

Welcome to North Charleston
a great place to live, work, or play



Introduction

The North Charleston Fire Department (NCFD) provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue, special operations, fire prevention/inspection, public education to the City of North Charleston, South Carolina. NCFD is consistently working to achieve and/or maintain the highest level of professionalism and efficiency on behalf of those it serves, and thus contracted with the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) to facilitate a method to document the agency's vision to the future via a strategic plan. Furthermore, in an effort to work toward self-improvement, the agency is pursuing accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). The following strategic plan was developed in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the *CFAI Emergency Service -Self Assessment Manual*, Ed., and is intended to guide the organization within established parameters set forth by the authority having jurisdiction.

The CPSE utilized the Community-Driven Strategic Planning process to go beyond just the development of a document. It challenged the membership of NCFD to critically examine paradigms, values, philosophies, beliefs and desires, and challenged individuals to work together to create a shared vision. Through this process, the agency performed an outstanding job in committing to this important project and remained focused on the goal of creating a strategic plan that would guide the organization's future.

This strategic plan, with its foundation based in community and membership input, sets forth a continuous improvement plan that offers a road map for justifiable and sustainable future.



NORTH CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN
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NORTH CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2011-2016 Strategic Plan



Organizational Background



The City of North Charleston, South Carolina, incorporated on June 12, 1972 and grew rapidly, doubling its area within seven months and its population in less than a year. Quickly becoming the state's 3rd largest city, with population and area growth, North Charleston has seen significant economic impacts as a result of Hurricane Hugo's devastation in 1989 and the Charleston Naval Base closure in 1996. However, the City is in a rebound as it now boasts being home to prominent businesses such as Global Financial Services and Boeing Aircraft.

Currently, North Charleston has a population of over 97,000 in an area of more than 76 square miles. The City is a Council-Form of government, and is housed in a centrally located City Hall along with other City departments, including fire department administration.

The first fire department serving the area now known as North Charleston was the St. Phillip's and St. Michael's Fire Department, founded in 1935. Just two years later, the North Charleston Fire Department was also formed. In 1959, the departments merged to become the North Charleston Consolidated Fire Department. When that department became a paid service in 1962, the volunteers were released and formed the Charleston County Volunteer Rescue Squad.

When the City of North Charleston incorporated, the fire department became two separate entities: the City of North Charleston Fire Department and the North Charleston Fire District, but again merged in 1996 as the present day North Charleston Fire Department. The NCFD now serves the City of North Charleston from 12 stations with more than 220 members, 11 engines, 4 ladder trucks, 2 heavy rescue vehicles, as well as numerous command and special operations vehicles.





NORTH CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2011-2016 Strategic Plan



