

Projects, Strategies, Timeline, and Project Selection Criteria

Yes, the Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue action plan identifies a comprehensive set of projects and strategies designed to address the safety challenges associated with roadway incidents and vehicle extrication within the district. The plan outlines specific initiatives intended to improve response effectiveness, firefighter safety, and patient survivability during motor vehicle collisions occurring along key transportation corridors such as **U.S. Route 101** and **Oregon Route 34**.

Identified Projects and Strategies

The action plan includes several coordinated projects and strategies focused on improving operational readiness and roadway safety:

1. Acquisition of Updated Extrication Equipment

The department will replace aging hydraulic rescue tools with modern extrication equipment capable of handling advanced vehicle construction materials. This project focuses on improving cutting strength, tool reliability, and rapid deployment during rescue operations.

2. Enhanced Extrication Training Program

Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue will continue to provide hands-on extrication training for career and volunteer personnel. Training will incorporate modern rescue techniques learned during recent instruction with **Elite Extrication and Equipment**, with an emphasis on patient access, vehicle stabilization, and responder safety.

3. Regional Training and Incident Planning

The department will expand joint training opportunities and incident planning with neighboring agencies such as **Yachats Rural Fire Protection District** to strengthen mutual aid coordination during major vehicle collisions along shared response areas.

4. Policy and Procedure Updates

Revised operational policies and training standards will be adopted to align with modern extrication techniques, updated equipment capabilities, and best practices in roadway incident management.

Project Implementation Timeline

The action plan outlines general time ranges for project deployment to ensure a structured and achievable implementation process:

Short-Term (0–6 months)

- Finalize equipment specifications and funding sources
- Begin procurement of updated extrication equipment
- Initiate policy review and revisions
- Conduct initial training sessions with new techniques

Mid-Term (6–12 months)

- Complete equipment acquisition and deployment
- Provide department-wide training on new rescue tools and procedures
- Conduct joint training exercises with Yachats Fire

Long-Term (12 months and beyond)

- Continue recurring extrication training and multi-agency drills
- Monitor incident outcomes and response effectiveness
- Evaluate equipment performance and update procedures as needed

Project Selection Criteria

Projects included in this action plan were selected based on several key criteria to ensure they directly address the identified safety challenges within the jurisdiction:

- **Impact on Reducing Fatalities and Serious Injuries**

Projects were prioritized based on their ability to improve patient access times and enhance rescue effectiveness during severe vehicle crashes.

- **Operational Need and Equipment Condition**
Existing rescue equipment age, performance limitations, and compatibility with modern vehicle construction were major factors in prioritizing replacement and upgrades.
- **Responder Safety**
Initiatives that improve firefighter safety, reduce physical strain, and minimize hazards during extrication operations were strongly prioritized.
- **Regional Coordination**
Projects that support interoperability and coordinated response with neighboring agencies, including Yachats Fire, were included to strengthen mutual aid operations.
- **Training Effectiveness**
Strategies that provide realistic training opportunities and reinforce modern rescue techniques were prioritized to ensure personnel remain proficient and prepared for complex incidents.

Summary

Through the identification of targeted projects, defined implementation timelines, and clear project selection criteria, the action plan provides a structured approach to improving vehicle rescue capabilities and roadway safety. These efforts support Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue's commitment to reducing fatalities and serious injuries while strengthening emergency response operations across the district.