

Public Accountability

Did you know that a FIRE DISTRICT offers more accountability than a FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Fire Departments

Largely unregulated in Alabama, once they are established there is no direct oversight agency

Generally organized as a 501(c)3 or 501(c)4 non-profit

Boards are most often self nominated and self appointed

Board members generally not subject to removal unless specified in bylaws

Supposed to adhere to Open Meetings laws, but no real enforcement

Rarely audited

Fire District

Official government agency established by State Code (Title 11, Section 89)

Powers granted by State Code (11-89-7)

Board members appointed by elected officials (11-89-6)

Board members can be impeached under Section 175 of Alabama Constitution (11-89-6)

As a government agency must follow open meetings laws

Subject to audit by Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts