



DISCUSSION

ITEM NO. 8.

DATE OF MEETING: May 20, 2013

REQUESTED BY: Pender County Commissioner David Williams

SHORT TITLE: Discussion and Information Concerning Fire Service and Future Planning for Eastern Pender County

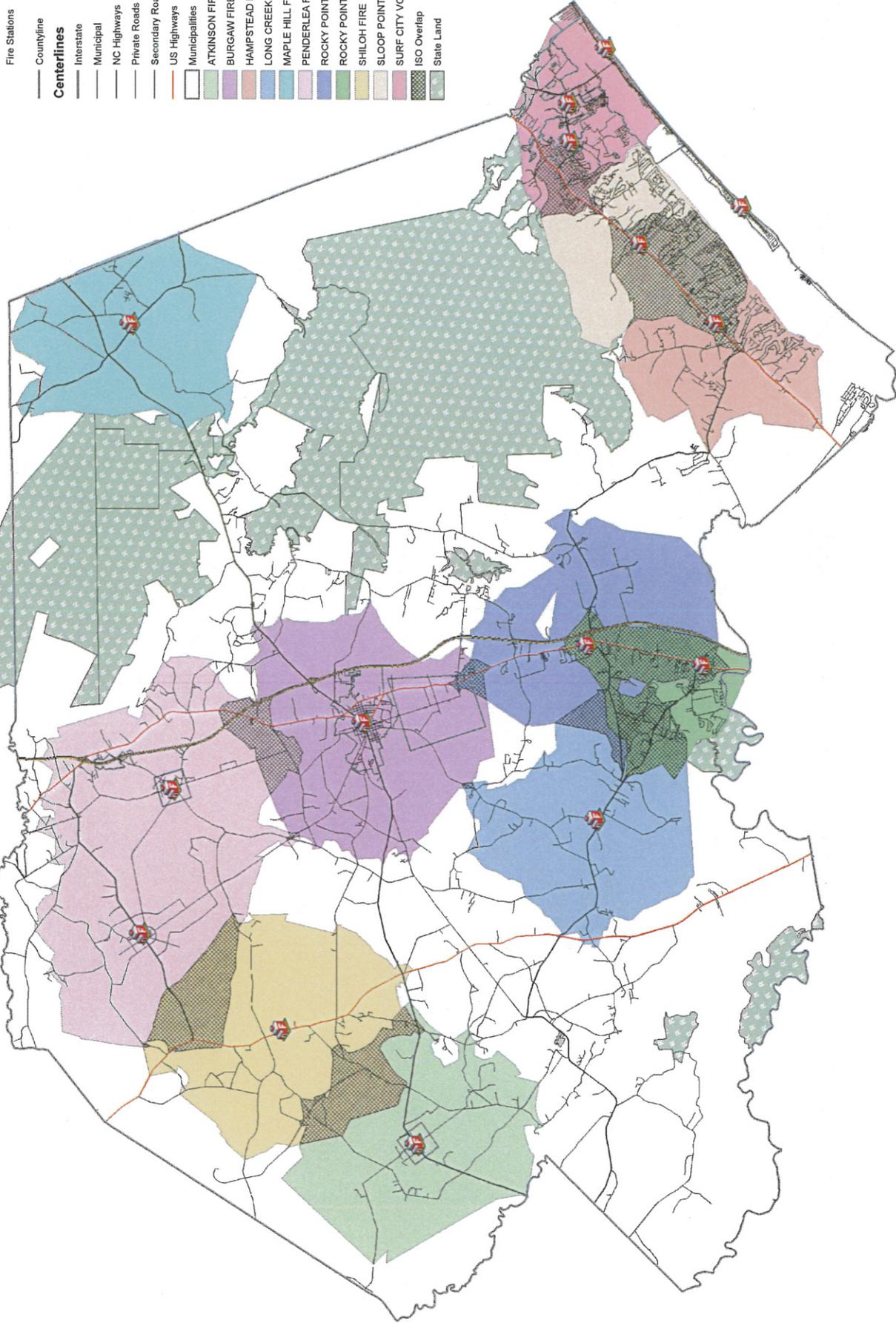
BACKGROUND: Commissioner David Williams has requested the Board engage in discussion concerning Fire Service and Future Planning for Eastern Pender County. Pender County Emergency Management Staff, including the Fire Marshal, will be available to answer Commissioners' questions related to existing Fire Service in Eastern Pender County and explain the current county-wide ISO Fire District Maps in detail. Also, information regarding the Emergency Services Strategic Plan (Fire Department Portion) will be available.



