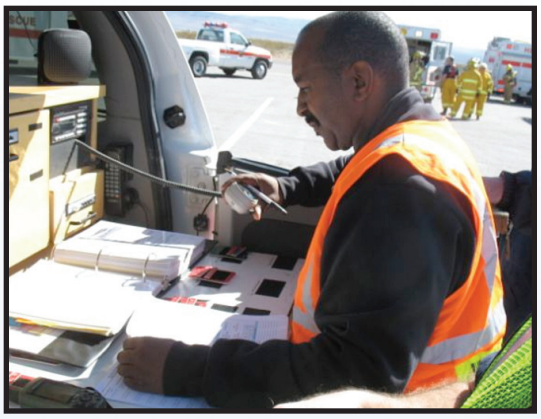
Nevada National Security Site

Fire & Rescue

Introduction

At 1,375 square miles, the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), formerly known as the Nevada Test Site (NTS), is a wide expanse of land with mountain ranges, dry lake beds, and a variety of plant and animal life. The climate is arid, with an annual rainfall of six inches in the lower elevations, an ideal setting for the ignition of wildland fires.



Wildland fires are not the only risks at the NNSS. Offices, facilities, and projects at the site are subject to a diverse range of operational risks and hazards that include the potential for significant emergencies.

Background

To mitigate these risks and provide protection for the surrounding public, personnel, and property at the NTS, the NTS Fire & Rescue (F&R) was established on October 9, 1951. Today, the NNSS F&R provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials (HAZMAT) mitigation, technical rescue, incident command functions, and fire prevention activities on a 24-hour basis. NNSS F&R personnel are an experienced, highly-trained unit consisting of a Fire Chief, two Deputy Chiefs, a Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, and Members of A, B, and C platoons.

Response Capabilities

NNSS F&R operates out of two fire stations at the site: Station No.1, located in Mercury; and Station No.2, located in Area 6. Both stations are staffed with firefighters and paramedics prepared to respond to emergencies around the clock.

The stations combined equipment includes two fire engines containing a 1,000-gallon tank and 120-gallon foam tank capable of pumping 1,250 gallons of water per minute (gpm); two heavy rescue trucks containing specialty equipment for mitigation of all types of rescue incidents, five advanced life support (paramedic) ambulances, a multiple-victim incident response vehicle, light duty Chief vehicles, and six Type VI wildland engines.

The stations are also equipped with specialty equipment for use during various types of emergencies including a hazardous materials trailer, wildland fire extended operations trailer, ten specially equipped all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), a breathing-air resupply trailer, a reserve fire engine (1000 gallon / 1250 gpm) assigned to the fire prevention staff, a 2000 gallon / 750 gpm water tender, and a Mobile Incident Command Post (MICP) vehicle which is a 34-foot RV constructed to serve as a self-contained mobile command post. The vehicle is equipped with work stations, radios, lap-top computers, fax, cellular, and satellite phones, 25 foot tall extendable mast with video camera and weather stations, maps, documents, charts, chemical research material, assorted office supplies, and other necessities to sustain extended incident command operations.

Training

F&R personnel participate in a rigorous training program designed to enhance and maintain firefighter and paramedic knowledge and skills. The training program meets national and state requirements and standards, and covers a wide variety of response disciplines, and consists of classroom and hands-on components. NNSS F&R has a multiple acre training facility where the majority of the hands-on training takes place. Numerous specialized props provide a realistic training experience and hone firefighter and paramedic skills while maintaining a safe operating environment.

The F&R emergency response personnel are trained and certified to provide the following services:

- Manual fire suppression
- Emergency Medical Services
- HAZMAT incident stabilization and mitigation
- Aircraft rescue and firefighting standby
- Technical and general rescue activities
- Emergency fire system isolation and stabilization
- Fire system trouble and supervisory investigation
- Fire hose and fire pump testing
- Fire Marshal program
- Fire extinguisher maintenance
- Fire extinguisher education
- Fire pre-plan development
- Initial fire watch services after normal business hours
- Firefighter and paramedic training and certification
- Vehicle crash rescue

Mutual Aid Agreements

F&R personnel deploy to emergencies in proximity to the NNSS including; medical emergencies, wildland fires, vehicle fires and accidents, rescue and HAZMAT incidents on U.S. Highway 95, along with other areas within Nye County and Clark Counties. These services are provided upon request to civilian authorities and community emergency service providers through formal Memorandum of Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with external response agencies.

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