

West Thurston Fire Rescue

Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan
“Serving Better Together”



Visit us online at:
www.westthurstonfire.org

Adopted by:

Board of Fire Commissioners

Thurston County Fire Protection District #1
Thurston County Fire Protection District #11

April 14th, 2009

Table of Contents

Section	Subject	Page
X	Title Page	1
XX	Table of Contents	2
1	Definitions	3
2	Assessment and Need Statement	4
3	Authority	5-6
4	Jurisdictional Boundaries	7
5	Funding	8-9
6	Governance	10-11
7	Organizational Structure	12
8	Expansion	13
9	Administration, Management, personnel Components	14-15
10	Operations and Service Delivery Systems	16-17
11	Support and Logistics Services	18-19
12	Prevention and Education Services	20-21

Appendices:

A. -	Organizational Structure (Org. Chart)	22
B. -	Fire and Emergency Medical Response Time Objectives	23-24
C. -	Combined Service Area Map & Fire Station Locations	25

Attachments: Resolution & Ballot Title

Section 1: Definitions

The definitions in this section apply throughout the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

1. **Board:** Means the governing body of a regional fire protection services authority.
2. **Participating Jurisdiction:** The municipal jurisdiction(s) participating in the WTRFPSA in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 52.26. (Thurston County Fire Protection District #1 and Thurston County Fire Protection District # 11)
3. **West Thurston Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (WTRFPSA):** A municipal corporation, an independent taxing authority within the meaning of Article VII, Section 1, of the Washington State Constitution, and a taxing district within the meaning of Article VII, Section 2, of the Washington State Constitution, whose boundaries are coextensive with two or more adjacent fire protection jurisdictions (Thurston County Fire Protection District #1 and Thurston County Fire Protection District # 11) and that has been created by a vote of the people under Revised Code of Washington 52.26 to implement a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan.
4. **Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee (Planning Committee):** An advisory committee created under Revised Code of Washington 52.26.030 to create and propose to fire protection jurisdictions a Regional Fire Service Authority Plan to design, finance, and develop a regional fire protection and emergency service jurisdiction.
5. **Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan:** A plan intended to develop and finance a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, specific capital projects, fire operations and emergency service operations pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040(3)(b), and the preservation and maintenance of existing or future facilities and services.

Section 2: Assessment and Needs Statement

The ability to respond to emergency situations by fire protection and emergency medical services jurisdictions has not progressed with the community's needs and special service demands;

Providing an emergency medical, specialized Rescue, and fire protection services and life safety prevention services system requires a collaborative partnership and responsibility among the local and regional governments and the private sector;

There are financial, administrative and operational efficiencies to be gained by regional fire protection, emergency services, specialized rescue, and fire and life safety prevention services delivery while retaining local control;

Since 1998, through a series of inter-agency agreements Thurston County Fire District #1 (Grand Mound / Rochester) and Thurston County Fire District #11 (Littlerock) have been cooperatively striving to provide the highest level of fire and emergency medical services possible to our citizens within the confines of available resources. Working together to combine resources and achieve major service improvements has been the foundation of our motto "Serving Better Together" These major emergency service delivery improvements were achieved through cooperation and combining resources, whereas the service improvements were not achievable working independent of one another; they include:

- In 1998 the Districts (1, 11 & 14) collaborated to form the Southwest ALS (SWALS) Consortium to bring improved ALS (Advanced Life Support) Paramedic services to the southwest part of Thurston County.
- In 2002, the Districts entered into a cooperative agreement establishing fire based BLS (Basic Life Support) transport. The implementation of patient transport services vastly improved the time it takes to get a patient to the hospital.

In February 2007, department stakeholders convened and determined numerous options for consolidating fire and emergency medical services resources. The stakeholders determined that combining functions, eliminating redundant functions, avoiding costs, and achieving cost savings through economies of scale will provide the fire districts the best opportunity to realize the efficiencies to be gained while maintaining local control;

In June 2007, District elected officials voted to execute an agreement between the agencies that formulated the intent of the Districts to pursue a joint operating agreement.

The Districts have indicated that they will be asking the citizens to consider combining all functions and services provided by the two departments into a single entity, called a Regional Fire Service Protection Authority.

The Districts believe this option will provide the best opportunity for the Citizens of the Districts to realize the efficiencies and improved effectiveness to be gained, while maintaining local control.