PENDER COUNTY FIVE MILE ISO DISTRICTS

Legend

- Fire Stations
- Countyline
- Centerlines
 - Interstate
 - Municipal
 - NC Highways
 - Private Roads
 - Secondary Road
 - US Highways
- Municipalities
- Atkinson Fire
- Burgaw Fire
- Hampstead Fire
- Long Creek Grady Fire
- Maple Hill Fire
- Penderlea Fire
- Rocky Point Fire
- Rocky Point Fire Annex
- Shiloh Fire
- Sloop Point Fire
- Surf City Vol Fire
- ISO Overlap
- State Land



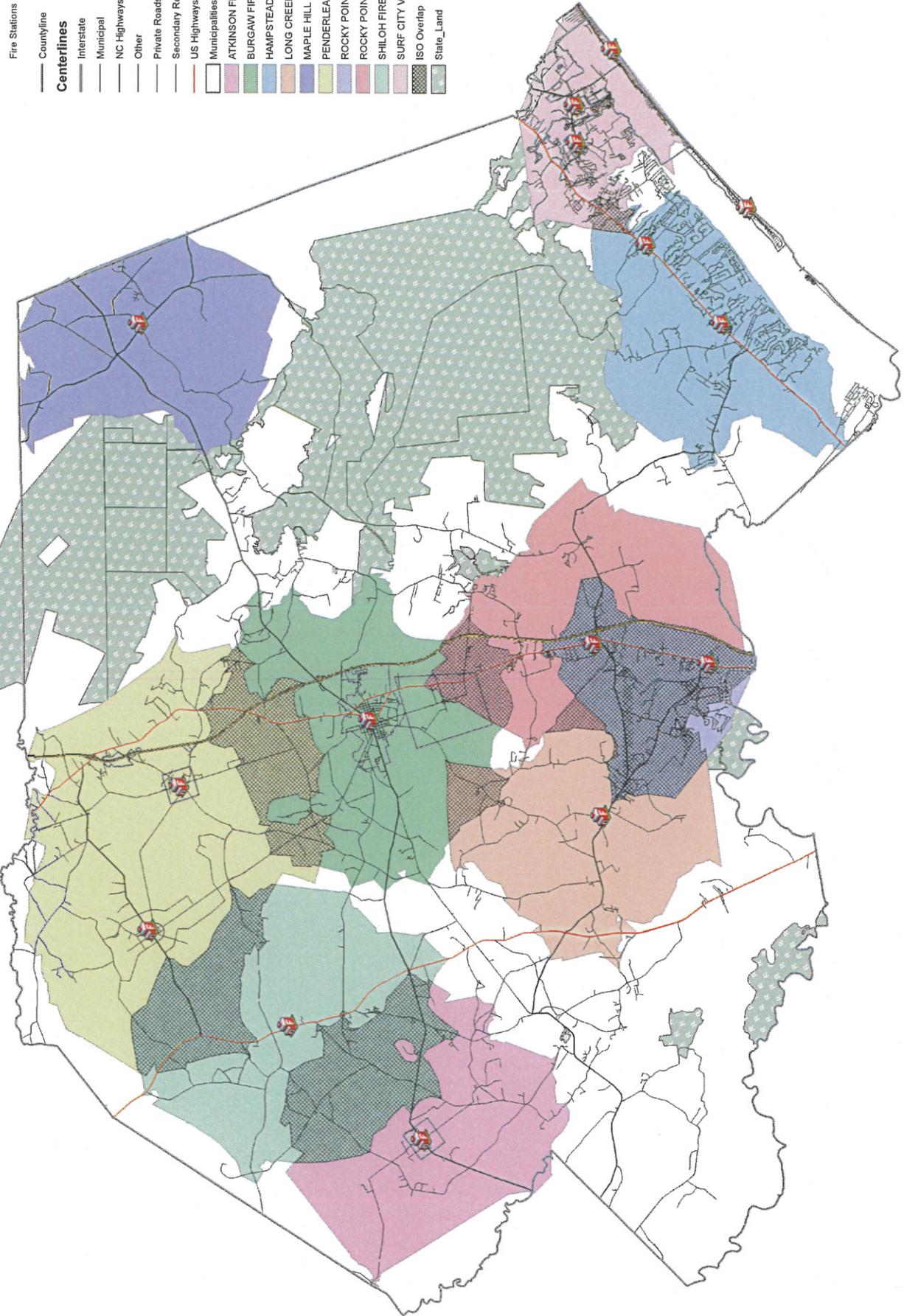
1 in = 1 miles



PENDER COUNTY SIX MILE ISO DISTRICTS

Legend

- Fire Stations
- Centerlines
- Countyline
- Interstate
- Municipal
- NC Highways
- Other
- Private Roads
- Secondary Road
- US Highways
- Municipalities
- ATKINSON FIRE
- BURGAW FIRE
- HAMPSTEAD FIRE
- LONG CREEK GRADY FIRE
- MAPLE HILL FIRE
- PENDERLEA FIRE
- ROCKY POINT ANNEX
- ROCKY POINT FIRE
- SHILOH FIRE
- SURF CITY VOL FIRE
- ISO Overlap
- State_Land



