

PUBLIC SAFETY

GOAL Provide for public safety through a community-based approach that focuses on prevention of problems and a timely response.

MEASURE	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target
<i>Total Police Services Funding</i>	\$16,557,994	\$15,613,828	\$22,763,553	\$24,139,113	N/A
<i>Total Fire and Emergency Management Services Funding</i>	\$15,665,379	\$15,480,119	\$18,119,738	\$18,137,506	N/A
<i>Sworn Police FTE's (authorized)¹ per 1,000 population</i>	1.37	1.33	1.23	1.23	N/A
<i>Paid fire and EMS staffing per 1,000 population served²</i>	1.08	1.21	1.20	1.11	N/A
<i>EMS response times under 5 minutes</i>	48%	53%	51%	52%	90%
<i>Fire response times under 5.5 minutes</i>	51%	52%	52%	50%	90%
<i>Building fires contained to area of origin</i>	70%	82%	84%	57%	60%
<i>Citizens have at least two working smoke detectors in their residence</i>	*	93%	*	96%	100%
<i>Citizens are prepared for a three day emergency</i>	*	70%	*	70%	90%
<i>Citizens feel safe walking in their neighborhoods after dark</i>	*	78%	*	79%	80%
<i>Citizens feel safe walking in their neighborhoods during the day</i>	*	98%	*	98%	90%

¹ The number of police officers hired

² Includes King County Fire District 41 because City of Kirkland has contracted with King County to provide fire services

*Community survey occurs in even years

The City provides trained staff and funding

So that...

Emergency services provide timely responses

So that...

Citizens are prepared for an emergency and feel safe

So that...

All those who live, work and play in Kirkland are safe.

HOW DO WE MEASURE PUBLIC SAFETY?

Staffing and funding help the City to provide timely responses to emergencies. Response times and containing fires to the area of origin are proxy measures for good performance. The likelihood of a successful outcome is higher the faster emergency services can reach the site of the emergency. Factors that affect response times include the distances between a station and the incident, geographical barriers and traffic.

Measures from the Community Survey provide standard indicators of how citizens feel about public safety and how well they are prepared for emergencies.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Overall, public safety was rated as both the most important, and highest performing area, by citizens of Kirkland in the 2012 Citizen Survey for Kirkland. This rating reflects both the standards of law enforcement and fire services as well as the fact that these areas remain a community priority.

Funding and staffing levels remained mostly consistent between 2011 and 2012, although there was a slight decrease in fire and EMS staffing per 1,000 people.

In 2012 the percentage of residents that reported feeling safe walking their neighborhoods during the day (98%) and at night (79%) was at or above target.

EMS response times remain at the same level as in 2011, and are below target. There was also a reduction in the percentage of fires that were contained to the building of origin.

There has been a slight increase in the percentage of Kirkland residents who have at least two working smoke detectors in their house, although there has been no increase in the percentage of residents prepared for a three day emergency.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

In 2012 the Police Department continued its commitment to community-based, high visibility strategies to reduce crime and maintain a high level of confidence in public safety. By utilizing many resources from Federal, State and locally funded programs the department is able to proactively address safety concerns from traffic and pedestrian safety to motor vehicle and identity theft.

The department continues to operate with a high degree of efficiency by utilizing accurate localized data to drive operations towards a more effective deployment of resources.

The City also finalized plans for a new public safety building. The new location will be more centrally located to the new outline of the City. The Police Department, Court and Jail operations will all be located in one facility, naturally aligning efficiencies.

The Kirkland Fire Department is a highly trained and well equipped organization, with the protection of our resident's lives, property and the environment as its focus. The Fire Department provides fire prevention inspections of commercial properties, fire related plan checks, fire investigations activities, emergency medical response and transport, fire suppression, hazardous material release responses, and emergency management to the over 80,000 residents of Kirkland. The members of the Kirkland Fire Department provide these services with the very highest degree of dedication and professionalism.



Community Emergency Response Team

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program teaches citizens how to be prepared and trains them to be able to help others after a disaster. The 26-hour CERT course is taught by a trained team of first responders and other professionals. Training covers the Incident Command System, disaster preparedness, fire suppression, basic medical assessment and first aid, light search & rescue operations, and disaster psychology. The 8 week course is completed with a 4 to 5 hour drill that tests the CERTs on all aspects of the course.

CERT members understand the risks disasters pose to people and property. They have taken steps to reduce hazards and lessen the impact of disasters once they have occurred. When disasters overwhelm local response capability, they are trained to take care of themselves and give critical support to their family members, neighbors, and others in their immediate area until professionals arrive. When first responders arrive, CERT's will be able

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to provide them with useful information and support. Later, they will be able to help City reestablish stability to the community. CERTs may also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of their community.

The CERT program is administered by the Office of Emergency Management/Fire Department. The first class of CERTs graduated in early 2006 with close to 300 citizens having participated in the course since then, this includes three present City Council members. In 2012 the CERT Program graduated 42 citizens as CERT members. The program is primarily CERT Volunteer driven and has a very active "Leadership Team" to take the Kirkland CERT program into the future.