



CHERIE K. BERRY
Commissioner

RICARDO CRUZ-SEGARRA
District Supervisor

January 5th, 2012

City of Asheville
Asheville Fire Department
PO Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802

Dear Chief Burnette:

This letter is in reference to the fatality inspection following the July 28th, 2011, fire that occurred at 445 Biltmore Avenue. While the inspection will not result in any violations of any NC OSH standards, we do have several recommendations based upon the information we obtained during the inspection. These recommendations are as follows:

1. The fire department should evaluate its training, policies, and procedures to better address the accountability and locations of all personnel at the scene of an incident.
2. The fire department should evaluate their Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) training, policies, and procedures to ensure that the RIT assignments and responsibilities are specific.
3. The fire department should evaluate their RIT equipment to ensure that it is sufficient for all the possible incidents being responded to by the team.

We commend you on improvements already made as a result of this tragedy and we appreciate your commitment to protecting the health and safety of your employees.

If you have questions or comments about our program or about your inspection, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Ricardo Cruz-Segarra
District Supervisor