1 in = 1 miles

FIVE MILE ISO DISTRICTS (Inset of Hampstead, Sloop Point and Surf City Volunteer)

Onslow County

Surf City

Atlantic Ocean

Topsail Beach

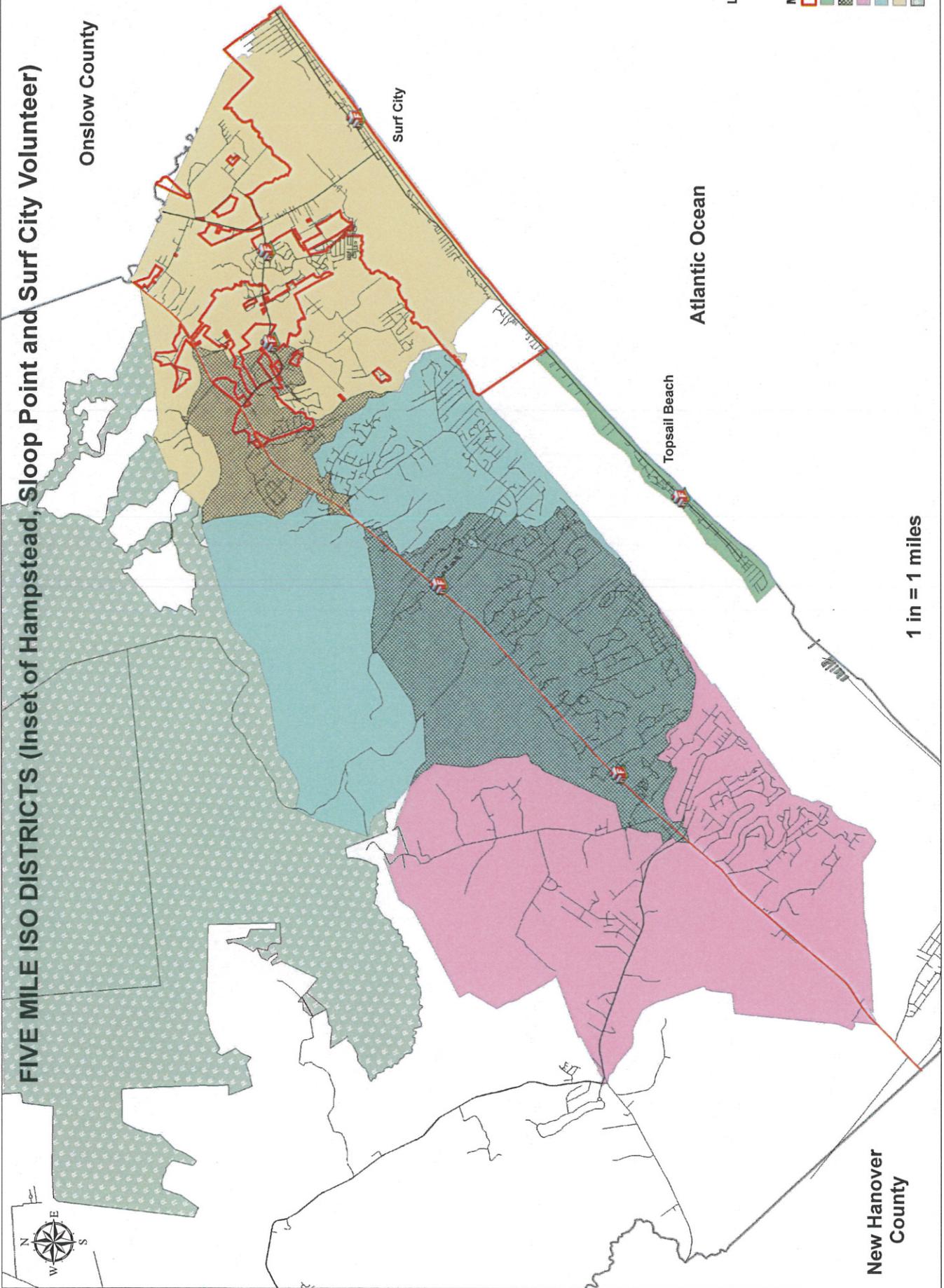
New Hanover County

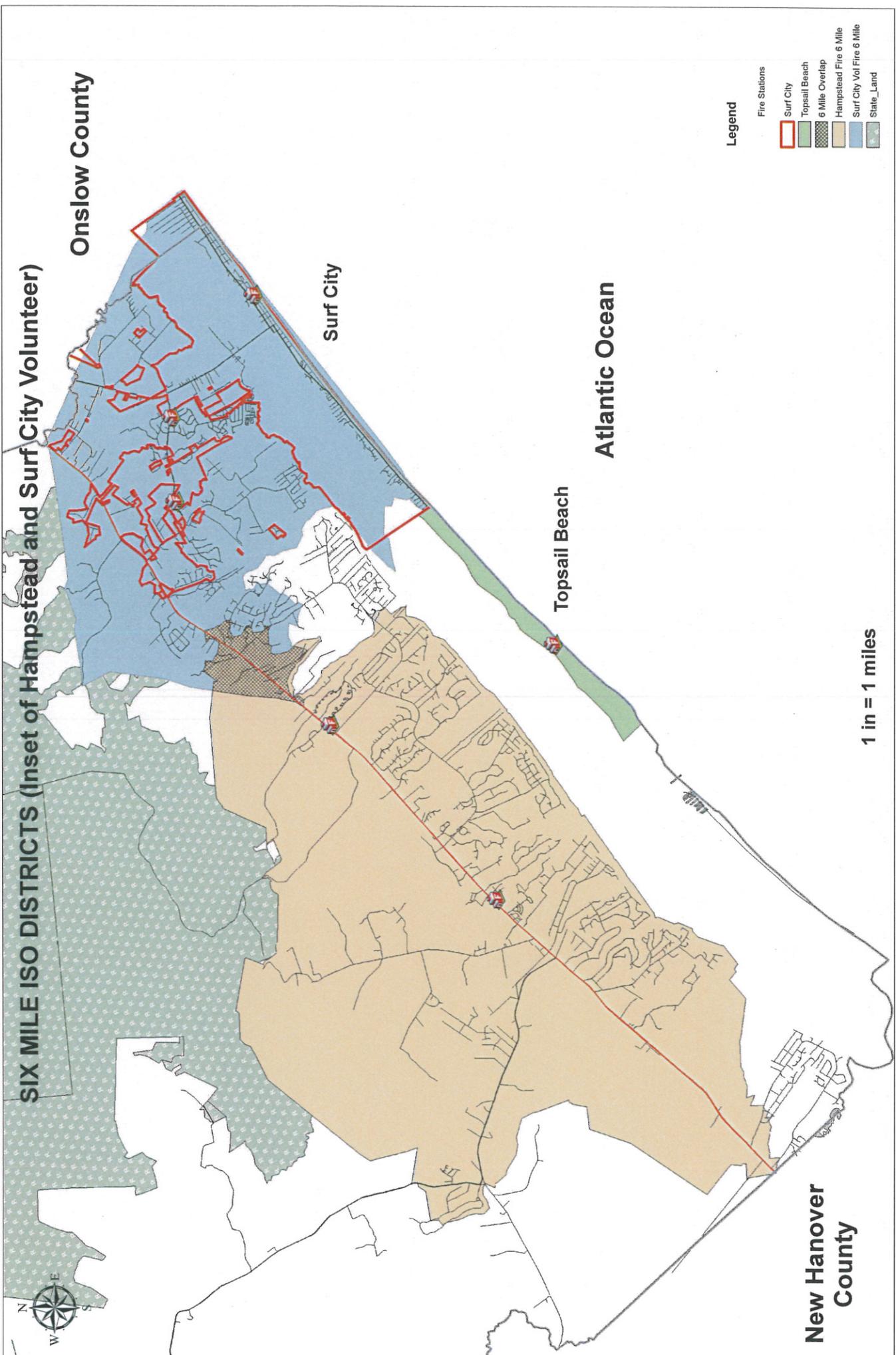


1 in = 1 miles

Legend

- Fire Stations
- Municipalities
 - Surf City
 - Topsail Beach
- Five Mile Overlap
- HAMPSTEAD FIRE
- SLOOP POINT FIRE
- SURF CITY VOL FIRE
- State_Land





SIX MILE ISO DISTRICTS (Inset of Hampstead and Surf City Volunteer)

Onslow County

Surf City

Atlantic Ocean

Topsail Beach

New Hanover County

Legend

- Fire Stations
- Surf City
- Topsail Beach
- 6 Mile Overlap
- Hampstead Fire 6 Mile
- Surf City Vol Fire 6 Mile
- State_Land

1 in = 1 miles



Pender County Emergency Services Strategic Planning Session August 7, 2012 Summary

The Pender County Emergency Management Director convened representatives from the County Fire/Rescue Departments, the Pender EMS, municipal and county law enforcement, and the EM staff to discuss long range plans to provide the most effective emergency services to the county. Chris May, Cape Fear Council of Governments Director, facilitated the discussion.

