

III. Incident Readiness & Response



DRAFT

Goal: Committed to serving our community with prompt, consistent and professional fire suppression, basic life support, rescue and prevention/preparedness services.

Objective: To meet adopted Target Levels of Service through deployment from two strategically located firestations staffed round-the-clock with competent responders equipped to provide mission and value driven services.

Strategies:

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT: This program is one of the team of programs that collectively work to achieve the District’s mission. It is expected that through policy direction, communication and coordination it will support these mutual efforts in an efficient and effective manner. The District programs include:

- Finance and administration (Fire Chief & District Secretary);
- Incident Readiness & Response (Assistant Chief);
- Facilities & Equipment;
- Community Outreach & Communications;
- Health & Wellness; and
- Training & Education.

RESPONSIBILITY: Fire Chief and program level managers.

FREQUENCY: Annually during the budgeting process, monthly coordination with individual and joint coordination meetings (e.g. program meetings with the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief-Battalion Chief meetings) and as needed.

STAFFING: The District recognizes the most important asset to its incident readiness & response (“IR&R”) program is its team of responders, therefore, it will address staffing by:

- Optimizing the use of existing personnel, equipment and technology to ensure efficiency of operations;
- Maximizing staff capabilities through appropriate training and efficient deployment to ensure effective operational delivery;
- Promoting a modern and appealing volunteer responder program that aligns with community members’ lifestyle to support longer term retention;
- Making sure the roster of both career and volunteer staffing levels are maintained with competent personnel to the extent that financial resources can provide for.

RESPONSIBILITY: Assistant Chief and Battalion Chiefs.

FREQUENCY: Ongoing; staffing levels based upon annual budget and funding.

SERVICES: The District will provide for appropriate levels of service commensurate with its goals, objectives and available resources:

- Emergency medical services: to effectively provide first-response Basic Life Support (“BLS”) level care within 8 minutes of alarm notification and provide follow-up BLS transport of patients when and where indicated and available;

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The District will provide for appropriate levels of service commensurate with its goals, objectives and available resources.

The District will, to the extent possible, seek to provide for consistency and standardization with Thurston County training, equipment and operations.

- Fire suppression: to prepare, train, equip and conduct (within 10 minutes of alarm notification) residential, commercial and wildland fire suppression activities focusing on preservation of life safety and conservation of property in a safe manner;
- Emergency marine-type events: to provide basic shore-based rescue operations within the capabilities of District response resources as well as evaluating and determining potential expanded services in partnership with allied agencies;
- Technical rescue services: to provide for “operational level” technical rescue skills for District responders and to support, if needed, any “technician level” technical rescue level skills providers from allied agencies;
- Mobilization: to provide training, staffing and equipment as necessary to support out-of-county mobilizations as may be authorized by the State to the extent of maintaining an adequate level of service coverage within the District during any such deployment period; and
- Hazardous Materials: to maintain basic initial response capability of response for potential hazardous materials incidents.

RESPONSIBILITY: Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire Chief and District IR&R command staff and personnel.

FREQUENCY: Ongoing, to be reviewed on no less than an annual basis.

INTEROPERABILITY: The District’s IR&R program will, to the extent possible, seek to provide for consistency and standardization with local training, equipment and operations :

- Conduction of emergency operations for fire suppression and EMS using pre-defined tactical procedures and communications;
- Work with partner agencies to develop and update county-wide procedures.
- Provide for training for IR&R personnel in implementing the standardized operating procedures and patient care protocols;
- Design and specifications for apparatus and equipment to provide seamless operations in conjunction with any mutual aid resources; and
- “Allied agencies” to include all Thurston County fire departments, Thurston County Medic One, Washington State Patrol, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Thurston County Emergency Management and local law enforcement agencies.

RESPONSIBILITY: Assistant Chief and IR&R command staff.

FREQUENCY: On-going.

PROGRAM CURRENCY: To ensure IR&R programs are up-to-date and consistent with accepted direction and practice, the District will:

- Ensure that appropriate policies, procedures and guidelines are in place to provide for safe and efficient conduct of operational events;
- Review and update identified response needs or service improvements by evaluating results and recommending changes to the proper authority;
- Ensure all initial and ongoing training is conducted and documents; and
- Continuously review services provided as new response programs are implemented, and ensuring the such programs do not conflict with or detract from basic core service responsibilities (i.e. EMS and fire suppression).

RESPONSIBILITY: Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, IR&R command staff.

FREQUENCY: Ongoing.