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OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

PURPOSE: TO MINIMIZE THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND REDUCE INJURY AND EXPOSURE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND TO EMERGENCY RESPONDERS.

BUDGET: THERE ARE TWO BUDGETS:

BUDGET # 3816-	\$1,862,595	(Operations Budget)
BUDGET # 3834-	\$1,662,495	(Hazardous Material Training Budget)

TOTAL BUDGET- \$3,525,090

FUNDING: FEE BASED FOR SERVICES SUCH AS PLAN REVIEW, LICENSING, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INSPECTIONS. UNFUNDED MANDATES INCLUDE FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS, TRAINING, FIRE PREVENTION, AND SUPPORT.

PROBLEM: THERE IS A NEED FOR STABLE FUNDING. DECLINING REVENUES WILL RESULT IN THE DEPLETION OF BUDGET ACCOUNT 3816 BY THE END OF 2004 AND BUDGET ACCOUNT 3834 BY THE END OF 2005.

STAFFING: THERE ARE 6 DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS AND 4 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INSPECTORS. OVERALL THE DIVISION HAS 28 EMPLOYEES WITH AN AUTHORIZED STRENGTH OF 32.

PROBLEM: THERE ARE 6 DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS WHO INVESTIGATED 111 FIRES IN 2002. THEY ALSO HAVE A COMBINED RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDUCT APPROXIMATELY 3,996 MANDATED FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS. 4 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INSPECTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INSPECTING APPROXIMATELY 25,000 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FACILITIES. COMBINED THE DEPUTIES AND INSPECTORS ARE ABLE TO COMPLETE APPROXIMATELY 1500 OF THE MANDATED INSPECTIONS.

THE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE IS CURRENTLY ABLE TO CONDUCT APPROXIMATELY 800 OF ITS 3,996 MANDATED FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS, WHICH REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 38% OF THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INSPECTORS ARE ABLE TO CONDUCT 720 OF 25,000 INSPECTIONS, WHICH IS ONLY 3% OF THOSE MANDATED.

RESOLUTION: PROVIDE STABLE FUNDING REVENUE (GENERAL FUND) SO THAT ADDITIONAL DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INSPECTORS CAN BE HIRED, ALONG WITH THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORT SO THAT THE BACKLOG CAN BE ADDRESSED.

ALTERNATIVE: BY NOT HIRING THE ADDITIONAL DEPUTIES AND INSPECTORS AND PROVIDING ENHANCED TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORT, AN ESTIMATED 62-97% OF ALL MANDATED INSPECTIONS WILL GO UNDONE YEARLY, NOT INCLUDING THE NATURAL YEARLY GROWTH OF OVER 100,000 NEW RESIDENTS EACH YEAR AND SUBSEQUENT GROWTH IN MANDATED FACILITY INSPECTIONS.

IMPACT: FORCED TO PRIORITIZE THE LARGE WORKLOAD, LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED INSPECTIONS WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED.

EFFECT: BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FACILITY INSPECTIONS, THE LIABILITY RISK TO THE STATE OF NEVADA IS ENORMOUS.

BEING UNABLE TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS LAWS, RULES, AND STANDARDS, THE SAFETY OF CITIZENS AND FIRST RESPONDERS CAN BE PUT AT UNDO RISK.

FACILITIES CAN SUFFER ADVERSE ECONOMIC EFFECTS DUE TO THE FAILURE TO HAVE MANDATED INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED THE FAILURE TO BE INSPECTED IN A TIMELY MANNER.

THE FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNITY WILL NOT RECEIVE ACCURATE FACILITY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS STORAGE INFORMATION WHICH IS USED FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PRE-EMERGENCY PLANNING. THEREFORE, THE LIVES OF FACILITY OCCUPANTS AND FIRST REpondERS CAN BE PUT IN JEOPARDY.