The attendees brainstormed, listed, and prioritized concerns and emerging issues that should be addressed in creating a strategic plan in rank order as follows:

Issues receiving ten or more votes

1. Need an independent 911 Center not part of the PCSD
2. Enact policy and capital improvements that will result in lower ISO ratings
3. Educate Public Officials and Citizens on what it takes to provide/expand/fund emergency services.
4. Agree on and implement standardization of SOG and SPO.
5. Make training opportunities available to ALL departments/members
6. Expand coverage (Fire/Rescue) to 100% of ALL districts

Issues receiving less than ten votes, but still important

1. Rising equipment/apparatus cost
2. Inter-departmental training
3. Adequate water infrastructure
4. Communicate and implement 5 yr plans to public
5. Develop/cultivate trust between Fire/Rescue and local governments
6. Recruiting and training volunteers
7. State of emergency issues/challenges
8. EOC/Field OPCEN concerns
9. Communication challenges due to 800 MHz requirement
10. Consideration of mergers to accommodate growth areas

The next meeting was set for 1100 21 AUG at the Pender County Commissioners meeting room. The attendees will begin to dissect each priority, beginning with the 911 Center issue.

The meeting adjourned at 1320.

CDM

Facilitated Listing the top ten emerging issues facing emergency services

Law Enforcement:

- Manpower- funding (14)
- State of Emergency Enforcement Problems
- Permanent EOC Off Island
- Communications Challenges (19)
- Merging into Public Safety

Fire/Rescue:

- Lower ISO rates (15)
- Retain volunteers while hiring paid FTFF
- Develop Trust between FRS and Local Govt.
- Communicate and implement 5 yr plans to public
- More uniform SOP and SOG (10)
- Communications glitches resulting from 800 mhz.
- Inter-departmental training
- Rising equipment/apparatus cost
- Recruiting/retaining volunteers
- Adequate water system infrastructure
- Consideration of merger to accommodate growth
- 100% district coverage (10)
- Making training opportunities more available for volunteers/Training facilities available to all Depts. (10)
- Funding issues – what are the expectations of the citizens and what are they willing to support (13)
- Education to public officials and citizens on what it takes to provide emergency services (14)

Need a Stand Alone 911 Center (19)

EMS:

- Agree with most all listed under FIRE/Rescue

Pender County Emergency Management Strategic Plan 2012-13



Planning Meeting August 21, 2012

Purpose:

Convene representatives from the Fire/Rescue, EMS, Law Enforcement, and Pender EM to conduct a thorough assessment of emerging issues affecting the long term operations of all emergency service providers in the County and prepare a planning document that will address solutions that are mutually acceptable to all.

Desired Outcomes for This Meeting:

- Ensure Adequate Representation
- Review last meeting accomplishments
- Conduct S.W.O.T. Analysis of Communications Issues

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and Intros.....Collins/May
2. Review of Previous meeting.....May
3. Facilitated S.W.O.T Analysis of Communications..May
4. Set Agenda for next meeting.....Group
5. Closing remarks.....Collins
6. Adjourn/Lunch

NOTES: _____

Pender County Emergency Services Strategic Planning Session August 21, 2012

Summary

On 21 AUG 12 the Pender County Strategic Planning Team met for their second meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review the summary of the last meeting, ensure the right people were in attendance to represent the participating agencies, and make sure the meeting time/location was best suited to accommodate maximum participation. Having listed and prioritized the top issues at the last meeting, this meeting would focus on full discussion of those issues using a modified strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats (SWOT) analysis. The top issue, 911 Center location, was postponed until the following meeting so that the Sheriff could attend and participate in the discussion.

The next highest priority was a discussion on:

Expanding Fire Service Coverage to 100% of Pender County.

Situation: Currently not all of Pender is w/in the 5 mile response radius of fire stations. Those area not within the 5 miles are considered unprotected and have a 10 rating, thereby leaving citizens there to pay the highest insurance rates and receiving reduced level of services. To fix that, new substations with adequate required equipment must be located geographically to be no more than 5 miles from any location. The cost of that is an issue.

How do we fix that?

1. Enact a policy on capital improvements that will result in lower ISO ratings by:
 - All residents/properties w/in 5 miles of a fire station
 - Additional manpower and equipment (min 20 FF at primary with 8 additional for each substation.
 - Need 1500 gallons capacity water to any location in district that is available to roll to fire.
 - Maintain 36 hours documented training DOI required
 - Meet 9S standards for equipment, apparatus, and testing (comprehensive DOI requirements)

Innovative strategies:

- Shared equipment/apparatus purchases using a county wide fire designated ad volorem tax that would be shared mutually between ALL departments. The Fire Commission

could use the proceeds to support needs that would bring the entire county into a 9 rating more cheaply than each department doing it individually.

