The Tokyo Fire Department presents the following five themes as its major policies for the year 2015, going by its overall administrative plans for 2015. The items mentioned below help the fire service make Tokyo the world's safest place to live in.

**Tokyo Fire Department’s Major Policies for FY2015**

**Major Policy 1**
Making the fire service improved and stronger against devastating earthquakes and other large-scale, complex disasters.

**Major Policy 2**
Expanding emergency medical services to cope with increasing day-to-day demands.

**Major Policy 3**
Promoting an anti-earthquake strategy and other overall safety steps.

**Major Policy 4**
Developing property fire safety measures.

**Major Policy 5**
Enhancing TFD personnel’s quality to develop people’s trust in the fire service and carrying out effective administration.
【Major Policy 1】
Making the fire service improved and stronger against devastating earthquakes and other large-scale, complex disasters.

【Background】
The TFD has long developed its emergency response capabilities, repeating basic training to cope with incidents that might be triggered amid the swift change of generations in society. For greater safety, down-to-earth training, improved flexible emergency management and daily life safety steps are remarkably important.

Large-scale, complex disasters like the expected “metropolitan quake (with its focus directly below Tokyo),” NBC incidents and flooding need to be handled quickly yet properly. Tokyo might be hard hit by a disaster at any moment. Continued efforts must be directed to the development of disaster response expertise along with repeated training.

In the meantime, enhanced volunteer fire corps skills are also needed for successful disaster management as well as the creation and appropriate management of firefighting water sources in accordance with the related plans.

We promote the following for fire service improvement.

Promotion

- Strengthening firefighting capabilities to handle large-scale, complex disasters.
- Developing firefighting capabilities for flexible, quick and proper operations.
- Achieving emergency activities with on-scene safety as the priority.
- Developing operations systems to cope with the complexity of disasters.
- Furthering anti-flooding measures for metropolitan areas.
- Developing volunteer fire corps’ skills in disaster management.
- Strengthening firefighting water sources against earthquakes and other disasters.
【Major Policy 2】
Expanding emergency medical services to cope with increasing day-to-day demands.

【Background】
TFD ambulances responded more than 750,000 times last year—an increase of more than 8,000 from its previous year. We need to call on people extensively to understand and cooperate in the proper use of fire department ambulance service. Additionally, we need to work with other related organizations to further the measures for the people who call frequently for ambulances.

Continued proper management of ambulance members is necessary to maintain the quality of EMS activities amid the increasing public demands for ambulance service. Fire stations need to take flexible measures according to their local facts. Importantly, wide and quick acceptance of victims should also be realized with the aid of the “liaison council” for EMS and other bodies.

Moreover, technicians additionally skilled in two extra medical acts should be officially certified, while English language EMS responders are continuously trained.

Bystander-initiated first aid is much more needed to save more lives than ever before. The fire department therefore is required to encourage and enhance communities effectively in terms of medical first aid treatment.

In the meantime, both the Emergency Telephone Consultation Center and the Tokyo EMS Guide still need to be made known especially among 65-year-old-or-over citizens.

We promote the following for EMS activity improvement.

Promotion

○ Encouraging people in the proper use of ambulance service.
○ Achieving EMS activities effectively.
○ Coping with increasing demands for ambulance service in challenging situations.
○ Encouraging people in the use of the service offered by the Emergency Telephone Consultation Center. / Reinforcing the management of the Center.
○ Promoting first aid education in cooperation with local neighbors and workers.
【Major Policy 3】
Promoting an anti-earthquake strategy and other overall safety steps.

【Background】
Enhanced disaster preparedness in communities leads to earthquake damage mitigation. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government booklet TOKYO BOUSAI (“Tokyo Disaster Preparedness Guide”) for all the households in Tokyo should be effectively used for the development of public life safety awareness and the increase of fire drill participants with the training given in every community. At the same time, life safety education needs to be given overall to help the residents play a leadership role in disaster preparedness and let the whole families raise their life safety awareness.

Additionally, each community needs to be made stronger against disasters than ever before amid various area development plans for the Olympic and Paralympic year 2020. The majority of the fatalities caused by a metropolitan quake (with its focus directly below Tokyo) might be occupied by the infirm people (who have difficulty in evacuation and need assistance). Measures for those residents should be promoted, too. Extra home fire safety measures are also necessary for elderly people.

We promote the following for the promotion of overall life safety measures.

Promotion

○ Promoting earthquake safety for local communities.
○ Promoting overall life safety education in cooperation with the related educational organizations. / Developing community residents’ skills in life safety.
○ Promoting residential fire safety.
○ Promoting safety measures for the people who have difficulty in evacuation and need assistance.
○ Promoting daily practical safety steps for community residents.
【Major Policy 4】
Developing property fire safety measures.

【Background】
The Fire Service Law Enforcement Order and other related laws were reviewed and amended after the mass-casualty tragedy in a social welfare home, a hospital fire, etc. Those changes in laws newly require welfare organizations to install fire protection equipment. The fire department, as specific guidance, needs to call on the related bodies to provide themselves with the equipment/systems. In addition, worksite fire brigades need to be elaborately trained as well.

In Tokyo, basic organizing plans were formed for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. Consultations prior to Olympic facility construction will then be largely sought. The TFD, namely its fire stations, Fire Prevention Division and district HQ, should push forward its safety service overall for the enhanced safety of properties and the effective management of increasing fire prevention duties.

Moreover, fire inspections need to be firstly given to hazardous properties for earlier corrections that can lead to the heightened fire prevention awareness of the people concerned and maintained property safety. Safety information should then be provided easier for property users.

For day-to-day life safety, various measures are needed. Specifically, fire cause investigations should be conducted not to let calamities happen from the same causes, while extra safety steps should be taken for old and/or seemingly dangerous hazmat facilities to prevent man-made incidents (ex., accidental fires and leakages) from occurring.

We promote the following for property fire safety.

Promotion
○ Promoting fire safety in social welfare facilities.
○ Promoting fire prevention for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.
○ Furthering fire safety along with fire inspections and information sharing.
○ Improving fire cause investigation and judgment expertise.
○ Promoting safety steps for hazmat facilities.
【Major Policy 5】
Enhancing TFD personnel’s quality to develop people’s trust in the fire service and carrying out effective administration.

【Background】
The TFD is significantly based on its personnel that continue to receive professional education. In the last stage of mass retirement, younger members are now required to play a substantial role. Enlightened personnel education needs to be continued so that every member, regardless of their rank and mission, can enhance himself/herself, keeping up with the austere occupational rules.

Consequently, fire stations are required to prepare most appreciate spaces for their members to assemble, take OJT or achieve self-cultivation for in-house education.

With our fire prevention workers frequently getting involved in unexpected problems, or fire vehicle traffic accidents, the fire department is now obliged to promote its accident countermeasures, which help us carry out our daily duties without trouble and could bring benefits both to citizens and to the fire service.

The fire department should also take advantage of scientific, technical support in a timely manner as well as successful PR strategy for its sound work management.

We promote the following for personnel education and effective work management.

Promotion

○ Educating personnel according to each rank and duty. /Assigning personnel to proper places.
○ Preparing and offering facilities, systems, etc. for personnel education.
○ Improving work systems for proper fire prevention administration. / Performing consistent work management.
○ Improving safety driving management.
○ Achieving daily duties from a scientific viewpoint.
○ Promoting effective PR activities.