Section 3: Authority

Reference:

1. The authority to form a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority including property within the jurisdictional boundaries of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 is provided by chapter 52.26 of the Revised Code of Washington.
2. The WTRFPSA shall maintain all powers and authority provided by RCW 52.26 and all other provisions of Title 52 RCW, respecting fire districts.
3. The authority and power to engage in the WTRFPSA Planning Committee is provided by RCW 52.26.030. The Planning Committee shall consist only of the six fire commissioners.
4. Appointment and participation in the WTRFPSA Steering Committee shall include the six fire commissioners, each Fire Chief and appointed staff, and a citizen advisory member from each agency.
5. Upon successful development and approval of the WTRFPSA Plan by the WTRFPSA Planning Committee, the WTRFPSA Plan shall be brought forth to each elected body for approval and adoption by resolution for placement of the WTRFPSA Plan on the ballot for consideration by the vote of the people.

Activity and Operation:

1. Current activity and operation of the Fire Protection Services Agreement and the Agreement for Joint Undertaking by and between Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall remain in force during the planning period of the WTRFPSA.
2. Should the WTRFPSA Plan be approved with a successful vote by the collective electorate of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11, the WTRFPSA will be formed on January 1st, 2010.

Assets and Documentation:

1. No transfer of current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements, or records of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall occur during the planning period of the WTRFPSA.
2. The transfer of assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements, and records of the WTRFPSA from the respective participating jurisdictions shall occur on January 1st, 2010, and be in accordance with the

Articles identified in this WTRFPSA Plan.

Plan Revision:

The authority provision of the WTRFPSA Plan is subject to alteration only by a revised WTRFPSA Plan being re-submitted to the electorate for approval.

End This Page_____

Section 4: Jurisdictional Boundaries

Reference:

The authority to define the jurisdiction of the WTRFPSA is provided by Revised Code of Washington 52.26.020 (2).

Activity and Operation Transfer:

The jurisdictional boundaries of the WTRFPSA shall be the current legal boundaries of each participating jurisdiction (Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11), which boundaries are depicted in *Appendix C* of this plan, and shall be transferred upon approval by the collective electorate.

Asset Transfer:

Transfer of authority and jurisdiction for the WTRFPSA from the respective participating fire agencies shall occur upon formation of the WTRFPSA in accordance with the Articles identified in this Plan.

_End This Page_____

Section 5: Funding

Reference: The authority to provide funding and levy taxes for the WTRFPSA is provided by the following statutes contained in the Revised Code of Washington:

- 52.26.050 (Service plan-taxes and benefit charges)
- 52.26.140 (Ad valorem property taxes up to \$1.50 per thousand AV)
- 52.26.180 (Benefit charges as in RCW 52.18)
- 52.30.020 (Public agencies-contracts for services)
- 52.12.131 (EMS-reasonable charges for cost reimbursement)
- 84.52.069 (taxes for emergency medical services up to \$0 .50)
- Chapter 84.52 RCW (excess levies with voter approval)
- Chapter 84.55 RCW (increases in taxes with voter approval)

Funding methodology/Exercise of above authority:

1. For fiscal year 2010, the Participating Jurisdictions shall transfer all 2010 revenue, taxes and proceeds collected by their respective jurisdictions for fire and emergency medical services (EMS) to **WTRFPSA** for the first year of operation. The Participating Jurisdictions will execute an interlocal agreement pursuant to RCW 39.34.030, if necessary, to accomplish this plan requirement.
2. Funding for the **WTRFPSA** for fiscal year 2011 shall be accomplished by an ad valorem property tax levied pursuant to RCW 52.26.140 et seq., not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value of all taxable property within the **WTRFPSA** boundaries.
3. To the extent permitted by law, **WTRFPSA** shall contract with agencies for service in accordance with RCW 52.30.020, **provided** that this shall not include contracts for service with any participating jurisdictions in the **WTRFPSA**.
4. **WTRFPSA** shall assume all outstanding bonded indebtedness of the Participating Jurisdictions and pay all debt payments on their current schedule.
5. **WTRFPSA** shall assume any and all obligations to any LEOFF I retirees, for which either Participating Jurisdiction is currently responsible.
6. **The WTRFPSA** shall not exercise its authority, without a Plan revision or other voter approval, to levy taxes or assess charges under the following statutes:
 - RCW 52.26.180 (benefit charges)
 - RCW 84.52.069 (EMS levy)
 - RCW 84.52.052 and/or 84.52.130 (excess levy)
 - RCW 85.55.050 (lid lift)

Asset Transfer:

West Thurston Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan

1. All assets of the Participating Jurisdictions shall be transferred to the **WTRFPSA** on the date of formation of the Authority unless otherwise specifically set forth in this Plan.
2. All funds and account balances of the Participating Jurisdictions held as of December 31, 2009, shall be transferred to the **WTRFPSA** for its operating budget for fiscal year 2010 as set forth in (1) above.