- Future Land Use decisions should involve the emergency services as a technical review to ensure highest level of service to new construction
- Each depart would conduct an annual needs assessment capital improvements plan.
- Communicate with citizens to inform them of the needs and costs of achieving the 6 rating.
- Encourage (require*) all VFDs to seek lower ISO rates since there is not that much required. It will show that the departments are doing their part so when you ask the public for more money they will see you have already done what they need to.

NOTE: Cape Fear CC can tailor a class to the needs of the departments for doing a self-assessment.

*requirement could be tied to funding as incentive

Next meeting topic:

911 Communications

How do we communicate our needs?

911 Center debate

Issue:

911 OPS currently co-located with PCSD as a function under his supervision. Last week participants unanimously agreed it needs to be relocated and set up as an independent function outside the PCSD

Pros and cons

Planning Meeting September 13, 2012

Purpose:

Convene representatives from the Fire/Rescue, EMS, Law Enforcement, and Pender EM to conduct a thorough assessment of emerging issues affecting the long term operations of all emergency service providers in the County and prepare a planning document that will address solutions that are mutually acceptable to all.

Desired Outcomes for This Meeting:

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4. Set Agenda for next meeting.....Group
5. Closing remarks.....Collins
6. Adjourn/Lunch

NOTES:

Meeting Summary 9-13-12

911 Communications Analysis

- What is the purpose?
- Is it working?
- Can it be better?

Purpose of 911

To Receive, Process & Disseminate info to & from responders regarding public safety events

Is it working?

Response from citizen viewpoint (incoming) is fine

Continuity of info from 911 to responders inconsistent

Info not always pertinent to request/responding unit (sometimes estraneous)

Sometimes not enough

- **Need more dispatchers (General consensus of group)**
- Conduct internal study to ensure national standard for number of dispatchers is being met

Communications General

Coverage spotty – **need more towers – repeaters**

PCSD study of tower locations and improvements

How can we make it better?

Staff increase could resolve 90% of issues

Reg. for staff must be tied to tax dollar/ISO

ISO mandate must be met for funding new positions

Fire commission & 911 commission must represent all concerns and be composed of balanced membership

Continuous improvement based on “trigger point” feed back

911 center remind on scene units to go to operations channel

Agree on established radio etiquette and commit to use it

Next Meeting

September 25 0900

***Action Item:**

County GIS to provide a map of houses outside of 5 mile radius of Fire Districts so group may determine future facility/equip. needs.

Meeting September 25, 2012 0900 EOC

Purpose:

Convene representatives from the Fire/Rescue, EMS, Law Enforcement, and Pender EM to conduct a thorough assessment of emerging issues affecting the long term operations of all emergency service providers in the County and prepare a planning document that will address solutions that are mutually acceptable to all.

Desired Outcomes for This Meeting:

- Ensure Adequate Representation
- Review last meeting accomplishments
- Discuss mechanics of Increasing ISO Rate to (9) Countywide

AGENDA: (Meeting convenes promptly at 0900 at County EOC)

7. Welcome and Intros.....Collins/May
8. Review of Previous meeting.....May
9. Facilitated Discussion of ISO.....May
10. Set Agenda for next meeting.....Group
11. Closing remarks.....Collins
12. Adjourn

Planning Meeting September 13, 2012

Purpose:

Convene representatives from the Fire/Rescue, EMS, Law Enforcement, and Pender EM to conduct a thorough assessment of emerging issues affecting the long term operations of all emergency service providers in the County and prepare a planning document that will address solutions that are mutually acceptable to all.

Desired Outcomes for This Meeting:

- Ensure Adequate Representation
- Review last meeting accomplishments
- Conduct S.W.O.T. Analysis of Communications Issues

AGENDA:

- 13. Welcome and Intros.....Collins/May
- 14. Review of Previous meeting.....May
- 15. Facilitated S.W.O.T Analysis of Communications..May
- 16. Set Agenda for next meeting.....Group
- 17. Closing remarks.....Collins
- 18. Adjourn/Lunch

NOTES: _____

Meeting Summary 9-13-12

911 Communications Analysis

- What is the purpose?
- Is it working?
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To Receive, Process & Disseminate info to & from responders regarding public safety events

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- Need more dispatchers (General consensus of group)
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Coverage spotty – need more towers – repeaters
 PCSD study of tower locations and improvements

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Fire commission & 911 commission must represent all concerns and be composed of balanced membership

Continuous improvement based on "trigger point" feed back

911 center remind on scene units to go to operations channel

Agree on established radio etiquette and commit to use it

Next Meeting

September 25 0900

***Action Item:**

County GIS to provide a map of houses outside of 5 mile radius of Fire Districts so group may determine future facility/equip. needs.

