

Questions and Answers on the functions of the Fire Department in the "Cotacachi" district (Cantón)

Question 1: How many fire houses are there in Cotacachi?

Answer: There are two; one in Cotacachi and the other in the Intag Zone.

Question 2: Does this fire house pertain to the City of Cotacachi or to the Cantón?

Answer: Both. The fire house belongs to the Cantón of Cotacachi and its parishes.

Question 3: Where does the funding come from?

Answer: The Fire Department receives its funding through taxes citizens pay on their electric bill and Municipality tax payment from Predio Urban and Rural.

Question 4: What are the emergency numbers for the Cotacachi Fire Station?

Answer: The fire house receives calls from the ECU-911 and /or 2915-102.

Question 5: Is the fire house schedule: 24 hours, 365-days? Do firefighters stay and sleep at the fire station?

Answer: Service is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Day and night.

Question 6: (a) Who is the commanding officer? (b) Number of firefighters, volunteers, paramedics and/or technicians?

Answer: (a) Col. Rene Ramirez Munoz (b) There are 14 firefighters and no paramedics.

Question 7: (a) List of equipment (b) Is tanker truck full of water (c) Do you have an ambulance stretcher (d) Defibrillator do you have or need one?

Answer: (a) We have two fire trucks (b) water tanker truck is always full of water (c) We do have an ambulance stretcher (d) Defibrillator, No! Urgently in need of one.

Question 8: Describe how the Fire Department operates. (a) Fire House (b) Communication with ECU-911 does it function via satellite?

Answer: ECU-911 receives the emergency call and immediately routes the call to the designated entity authorized to handle the emergency.

Question 9: Is there a paramedic? (a) Is one always available (b) Is there always a paramedic in the ambulance (c) Does the ambulance and the paramedic go on calls together (e) What type of First Aid is administered?

Answer: There is no in-house paramedic. We have First Aid specialists who are responsible for stabilizing the patient while being transported to the nearest hospital.

Question 10: Response from the fire house (a) Only when calling 911 and/or directly (b) When calling the fire house what information is needed (c) In case of a fire or a medical emergency what number do we call, and (d) If a tree is in danger of falling over who do we call?

Answer: In an emergency, call ECU-911 and/or 2915-102 the direct number for the fire house. When you call be prepared to give the exact location of the emergency, including the street address and a point of reference or a building near the site of the emergency. The phone number you are calling from. The nature of the emergency and details about the emergency.

Question 11: FIRES (a) What is the Ecuadorian law in regards to burning intentionally (b) What is the territory covered by the Fire Department, and (c) Are firefighters able to respond to wildfires when they see them or only when called in as an emergency?

Answer: (a) The Ecuadorian law punishes people who cause fires intentionally or by agricultural burning (b) The Fire Department covers the entire Cantón and its rural parishes. (c) We have an obligation to control all fires and any outbreaks of wildfires observed.

Question 12: AMBULANCE (a) What is the state of the ambulance? Is it operational 24 hours, 365 days of the year? (b) Does the ambulance respond only to ECU-911 calls or can we call directly to request assistance (c) Does the ambulance serve Cotacachi only or also the entire Cotacachi Cantón (d) Which hospitals will the ambulance transport patients to or will patients be transported to a Public hospital (e) What is the cost for ambulance service?

Answer: The ambulance is always in good condition to provide a safe service to patients. (b) We respond to all emergency calls ECU-911 and /or directly. (c) The Fire Department serves the entire Cantón at all hours of the day and night, 365 days a year. (d) Patients are transported to the nearest hospital for immediate medical attention. (e) The Fire Department provides all emergency services free of charge.

Question 13: HYDRANTS (a) Do local laws determine the number of hydrants and location in the city (b) Is there adequate water pressure to fill vehicles (c) Are the hydrants connected to the public water distribution system (d) What happens when there is shortage of water?

Answer: (a) To install hydrants the municipality conducts a site survey to determine whether it warrants installation of a hydrant. (b) All hydrants have enough pressure to fill vehicles. (c) When there is a shortage of water we can supply it from a spring and /or a river.

Question 14: GAS (a) What is your opinion on the use of gas tanks and indoor calefones (b) How often should we change the regulators (c) Is there a tool for checking gas leaks (d) What is your opinion on suicide showers?

Answer: (a) The installation of gas tanks, calefones, etc. constitute a danger for people. They should be installed outdoors. (b) It is recommended that the regulators be changed at least every 2 years for safety precautions. (c) We do not have a tool for checking gas leaks,

urgently need one. (d) Inspection of homes and condominiums are conducted upon request.