

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

□ Section 1, Public Safety Police and Fire Protection

BACKGROUND

Statewide Planning Goal 11: Public Facilities and Services

“To plan and develop a timely, orderly and efficient arrangement of public facilities and services to serve as a framework for urban and rural development.”

Police services within the Lake Oswego Urban Services Boundary are provided by the City of Lake Oswego Police Department, the Multnomah and Clackamas County Sheriffs’ Departments, Oregon State Police and neighboring and regional law enforcement agencies. Also, the Police Department has non-sworn personnel within its Community Services Division who provide support services and enforce the City’s municipal code.

In addition to the city limits, the City’s Police Department will cover areas within a limited distance outside the City in cases of emergency until county or state law enforcement arrives. City police will also provide back-up to other law enforcement agencies when requested. The County Sheriffs’ Departments and State Police will also answer calls inside the City limits. Their enforcement power is limited to matters of state law inside the City and they do not enforce City ordinances.

The Lake Oswego Police Department has several divisions which provide special law enforcement and public safety services. These include patrol, canine section, traffic enforcement, community traffic safety, detective, special investigations and community services units.

Lake Oswego operates the E-911* communications center (LOCOM). LOCOM provides emergency communications service to approximately 55,000 people within the general area of Lake Oswego, West Linn and Dunthorpe.

The Lake Oswego Fire Department provides fire protection for all areas within the City limits and contracts to provide services to three special service districts — Lake Grove, Riverdale-Dunthorpe and Alto Park fire districts. Other fire districts providing fire service within the City’s Urban Service Boundary include Tualatin Fire District and Rosemont Fire District.

Fire Department services include fire safety code inspection and enforcement, fire prevention and suppression, public education and information. Emergency medical and ambulance service is provided by both the City of Lake Oswego and a private company. The private service operates through a franchise agreement with the City.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

❑ Section 1, Public Safety Police and Fire Protection

In 1992, Lake Oswego adopted the City of Lake Oswego Emergency Operations Plan. The Fire Department has primary responsibility for administering the plan. It implements LOC 12.800 (Emergency Code) by providing the basic framework to guide City departments in their efforts to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from, any major emergency or disaster which may affect all or parts of the City. Six major emergency categories are addressed by the plan including hazardous materials accidents, mass casualties, wildfires, earthquakes, severe weather and structural fires.

Summary Of Major Issues

The following are some of the issues, changed circumstances and conditions which were considered in the update of this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

- Lake Oswego has primary responsibility for public safety services within the city limits. However, a high degree of cooperation and coordination occurs with other area agencies and jurisdictions.
- The City provides fire protection services to several fire districts within the Urban Services Boundary.
- Lake Oswego operates the E-911 (LOCOM) Emergency Communications Center which serves the Lake Oswego, West Linn and Dunthorpe areas.
- The City of Lake Oswego Emergency Operations Plan was adopted in 1992.
- Emergency medical and ambulance service is provided by the fire department and by a franchised provider.

GOALS, POLICIES AND RECOMMENDED ACTION MEASURES

GOAL

The City shall ensure a high level of public safety through the provision of police and fire protection and emergency preparedness services.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

Section 1, Public Safety Police and Fire Protection

POLICIES

1. Ensure fire and police personnel can respond to public safety needs as quickly and efficiently as possible through:
 - a. Provision of personnel, facilities, equipment and communication resources; and,
 - b. Agreements with other agencies and jurisdictions to provide automatic and mutual aid* when needed.
2. Require adequate police and fire protection to be considered for all development. Particular attention shall be given to:
 - a. Fire hydrant locations and sufficient fire flows;
 - b. Street layout and site design features that ensure emergency vehicle access and building identification;
 - c. Building security; and,
 - d. Exterior lighting and landscape design.
3. Require all home occupations to comply with the Uniform Fire Code.
4. Ensure adequate police and fire protection can be provided to newly annexed areas.
5. Require new streets to be of high structural quality, sufficient width and adequately maintained to ensure emergency vehicle and service equipment access.
6. Maintain agreements with existing service districts for fire protection services outside the City provided:
 - a. Such actions are consistent with the City's Public Facility Plan and Comprehensive Plan goals and policies pertaining to public facilities and services and urbanization;
 - b. Adequate resources exist to provide these services; and,
 - c. These arrangements are in the City's financial interests.
7. Participate in automatic and mutual aid agreements among fire districts and departments provided such agreements ensure equal and reciprocal benefits and enhance the City's ability to provide fire protection throughout the City.
8. The Fire Department shall have the goal of reaching the location of fire alarms within the City within eight minutes or less.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

Section 1, Public Safety Police and Fire Protection

9. The Police Department shall have the goal of reaching the location of emergency calls for protection of life and property within a maximum time of five minutes.
10. Lessen the possibility of wildfires and their potential for destruction through public education, development review, emergency planning and maintenance of fire-fighting resources.
11. Maintain a Lake Oswego Emergency Operations Plan and provide sufficient resources to respond to emergencies including mass casualty incidents* wildfires, earthquakes, severe weather, major structural fires and hazardous materials accidents.
12. Require all development to meet fire code requirements.

RECOMMENDED ACTION MEASURES

- i. Emphasize primary prevention techniques to prevent loss due to fire and crime such as:
 - a. Public education programs;
 - b. Neighborhood watch and block programs;
 - c. Voluntary alarm hook ups; and,
 - d. Enforcement of the building, fire and municipal codes.
- ii. Ensure that appropriate public safety services can be made available to new development through coordination between the Fire and Police Departments, developers and recognized neighborhood associations.
- iii. Provide public information and education regarding ways to protect life and property from disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires and hazardous material releases.
- iv. Recognize the special public safety needs of Lake Oswego's elderly, young and socially disadvantaged. Provide primary prevention services to these groups, such as:
 - a. Traffic safety and drug education;
 - b. Home fire and crime proofing information;
 - c. Support for Neighborhood Watch and block programs; and,
 - d. Personal safety education.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

Section 1, Public Safety Police and Fire Protection

- v. Increase traffic safety through:
 - a. Review of planning and engineering proposals to ensure safe road design;
 - b. Active bicycle, pedestrian, speed and safety belt enforcement; and,
 - c. Maintenance of an active community traffic safety program.

- vi. Coordinate with other jurisdictions, public safety agencies and recognized neighborhood associations to ensure:
 - a. Compatibility of equipment and communications;
 - b. Emergency support can be provided when needed;
 - c. Sharing of resources to address multi-jurisdictional investigation and enforcement issues; and,
 - d. Effective implementation of the Lake Oswego Emergency Operations Plan.

- vii. Encourage water providers within the Urban Services Boundary to provide sufficient water storage and pressure to provide adequate fire flows.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

Section 1, Public Safety Police and Fire Protection

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