



OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

2012 APPRATUS “BROWN OUT” (TEMPORARY CLOSURES)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Background

Due to cost cutting measures established to balance the 2011 – 2013 budget, effective July 1, 2012, the Oakland Fire Department will begin a brown out strategy resulting in the temporary closure of two (2) Fire Companies on an equal rotating basis, consistent with operational necessity (e.g. seasonal needs).

Through this cost cutting measure, the City of Oakland will be able to recognize a \$4M saving for fiscal year 2012/2013.

What is a brown out?

A brown-out is a common phrase used in fire departments. It is when an Engine or Truck Company is taken out of service temporarily and the staff is re-assigned to fill the vacancies created by vacation or sick leave in the remaining Companies. Through rotation, the Oakland Fire Department will brown out two (2) companies per day with each rotation lasting a period of three (3) days.

Which Fire Stations will participate in the brown-outs?

All Oakland Fire Department stations, with the exception of Fire Station 22, located at the Oakland Airport, will participate in the brown-out rotations. When a station is staffed with an Engine and a Truck Company, and the Engine is scheduled for brown-out rotation, the Truck Company will provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) for that district.

How were the Stations chosen for brown-outs and what is the plan?

Fire Companies will brown-out on an equal rotating basis. The rotation was determined by the geographical location and high fire danger season. Geographically, station closures will be spread across the city to reduce the impact on any one Battalion and or geographical portion of the City. Only one company per battalion will be browned-out at a time. During high fire season, Companies in the hills will fall out of rotation but will pick up again outside of fire season.

Fire Stations housing both an Engine and Truck Company will not close, but one Company will be placed out of service or browned-out during the rotation period. If necessary, the Truck Company will be staffed with appropriate personnel and equipment to provide Advanced Life Support or ALS service to the first in district. Fire Stations housing only one company will close during the three day rotational period.

Who will respond when a company is browned-out and what will happen to response times?

When a Company is browned out (temporarily closed), the closest available Engine or Truck Company will be dispatched to provide service. The Fire Department Administration will monitor response time statistics when companies are browned out and attempt to make adjustments as needed.

How do we know when our local fire station will be closed?

A schedule has been developed outlining the temporary closure dates and is [available for review here](#).