The Pender Emergency Management Services, in keeping with their ongoing strategic planning process, met October 23, 2012 at the EOC to review data provided by the Pender Fire Fighters Association (PCFFA) that would support a county wide ISO rating of nine. Most Fire Departments were represented at the meeting which began a 0900.

After discussion the PCFFA data, it was determined that further input from more Fire Service Departments was necessary to ensure full support for recommendations going forward. The group agreed to reconvene at the EOC on November 13 at 1900.

The following is the list and recommendations provided by the PCFFA:

After reviewing the maps and mapping distances from the different locations the following list are the best locations for the best fire coverage.

At the present time (Oct. 13, 2012) Pender County has:

- *30,280 total address points*
- *24,474 total address points in at least six miles of an existing station*
- *5,806 total address points NOT in a rated fire district(20%)*

Future Fire Stations Needed

- *In the area of NC Hwy 210& Pt Caswell Rd. – Station 1100 substation*
- *Area of Holland's Fish Camp on NC 53 East – Station 1300 substation*
- *In the area of Stag Park and John Humphrey Rd – Station 1500 Sub.*
- *In the area of Cross Creek – Station 1600 substation*

- *In the 3500 block of Willard Rd. – Penderlea Sub. (Currently Wallace)*
- *Malpass Corner School – Station 1900 substation*
- *In the area of US 421 & Kerrie St. – Station 2100 Substation*
- *Rocky Point Marine on US 117- Station 2200 substation*
- *RPVFD Property – 4300 Block of Shaw Hwy – Station 2200 sub.*

Coverage after adding the above sub-stations

At the present time 19-10-12 Pender Co. has 30297 address points

- *29,561 total address points (not counting 736 covered by NHCFR in Scotts Hill)*
- *26,596 total address points in at least 5 miles of a Fire Station (89.96%)*
- *985 total address points in 5.01 to 6 miles of a Fire Station (03.33%)*
- *1980 total address points in 6.01+ miles of a Fire Station (06.69%) NOT rated Fire District.*

Above data provided by Eddie Thomas, President – PCFFA

Meeting Summary for November 13, 2012 Emergency Mgt. Long Range Planning – Fire Departments

On Tuesday November 13, 2012, the Pender County Strategic Planning process addressed long range capital needs of the County’s Fire Departments that would be necessary to achieve a (9) nine ISO Rating (Full Coverage). Members of six of the county’s volunteer fire departments were present, as was EM Director Tom Collins, County Manager Mickey Duval, and County Finance Director Butch Watson. Chris May, Cape Fear COG Director facilitated.

Following discussion, the group agreed to the following planning costs assumptions:

Standard Fire Department Sub-station 6400 sq. ft.

- Two bays 80 ft deep 40 ft wide with 12 X 14 ft openings
- Administrative, berthing spaces, and day room 40 X 80
- 200 ft X 200 ft land

Pumper (Conventional).....\$550K

- 1000 gal. tank
- 1500 GPM capacity
- 4-door
- Fully equipped ready to roll

Pumper (Custom).....\$650K

- 1000 gal. tank
- 1500 GPM capacity
- 4-door

- Equipped ready to roll

Conventional Tanker..... \$335K

- 750 GPM
- 1500 gal. capacity

These assumptions will be shared with the Pender Fire Commission and then will be used to estimate the costs of providing full coverage at least a nine (9) ISO rate. The cost savings to Pender citizens is estimated to far exceed the projected cost of a one or two cent tax increase, should that be considered.

A future date in January will be announced for the next meeting.

Planning Meeting March 5, 2013 1900 EOC

Purpose:

This is primarily a Fire Service meeting.

Meet with County Fire Department Representatives to wrap up discussions on Fire segment of EM Plan

Desired Outcomes for This Meeting:

- Review ISO (9) Action Recommendation
- Review Standardized Sub-Station Equipment, apparatus, facility recommendation
- Discuss Standardized Audit Compliance for County Contributions

AGENDA:

1. Call to order at 1900
2. Review ISO requirements for nine (9) rating county-wide
3. Review Equipment. Apparatus, facility recommendations for standard substation.
4. Discussion of County Audit Recommendation for County Contributions.
5. Wrap-up

This Meeting was postponed

Pender County Emergency Management Strategic Plan 2012-13



Planning Meeting May 7, 2013 1900 EOC

Purpose:

Convene representatives from the Fire/Rescue, EMS, Law Enforcement, and Pender EM to conduct a thorough assessment of emerging issues affecting the long term operations of all emergency service providers in the County and prepare a planning document that will address solutions that are mutually acceptable to all.

