



City of Tumwater Fire Department

ASSUMPTIONS FOR PLANNING

The Five Year Strategic Plan and Operational Guide will create an agenda and define outcomes, cause analysis to take place and goals to be set. It will encourage participation and commitment, and ensure consistent follow up on all facets of the Department's operations.

Tumwater, known as the end of the Oregon Trail or Cowlitz Trail, is the oldest permanent American settlement in the Puget Sound area. The City is located at the southern tip of Puget Sound just south of the State Capitol, Olympia. Incorporated on November 25, 1869, Tumwater is Washington's first community.

Tumwater's 2016 estimated population is approximately 22,000 and 17.54 square miles. Several thousand additional area residents work in Tumwater or commute through the City every day as Tumwater is home to major employers; Pepsi Northwest, Olympia Airport, Cardinal Glass, Costco and numerous state agencies. The City may continue to grow with an increase in land and population due to annexation and other variables. The current and future increase in the number of people coupled with an aging population will significantly increase calls for service.

Continued improvements in fire – related provisions of Building and Fire Codes will have a positive impact on new construction. The City's adoption of the 2012 International Fire Code and 2012 International Building Code with their amendments are clear examples of such an initiative.

Service delivery to people is the hallmark of the Tumwater Fire Department. Demands on the Department continue to increase, most notably in the areas of Emergency Medical Services, Special Operations, and Special Event Services. This results in programmatic impacts on training development and maintenance, equipment and supplies, and time management.

In 2014, 72% of the 3,361 emergency responses were for medical services with 28% being other or fire related. It is anticipated that this medical service percentage will continue to be high due to the continued aging of the baby boomer generation. Of the 2,400 medical calls responded to, 34% required Advanced Life Support (ALS) /Paramedic Level treatment.

The increased use of smoke detectors and automatic fire sprinkler systems will result in early detection and control of structure fires, thus resulting in fewer fire fatalities, fire related injuries, and eventually lowered structural fire loss.

Commitment to the concept of continuous improvement and unrelenting devotion to customer service will be required to maintain and enhance the positive image of the Department in the community.



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Possible future fire station location, fire company deployment and regionalization assume City support as the department explores future response needs and deployment plans for the City. Additionally, an emphasis on traffic management, the continued management of the emergency vehicle traffic preemption system and management of vehicle capacity on arterial streets is critical as the population grows.

Tumwater is host to an ever increasing number of special events. Many of these events require additional staffing and equipment in order to safely manage the event without adversely affecting normal service delivery capability for the balance of the community.

The Department's positive relationship with other City departments and other neighboring fire departments will be maintained and enhanced in an effort to provide highly effective emergency services to Tumwater residents.

The Tumwater Fire Department is an "All Hazards" type emergency service delivery organization and is highly involved in incident prevention and highly effective to response incidents that occur. Tumwater Fire Department's involvement in emergency management has paid significant dividends for the City and we will continue to work with partners at the county, state and federal levels to further strengthen this critical mitigation, response, and recovery capability.

In the event of a major community health emergency, i.e. Pandemic Flu/Ebola outbreak, it is expected that Tumwater Fire Department will play a major role in concert with Thurston County Emergency Management as well as Department of Public Health, in terms of organizational and public preventative measures such as mass immunizations and emergency medical response to the critically ill.

The Department's involvement in Mobilization response in the state (although minimal) continues to position itself to be of assistance to other communities during large scale events.

The Tumwater Fire Department remains short of operational personnel to operate a modern fire department. Although the department added 21 uniformed personnel from 2012 to 2017, and plans to add 4 additional personnel by the end of 2017, the expanding demand for Emergency Medical Services and the increasing training requirements remains a challenge.

The quest to comply with NFPA 1710; Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operation to the public remains a high priority and commitment by the City.

The Tumwater Fire Department currently has a class 4 rating by Washington State Survey and Rating Bureau. This status was renewed in August of 2014 following a full-scale assessment of



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our organization. The maintenance of this status and participation in the program will serve as an additional force in our Departments commitment to continuous improvement.