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OCT 25 2024

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Southern Inyo Fire Protection District

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TO: The Inyo County Grand Jury
RE: 2023/2024 Inyo County Grand Jury Final Report; Fire Safety Inspections
FROM: Southern Inyo Fire Protection District
October 18, 2024

To the Grand Jury;

The SIFPD governing board has reviewed the Final Report as it pertains to Fire Safety Inspections and has worked to find ways to come into compliance with the recommendations. Attached please find the plan of action developed and approved by the SIFPD board. The District is in the process of implementing same.

As the Grand Jury is likely aware, schools in Inyo County are now being inspected by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection so they are not included in our plan.

Finding qualified personnel to perform the inspections has long been the biggest challenge facing SIFPD in meeting these obligations. The District has also developed a plan to recruit and retain a fire inspector and is hopeful that this will not be an issue going forward.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and to fire and emergency service as a whole in Inyo County.

Respectfully and appreciatively,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Flinchum".

Robin Flinchum
District Board Chairperson

Southern Inyo Fire Protection District
Working together to keep the heart of the Mojave safe!

Action Plan for SIFPD Fire Inspections of Local Hotels

Objective:

To conduct thorough fire safety inspections in local hotels to ensure compliance with fire codes and enhance the safety of guests and staff.

1. Preparation Phase:

- 1.1 Identify Hotels:

- Compile a list of all local hotels, including contact information and number of floors/rooms.

- 1.2 Develop Inspection Criteria:

- Review local fire codes and regulations.
- Create a checklist of essential fire safety components to inspect, such as:
 - Fire alarms and detection systems
 - Sprinkler systems
 - Emergency exits and signage
 - Fire extinguishers and accessibility
 - Electrical safety
 - Evacuation plans

- 1.3 Team Preparation:

- Assemble a trained team for inspections, get the proper training to ensure that team members are familiar with the inspection criteria.

2. Communication Phase:

- 2.1 Inform Stakeholders:

- Notify hotel managers of upcoming inspections via email and phone calls.
- Provide an overview of what to expect during the inspection.

- 2.2 Schedule Inspections:

- Coordinate with hotel management to schedule inspections at convenient times to minimize any disruption.
- Aim to inspect a certain number of hotels each week for efficiency.

3. Inspection Phase:

- 3.1 Conduct Inspections:

- Perform on-site inspections using the developed checklist.
- Assess adherence to fire codes and identify areas needing improvement or repair.

- 3.2 Document Findings:

- Record findings, take photographs, and note any violations.
- Discuss observations with hotel management on-site.

4. Follow-Up Phase:**

- 4.1 Provide Inspection Reports:
 - Compile written reports summarizing the findings of each inspection.
 - Highlight critical issues, recommendations, and deadlines for compliance.
- 4.2 Implement Remediation Follow-Up:
 - Schedule follow-up visits to ensure that corrective actions are completed.
 - Offer assistance or resources for hotels needing help with compliance.

5. Training and Awareness:

- 5.1 Conduct Staff Training:
 - Organize workshops or training sessions for hotel staff on fire safety awareness and emergency procedures.
- 5.2 Provide Resources:
 - Distribute fire safety materials and resources to help hotels maintain a high level of safety.

6. Continuous Improvement:

- 6.1 Gather Feedback:
 - Solicit feedback from hotel managers and staff to improve the inspection process and communication.
- 6.2 Review Policies:
 - Regularly review and adjust the inspection processes based on feedback and changes in local regulations.

7. Reporting and Evaluation:

- 7.1 Analyze Data:
 - Collect data on inspections conducted, compliance rates, and common issues found.
- 7.2 Report Findings:
 - Present findings to local authorities and stakeholders to highlight progress, challenges, and future needs for fire safety improvement.

Timeline:

- ****Weeks 1-2:**** Preparation and communication
- ****Weeks 3-8:**** Conduct inspections
- ****Weeks 9-10:**** Follow-up and training sessions
- ****Ongoing:**** Monitor compliance and improvement efforts

Budget Considerations:

- Allocate funds for staff time, training materials, and any required resources for hotel compliance support.

With this structured action plan, SIFPD can effectively ensure the safety of guests and staff in local hotels while fostering a culture of fire safety awareness in the community.