This is primarily a Fire Service meeting.

Meet with County Fire Department Representatives to wrap up discussions on Fire segment of EM Plan

Desired Outcomes for This Meeting:

- Review Process and Summaries to date
- Discuss next steps

AGENDA:

1. Call to order at 1830
2. Roll Call of Attendees
3. Discussion of process and next steps (facilitated)
4. Wrap-Up
5. Adjournment

NOTES: _____

PENDER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS, FISCAL YEAR 13-14

FISCAL YEAR 13-14 Tax Values	FISCAL YEAR 14 Projected Total Tax Value	13-1 cent/\$100 Value @ 96.0% Collection Rate	Proposed 2013-14 Tax Rate	Proposed 2013-14 Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Revenue for FY 2013-14 Based on Tax Collection Rate @ 96.0%
Pender Central Fire	\$343,693,032	\$32,995	0.0700	\$230,962	\$ 230,962
Sloop Point Fire	\$894,973,158	\$85,917	0.0650	\$ 559,463	\$ 559,463
Maple Hill Fire	\$112,775,147	\$10,826	0.0700	\$ 75,785	\$ 75,785
Rocky Point Fire	\$514,888,702	\$49,381	0.0750	\$ 370,360	\$ 370,360
Long Creek Fire	\$287,939,790	\$27,662	0.1000	\$ 276,422	\$ 276,422
Shiloh Fire	\$135,195,358	\$12,979	0.1000	\$ 129,788	\$ 129,788
Penderlea Fire	\$227,830,949	\$21,872	0.0700	\$ 153,102	\$ 153,102
Atkinson Fire	\$204,271,348	\$19,610	0.0700	\$ 137,270	\$ 137,270
Hampstead Fire	\$1,220,483,508	\$117,166	0.0500	\$ 585,832	\$ 585,832
Scotts Hill Fire	\$235,656,049	\$22,623	0.0370	\$ 83,705	\$ 83,705
Northeast Pender Fire	\$236,081,080	\$22,664	0.0700	\$ 158,646	\$ 158,646
Pndlea Duplin	\$26,179,200	\$2,513	0.0470	\$ 11,812	\$ 11,812
TOTAL					\$ 2,772,148

0.012

\$ 27,148

\$ 110,853



\$ 27,148

\$ 2,799,295

PENDER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS, FISCAL YEAR 12-13

FISCAL YEAR 12-13 Tax Values	FISCAL YEAR 13 Projected Total Tax Value	12-1 cent/\$100 Value @ 95.5% Collection Rate	Proposed 2012-13 Tax Rate	Proposed 2012-13 Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Revenue for FY 2012-13 Based on Tax Collection Rate @ 95.5%
Pender Central Fire	\$339,201,346	\$32,394	0.0700	\$ 226,756	\$ 226,756
Sloop Point Fire	\$910,058,651	\$86,911	0.0650	\$ 564,919	\$ 564,919
Maple Hill Fire	\$95,589,938	\$9,129	0.0700	\$ 63,902	\$ 63,902
Rocky Point Fire	\$522,490,739	\$49,898	0.0750	\$ 374,234	\$ 374,234
Long Creek Fire	\$284,669,412	\$27,186	0.1000	\$ 271,859	\$ 271,859
Shiloh Fire	\$135,253,838	\$12,917	0.1000	\$ 129,167	\$ 129,167
Penderlea Fire	\$225,340,266	\$21,520	0.0700	\$ 150,640	\$ 150,640
Atkinson Fire	\$208,150,696	\$19,878	0.0700	\$ 139,149	\$ 139,149
Hampstead Fire	\$1,204,973,094	\$115,075	0.0500	\$ 575,375	\$ 575,375
Scotts Hill Fire	\$239,716,144	\$22,893	0.0370	\$ 84,704	\$ 84,704
Northeast Pender Fire	\$239,765,091	\$22,898	0.0700	\$ 160,283	\$ 160,283
Pndlea Duplin	\$27,088,414	\$2,587	0.0470	\$ 12,159	\$ 12,159
TOTAL					\$ 2,753,146

0.012

\$ 27,471

\$ 112,175



\$ 27,471

\$ 2,780,618

Scotts Hill Substation Proposed Est. Tax Rev for FY 2012-13 Based on Tax Coll Rate @ 95.50%

Proposed Estimated Tax Revenue for FY 2012-13 Based on Tax Collection Rate @ 95.5%