Plan Revisions:

The funding provisions of this Plan may be revised only by submitting a revised plan to the electorate for approval.

End This Page_____

Section 6: Governance

Reference:

The authority to provide governance for the WTRFPSA is provided by the following statutes contained in the Revised Code of Washington:

- **52.26.080**
- **52.26.090**
- **52.26.100**
- **52.26.120**
- **52.14.010**
- **52.06.085**

Governance Board/Exercise of Authority:

1. As provided by RCW 52.26.080, the WTRFPSA Governance Board shall be established and have authority on January 1, 2010. The Governance Board shall have all the power and authority granted such governing boards under the laws of the State of Washington, including but not limited to RCW 52.26.090 and all other powers granted to fire protection districts in Title 52 RCW.
2. As provided by RCW 52.26.080, initially the WTRFPSA Governance Board shall consist of three duly elected or appointed commissioners from each of the two Participating Jurisdictions.
3. Thereafter, the Governance Board may by a majority vote approve reduction of the Governance Board to five members, provided that such reduction shall only be accomplished due to the occurrence of a vacancy or expiration of an elected official's term. In such event, future elections shall result in two board members being elected from within the boundaries of former District 1 and two board members being elected from within the boundaries of former District 11, together with one at large member being elected from within the boundaries of the WTRFPSA.
4. For purposes of external governance, inter-governmental relations, and committee membership in the Thurston County or Washington State Fire Commissioner Associations, Governance Board Members shall be deemed to be "fire commissioners" with all of the powers and authority reserved to them in Title 52 RCW.
5. Upon expansion of the WTRFPSA, by merger of a merging fire district under RCW 52.06, by annexation of a city or town under RCW 52.04.061 and 52.04.071, or by consolidation or merger with another duly formed Regional Fire Protection Service Authority, the Governance Board shall be expanded by two elected officials from each new expansion participating jurisdiction, provided that by majority vote of the newly constituted Governance Board one added at large member position may be authorized.
6. The Governance Board shall adopt governance policies, rules and bylaws for conducting business for the WTRFPSA upon its formation, in accordance with RCW 52.26.080.

7. Ballot measures may be placed on the ballot within the WTRFPSA either (1) upon a majority vote of the members of the Governance Board or (2) upon a unanimous vote of the elected officials of a Participating Jurisdiction within whose boundaries a majority of the population of the WTRFPSA resides.

Asset Transfer:

Unless otherwise noted in this Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements, and records of the Participating Jurisdictions relating to governance shall be transferred to WTRFPSA upon formation.

Plan Revisions:

The governance section of this Plan may be revised by a majority vote of the Governance Board.

_End This Page_____

Section 7: Organizational Structure

Reference:

The authority of the WTRFPSA to establish an organizational structure is provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

Activity and Operation Transfer:

1. Commencing the day of formation, the WTRFPSA shall be organized and managed, with leadership provided as shown in ***Appendix A*** of the WTRFPSA Plan.
2. The WTRFPSA Administrative, Operations, and other division(s) shall be established within the WTRFPSA Organizational Chart.
3. Upon voter approval and prior to formation the WTRFPSA shall complete a business plan for the following calendar year. The business plan shall identify the organizational model, identify all divisions of the WTRFPSA including their mission, duties, internal and external services, and reporting responsibilities.

Asset Transfer:

Unless otherwise noted in the WTRFPSA Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to organizational structure of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall be transferred upon formation of the WTRFPSA.

Plan Revisions:

The organizational structure section of the WTRFPSA Plan may be revised by a majority vote of the current WTRFPSA Governance Board.

End This Page_____

Section 8: RFA Expansion

Reference:

The authority for expansion of the WTRFPSA, to include additional Participating Jurisdictions in the WTRFPSA, is provided by the following statutes contained in the Revised Code of Washington, which are hereby adopted as providing power and authority to the WTRFPSA:

- Chapter RCW 52.06 (to merge fire districts into WTRFPSA)
- RCW 52.04.061, RCW 52.04.071 and any other related statutes (to annex cities and towns into WTRFPSA) see attached RCW's
- Chapter RCW 52.06 (to merge one or more Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities into WTRFPSA)
- RCW 52.26.290 (annexation of territory to Participation Jurisdiction automatically annexes territory to authority)
- Chapter 39.34 (to include in WTRFPSA or its service area any port district or Indian Tribe, as fire protection jurisdictions, pursuant to RCW 52.26.020)

Expansion/Exercise of Authority:

By majority vote of the Governance Board of the WTRFPSA, the Board may initiate any one of the processes enumerated above, which may culminate in expansion of the WTRFPSA, subject to the affirmative vote of the electorate and compliance with all applicable statutes. Expansion of the Governance Board shall be done in accordance with Section 8 of this Plan, and need not be strictly in accordance with RCW 52.06.085.

