces. One is partially on the pavement and the other two are in the dirt. When it rains the area gets muddy and when it snows the area is difficult to clear. The Department receives numerous complaints from customers about this area. Elderly and mobile impaired customers who cannot use the one handicapped space have a hard time negotiating this area.



Roof drain

- ▶ The roof drain off of the rear of the building has been an issue for numerous years. Due to poor original design, the drain has frozen and thawed so many times it is all but impossible to keep it together. When it freezes it pushes the drain pipe off of the building. In warmer weather heavy rain has the same effect. There is constantly water running by the entrance to the station for 2-3 days after a storm. The entrance is always icing over and needs to be treated several times a day to prevent slips and falls. Even if the water is directed away from the entrance due to the grade of the area it runs right back.



Aprons

- ▶ The concrete aprons at the rear bay doors have been deteriorating for years. They have been patched over and over but continue to erode. This leads to drainage and icing issues.



Generator

- ▶ The emergency generator for the building was evaluated last year and has reached its full capacity. We are in danger of total power loss if it was to fail. It also only has a twenty gallon fuel tank. When there is an extended loss of power, it has to be constantly monitored and diesel fuel has to be trucked to it from the Highway Garage.



Signage

- ▶ The signage and identity of the building are poor. This leads to more confusion when people or deliveries are trying to locate the Department.





▶ ADMINISTRATION,
▶ STATION 1
▶ &
▶ COMMON AREAS

Chief's office



Administration office



Headquarters office space

- ▶ The command staff and administration functions of the Department operate out of a total of 250 square feet of office space. The Fire Chief, Administrative Assistant, Fire Prevention, Training Division and Maintenance Division have to share this minimal amount of space. There is only one desk for the three divisions and the Deputy / Assistant Chiefs to work out of. When you add the file cabinets and office machines the space shrinks even more. The Chiefs and firefighters assigned to these divisions have to schedule around each other or are forced to work from home. To say the least this is counter productive. Customers that need to do business with the department stand in the doorway of the office while being served. A small table and chair are provided for filling out permits and forms. There is *zero security* realized by this configuration.

Station # 1



Company 1

- ▶ The Station 1 officers and firefighters operate out of one 108 square foot “radio room”. The back up console for public safety dispatch is also located in the space. Once you add the desk, PC, printer and file cabinets it’s basically a closet. Other issues this presents for the operation of the Companies located here will be addressed later.

Decontamination room

- ▶ The decontamination room is 40 square feet. There is an emergency shower and turnout gear extractor located here. As with any other space in the building it has become a catch all for other items that need to be stored and is shared with the Rehoboth Ambulance. There is no space for a gear dryer which is desperately needed.



Kitchen area

- ▶ The small kitchen area is shared by three agencies. The area was renovated last year. The cabinets were donated by a firefighters company and he installed them at no charge. The stove and microwave were donated by Rehoboth Ambulance and installed with free firefighter labor. The area was painted by firefighters who volunteered their time. The Department did provide the counter tops and sink for \$350.



Storage

- ▶ The mechanical room for the facility doubles as the only storage space. About the best way to describe it is inadequate and unsafe. The items and supplies in the room have to be kept in a locked area. All of the 911 circuits, breaker panels, phone and internet systems are located here.



Common area

- ▶ The common area is shared by three agencies. The Ambulance duty crew is here from 7am to 5pm seven days a week. All of the furniture in the room has been donated by various agencies or purchased through grant money. The television was also donated. This area is also used for training, events, meetings and workshops. It is not conducive to any of these functions.



HVAC system

- ▶ The heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in the facility are antiquated. When the Administration office, IT closet and Ambulance / REMA offices were added the HVAC system remained the same. Depending on the season, some areas are very cold or very hot. The exhausts and air intakes are no longer in the correct locations for the system to produce any kind of true climate control.



Roof

- ▶ The roof over the entire building not just the Fire Department spaces has been leaking for years. Boat loads of money have been spent patching, replacing and repairing the roof. This again is a result of poor original design. Ice and snow seem to cause the most problems. In the past, firefighters and police officers have had to go up on the roof to shovel off snow or break up ice. This practice was ended years ago due to safety concerns. Ceiling tiles have come in and are replaced due to staining constantly.



Summary

- ▶ As stated in the opening, the Fire Department space in the facility is outdated, cramped, counter productive and presents safety issues. There is a real need for office space, a conference room, a training room, storage and effective decontamination. It has gotten to the point where it has become an embarrassment. The Town appropriates less than \$400K a year for total fire protection. Regardless of what conditions the Department has to work and operate under we are required to meet all Federal, State, NFPA and EMS standards. These conditions make that extremely difficult. If it wasn't for the dedication and commitment to serve and the professionalism exuded by our members we would be in serious trouble. The time has long past to give these first responders the type of facility they *deserve*.

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- ▶ We encourage you to come and tour the facility and talk with the Chiefs, Officers and firefighters to get their prospective on the issues the facility presents to the day to day operations. We can be contacted at 508-252-3725. We thank you for taking the time to view this presentation and humbly request your support for the new facility.
- ▶ Frank T. Barresi
- ▶ Fire Chief