

KIRKLAND FIRE STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

JANUARY 2014

On August 6, 2013 the Kirkland Fire Department presented to the City Council [its recommendations](#) on the 2012 Fire Department Strategic Plan. The following is an overview of the progress towards completion of those recommendations since that August Council meeting:

- The **Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) conducted an evaluation** of the City's fire response capabilities which was completed in December 2013. The City maintained its rating of 4 (on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest score possible). The Department will be meeting with the WSRB inspector to gain a thorough understanding of deficiencies identified.
- The Department has **begun the process of seeking Accreditation** through Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Registration with CFAI was initiated and the process will begin in February 2014 and continue for 18-36 months.
- **A "Standard of Coverage Study" was initiated** so that the City will have a detailed analysis of when and how the adopted response standards are currently met. A preliminary findings report is currently under review by the Department with a target completion date at the end of February 2014. The report will directly address seven of the strategic plan recommendations.
- **A consultant was hired to resume the Finn Hill Station Siting Study.** At this point, 25 to 30 potential sites have been identified. Weighted criteria were developed to guide selection of a site. Chief Nalder and TCA, the City's consultant, conducted outreach to the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance in September 2013, November 2013 and January 2014. The Finn Hill Station siting is ultimately dependent on the outcome of the Standard of Coverage Study.
- **Evaluation of a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) model was initiated** with a letter of interest from the Kirkland City Manager and Fire Chief to bordering jurisdictions seeking their level of interest in participation in RFA study. Once the Standard of Coverage Study is completed the RFA Study can be initiated.
- A **City Emergency Manager** was hired and will begin on February 18, 2014.
- **City staff continues to engage with King County Medic One** to become a Basic Life Support lead agency in the countywide Emergency Medical Services system, to be assigned a Community Medical technician and to eventually become an Advanced Life Support provider.
- A detailed **analysis of EMS Transport Fee revenue and expenditures** was conducted in 2013 to validate that EMS transport activity is meeting stated goals. The analysis indicated that the program is on target.

- The Department is focusing on **making the Emergency Medical System (EMS) as efficient and effective as possible**. The growing **CARES Program** (Citizen Advocate for Resources Education and Support) is designed to connect frequent EMS users with care and services designed to alleviate conditions that lead to repeated calls for emergency medical care. CARES includes the King County **Crisis Diversion Program** and **Mobile Crisis Team** that focus on patients in mental health or substance abuse crises. Other approaches are currently being developed to respond to the resource demands presented by chronic disease, aging, and assisted living facilities. Additionally, the department is working to improve efficiency and effectiveness in responding to low acuity medical calls. Kirkland Firefighters are now utilizing the Medic One Taxi voucher program that provides non-emergency transport to medical services, and the Department is pursuing a partnership with King County EMS to provide a community medical technician (**CMT**) unit that will provide non-emergency response to low acuity calls. Together these programs could reduce up to 1,000 emergency responses per year by traditional Kirkland EMS units. Finally, the Department continues its involvement in the **RAMPART program** which provides CPR training to City employees and portable defibrillators in public areas so that life saving measures can be started before the Medic One unit arrives on scene.
- The Department **completed an energy audit** of all Fire Stations and corrections and upgrades are in progress with a target completion date of February 2014.
- Participating cities **formalized the East Metro Training Group (EMTG)** through an Interlocal Agreement and convened its first governing board meeting. The EMTG has created and refined goals and purpose statements. So far, the EMTG has initiated an Acting Officer program, is providing training through the City's Managing to Excellence for Supervisors program and is implementing an Incident Safety Officer for Captains. The EMTG also developed an Officer Development Program based on national standards with the first class scheduled for May 2014. The EMTG is identifying training competencies that address all Washington Administrative Code competencies annually that will be incorporated in an EMTG training manual. The Department is currently conducting regular night drills and has developed lesson plans for core competencies including Live Fire, Communications, HazMat, auto extrication, Instructor 1 as recommended by the consultant.
- The Fire Prevention Division is working on entering fire prevention records into a new database. The **Self-inspection program (SIP) for low risk occupancies** is being researched and the Department is investigating creation of a **Regional Fire Investigation Team** comprised of five local agencies. The Department continues to work with the City Council Public Safety Committee on a possible Residential Sprinkler Ordinance. The City Manager's Office in cooperation with the Fire Prevention Bureau and Building Division will develop an outreach process involving local developers and local water purveyors.

For more information on the Fire Strategic Plan, contact Fire Chief Kevin Nalder, Kirkland Fire & Building Department at 425-587-3601 or knalder@kirklandwa.gov.