Plan Revisions:

The expansion section of this Plan may be revised by a majority vote of the Governance Board.

_End This Page_____

Section 9: Administrative, Management, and Personnel Components

Reference:

The authority for the WTRFPSA to establish and provide administrative, management, and personnel components as provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

Activity and Operation Transfer:

1. The WTRFPSA shall be organized as provided in Appendix A of this WTRFPSA Plan.
2. The existing staff of the participating agencies shall transfer to the WTRFPSA to fulfill assigned duties as outlined in the organization model (Appendix A). All FTE's of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall be transferred on the day of formation at their current rank, grade, and seniority.
3. Employee and employer relationships, legal rights and authorities shall be maintained by Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 until formation of the WTRFPSA.
4. All current employee agreements, collective bargaining agreements, outstanding labor issues, personnel service contracts, and any other contracts or agreements pertaining to work, duties, services, or employment with Thurston County Fire District #1 or Thurston County Fire District #11 shall be transferred with all personnel on the day of the WTRFPSA formation. Any consolidation of employees into one of the existing labor agreements must be mutually agreed upon by the labor unions and each of the participating jurisdictions prior to May 11th, 2009.
5. Unless otherwise noted in the WTRFPSA Plan, the transfer of authority and the administration and management of the WTRFPSA shall be seamless and shall follow Appendix A.
6. The WTRFPSA will maintain the current medical, dental, and vision plan(s) via the WSFCA for all WTRFPSA personnel. Expenses associated with the medical, dental, and vision plans for WTRFPSA personnel will be the responsibility of the WTRFPSA. In the event that the WTRFPSA and IAFF Local 3825 Labor-Management Committee mutually agrees to an alternative medical, dental, and vision plan, said plan will be the responsibility of the WTRFPSA.
7. The existing Labor-Management Committee shall continue to provide effective communication and input for the leadership and workforce of the WTRFPSA into operational, administrative, and labor related matters. The Labor-Management Committee will operate in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

8. The Administrative Staff of the WTRFPSA shall be the current members of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11. All current administrative and business functions, agreements, documents, operations, and policies and procedures from Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall transfer to the WTRFPSA unless otherwise noted in this plan. If current policies, procedures and guidelines from Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 are conflicting, upon formation of the WTRFPSA policies, procedures and guidelines shall be revised and adopted.
9. The WTRFPSA shall obtain liability and property insurance.
10. The WTRFPSA administrative and operations board shall conduct planning and develop an organizational Strategic Plan to include level of service provided, standard of coverage, deployment standards, and customer expectation during the first year of operations.
11. The WTRFPSA shall conduct and develop a Mission, Vision, and Values statement during the first year of operations.
12. Upon formation the WTRFPSA shall administer and conduct all hiring and promotional process.

Asset Transfer:

1. Unless otherwise noted in the WTRFPSA Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to administrative, management, and personnel of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall be transferred to the WTRFPSA.
2. All current executive and command functions, operations, policies, and procedures from Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall transfer to the WTRFPSA unless otherwise noted in this plan.
3. Transfer of assets for the WTRFPSA from the participating fire departments shall occur upon formation of the WTRFPSA in accordance with the objectives identified in the Plan.

Plan Revision:

The administrative, management, and personnel portion of the WTRFPSA Plan may be revised by a majority vote of the current WTRFPSA Governance Board.

