

## **Brooklyn (MN) Park Fire Department**

The Brooklyn Park Fire Department is the busiest non-career fire department in the state of Minnesota, protecting a community of 75,000 in a 27 square mile area. Recognizing the growing and changing complexion of the region, the Brooklyn Park Fire Department undertook an aggressive reorganization beginning in July 2007 aimed at providing residents and visitors with excellent medical response services. Achieving and maintaining a successful transformation required a comprehensive, ongoing strategy and implementation of numerous initiatives.

The Department invested in a 24x7 staffing model that hires 6 Paid-on-call firefighters each day, and three at night to provide immediate response capabilities. These part-time POC firefighters, who are paid an hourly wage while on shift, consistently meet or exceed the NFPA standard for response time on medical calls. The redesign of staffing and apparatus deployment, using small vehicles and two-person rescue crews has significantly reduced both fuel costs and capital expenses, and allows the department to deliver patient care in areas previously not reachable.

The entire department staff is certified to the EMT-B level, including 4EMT-P's and 61 EMT-B's. Moreover, EMT-B certification is a requirement for employment.

The Department has forged a strong working relationship with a primary advanced life support (ALS) provider. This relationship has proven very beneficial on a number of levels, including exchange programs for any used medical supplies, EMT assistance during transport of critical patients, training partnerships between the two entities, and a station modification creating an ambulance bay and separate quarters for the medics.

Realizing that this is an ongoing process, the department initiated executive-level meetings to assess progress and ensure current goals are meeting changing demands. Additionally, practices have been instituted to achieve better oversight and consistent performance and an awards program was launched to recognize achievements.