Section 10: Operations and Service Delivery Systems

Reference:

The authority of the WTRFPSA to establish and operational and service delivery system components of the WTRFPSA is provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

Activity and Operation Transfer:

1. Upon successful approval of the electorate, all current operational and service delivery aspects of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall be transferred to the WTRFPSA.
2. WTRFPSA shall maintain or improve staffing levels at the current levels in existence upon formation of the WTRFPSA; provided adequate funding exists.
3. WTRFPSA shall strive to staff each staff-able fire station in existence, under development or planned upon WTRFPSA formation.
4. The current staff-able fire stations include:
Station(s) : 1-1 Grand Mound/ Rochester Sargent Rd.; 1-2 Littlerock Rd.; 1-3 Albany St.; 1-4 Trevue Ave; 1-5 Michigan Hill;1-6 Maytown Rd
5. Upon formation the WTRFPSA shall maintain current staffing models, standard of coverage, deployment standards, field operations and command staffing at the current level of service; provided adequate funding exists.
6. As part of the Department Strategic Plan the WTRFPSA shall adopt new medium-long range standards of coverage and a deployment plan based on providing service to the combined service area.
7. All current inter-local and enabling agreements, mutual and automatic aid agreements, memorandum of understanding, contract for services, and other agreements shall be transferred to the WTRFPSA upon formation to provide continuous, seamless, readiness and emergency services coverage.

Asset Transfer:

1. The ownership of real property of each participating jurisdiction that currently has a fire station constructed upon it shall be transferred to the WTRFPSA.
2. Unless otherwise noted, all non-real property assets shall be transferred to the WTRFPSA for fire and emergency medical services operation purposes, provided that all reserve funds established for equipment, apparatus, or capital replacement are retained by the WTRFPSA.

3. All buildings and equipment, shall be, insured and maintained by the WTRFPSA.
4. Unless otherwise noted in this Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements, and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to operations and delivery systems of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall be transferred to the WTRFPSA.
5. Transfer of assets for the WTRFPSA from the participating fire departments shall occur upon formation of the WTRFPSA in accordance with the objectives identified in the Plan.

Plan Revision:

1. The operations and delivery systems portion of the WTRFPSA may be revised by a majority vote of the WTRFPSA Governance Board.

End This Page_____

Section 11: Support and Logistics Services

Authority:

1. The authority of the WTRFPSA to establish and provide a support services components of the WTRFPSA is provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

Activity and Operation Transfer:

1. The current Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 staff assigned to administration, operations and support services shall be transferred to fulfill those duties and services for the WTRFPSA.
2. Unless otherwise noted in this WTRFPSA Plan, the transfer of authority and the administration, operations and support services of the WTRFPSA shall be seamless.
3. Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall continue to pursue common policies, procedures and guidelines; training programs; labor agreement(s); volunteer recruit program(s); common computer IT connectivity between stations to ensure a seamless link for coordinated data entry and support.
4. Upon formation of the WTRFPSA facility maintenance and logistical services shall be provided by the WTRFPSA in order to provide seamless repair, maintenance, and readiness of operations of the WTRFPSA facilities.
5. All fleet vehicle maintenance shall be coordinated by the WTRFPSA. Minor repairs and/or maintenance may be performed by WTRFPSA personnel or other vendors at the discretion of the Operations Chief or designee. The WTRFPSA shall negotiate a revised contract(s) with the vendors to assure that the entire WTRFPSA fleet is maintained and serviced appropriately.

Asset Transfer:

1. Unless otherwise noted in the WTRFPSA Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to the support services of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall be transferred to the WTRFPSA.
2. Transfer of assets for the WTRFPSA from the participating fire departments shall occur upon formation of the WTRFPSA in accordance with the objectives identified in the Plan.

Plan Revisions:

1. The support services portion of the WTRFPSA may be revised by a majority vote of the WTRFPSA Governance Board.

End This Page

Section 12: Prevention & Public Education Services

Reference:

1. The authority of the WTRFPSA to establish and provide fire code management, prevention, and public education components of the WTRFPSA is provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

Activity and Operation Transfer:

1. The WTRFPSA code management, prevention and education section shall be organized as provided in Appendix A of the WTRFPSA Plan.
2. The current Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11, fire code management, prevention, public education, and support services shall be transferred to the WTRFPSA to fulfill the duties outlined in the Appendix A organization structure.
3. Unless otherwise noted in the WTRFPSA Plan, the transfer of authority for fire code management prevention, public education, and support services of the WTRFPSA shall be seamless and shall initially model the current Fire Prevention and Education services provided by Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11.
4. The WTRFPSA will assume responsibility for all fire investigation activities within the WTRFPSA. The WTRFPSA will work closely with the Thurston County Sheriff's Office in processing any case including preservation of evidence, chain of custody, suspects and persons of interest for all cases arising from origin and cause investigations within the jurisdictional boundaries of the WTRFPSA.
5. The WTRFPSA shall negotiate an agreement with Thurston County Fire Marshal's Office for fire code enforcement and authority in accordance with Washington State law for the respective jurisdiction. The WTRFPSA will provide all pre-fire inspection and fire prevention services.

Asset Transfer:

1. Unless otherwise noted in the WTRFPSA Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to the fire and life safety code management, public education, injury prevention of Thurston County Fire District #1 and Thurston County Fire District #11 shall be transferred to the WTRFPSA.
2. Transfer of assets for the WTRFPSA from the participating fire departments shall occur upon formation of the WTRFPSA in accordance with the objectives identified in the Plan.

Plan Revisions:

1. The fire code management, prevention and public education portion of the WTRFPSA may be revised by a majority vote of the WTRFPSA Governance Board.

_End This Page_____

APPENDIX A:

APPENDIX B:

Response Time Objectives

DEFIBRILLATION AND CPR:

The success of cardiac defibrillation erodes as time goes by. At 3 – 4 minutes the chances of defibrillation being successful are less than 50/50. At 6 minutes, successful resuscitation rarely occurs. The participating fire jurisdictions currently provide defibrillation as well as significantly higher levels of emergency medical services by delivering advanced life support (ALS) via Thurston County Medic One Paramedics. The WTRFPSA seeks to improve patient survivability by improving service delivery depth and response time.

Once a heart stops there is a six minute window of opportunity for resuscitation and beyond that six minute window there is only the slimmest margin of success. Finally, add even another measure – The Golden Hour – which states the patient of a severe trauma has the best chance of survival if they reach surgery within one hour after the injuries are sustained. (Gunshots, car accidents, falls, etc., increase in fatality exponentially if the trauma is not surgically repaired within that first hour). These scientific factors establish the necessity to maintain and improve emergency medical services response time to improve outcome.

STRUCTURE FIRES AND FLASHOVER:

The time/temperature curve compares the relationship of time to the progress and intensity of fire. In a typical room in any house, a fire will double in size every minute, assuming it has a steady supply of fuel and oxygen. While the fire is growing the temperature in the room is increasing usually to about 1000 degrees at ceiling level and a few hundred degrees at 3 feet high. Eventually the room temperature reaches a point where everything in the room begins to burn – this is called flashover. Flashover is deadly. After a flashover, the occupancy/structure is no longer survivable for all occupants including firefighters beyond a brief exposure. In flashover everything in the room is damaged or destroyed and generally the heat in the rest of the occupancy/structure is such that life would not be sustainable without intervention such as fire hoses or a fire protection sprinkler system. Flashover is the eventual outcome of every house fire and occurs generally at about 8 minutes. That means that firefighters need to be on scene and working prior to that 8 minute benchmark to achieve life safety rescue and fire extinguishment.

These measures establish what the WTRFPSA defines as “response time” as the most important measure of performance. Other measures the WTRFPSA considers as critical service delivery factors include the number of personnel responding, the capabilities and efficiency of the personnel once on scene, the capabilities of the equipment, and preventative or mitigation measures in place prior to arrival, such as sprinkler systems or fire extinguishers. The following graphic shows the various constituent elements of the “response time”:

West Thurston Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan

Elements of Response Time	Contributing Factors	Action Time
0-10 Minutes	Recognition of a problem	People try to extinguish fire before 911. People ignore chest pain and deny they have a problem.
0 – 10 Min.	Calling 911:	Once problem established finding a phone, an address etc. eats up some time.
1 - 2 Min.	Dispatching:	Determining type of emergency, jurisdiction to respond, broadcasting over radio. Standard is within 60 seconds
1 - 2 Min.	Turn-out time	Getting gear on walking to the apparatus etc. standard is 60 -120 seconds
3 – 25 Min.	Travel to the Scene	Driving to scene, finding the address, etc. – highly dependent on location in response area.
1 – 5 Min.	Set up/ deployment	Connecting to a hydrant, pulling hoses, Putting on air masks, etc., setting up a defib unit, putting oxygen on etc.
6 – 43* Min.	The Total amount of time it takes to “respond” to an emergency	

*There are a number of factors that affect response time including station location, road conditions, and dispatch efficiency however adequate staffing and an effective use of volunteer resources are paramount in providing the highest level of service possible.

End This Page_____

APPENDIX C:

Combined Service Area Map & Fire Station Locations

Station 1-1: 187th & Sargent Road
Station 1-2: Littlerock Road
Station 1-3: Albany Street

Station 1-4: Trevue Ave/ Scott Lake Station
Station 1-5: Michigan Hill Station
Station 1-6: Maytown Road Station

West Thurston Combined Service Area

