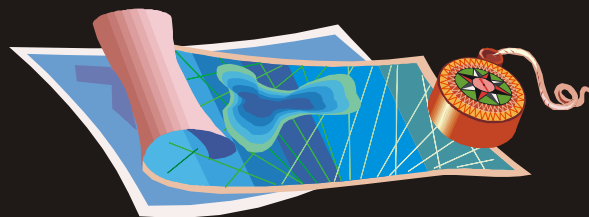


PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT

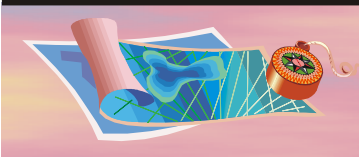
- Introduction
- Issues and Concerns
- Goals, Objectives and Policies
- Exhibits



VISION 2020



PUBLIC SAFETY



Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan Seminole County, Florida

PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT INTRODUCTION

The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners established the Department of Public Safety in 1974 in order to provide County fire protection, fire prevention and rescue services which are cost effective, and serve not only existing, but future populations within the unincorporated area of the County. (See map *Exhibit PUB: Public Safety Service Area*). In the ensuing years, legislative, technological and public demand changes have expanded the definition of a complete public safety function to include hazardous materials incidents, emergency medical services, animal control, 911 communications and provision of emergency management services. Additionally, in 1997, the Board authorized Public Safety to begin transport operations of patients.

Public Safety funding derives from several sources relative to each Division. EMS/Fire/Rescue is funded by development impact fees, the fire protection fund and transport revenue. Emergency Management is supported by both the general and the disaster preparedness fund. Other sources of funding for the Divisions include the General Fund, Emergency 911 Fund, EMS Trust Fund, Grant Assistance and limited donations.

Countywide emergency response coordination is achieved through a system of interlocal agreements. The County participates in "First Response" Automatic Aid Interlocal Agreements with the cities of Altamonte Springs, Longwood, Sanford, Winter Springs, Casselberry, Lake Mary, Maitland and Orange County and continually works with other cities to participate in this program. These efforts are based on the concept that the EMS/Fire/Rescue Service is a life protection service and should be provided in the quickest, most efficient and most effective manner to the citizens, without being impeded by jurisdictional boundaries. (See *Exhibit PUB: Proposed and Existing Fire Stations* in the Element Exhibits section following the goals, objectives and policies.) The County also jointly operates Station 65 with Orange County. The station is located south of Oviedo on the county line.

Seminole County also has Mutual Aid Agreements with the jurisdictions of Orange County, Volusia County, Lake County, the Cities of Apopka, Oviedo, Winter Park and Deltona.

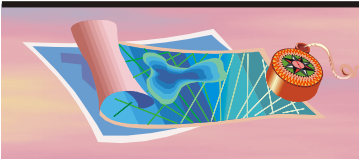
Primary sources of information used to produce this element include the following:

- Seminole County Fire/Rescue Impact Fee Study
- Seminole County Public Safety Department



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PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Issue PUB 1

Provision of Adequate Service

A number of factors impact how quickly a response can be made to an emergency incident and how quickly a patient can be transported to a medical treatment facility. These factors include population size, traffic congestion, the location of emergency response resources (stations and response vehicles) and the frequency of alarm incidents (call load).

As the population of the County increases, an additional mix of resources will be needed to provide the desired level of service. As resources need to arrive on the scene of an emergency quickly, centrally located stations, which once covered large areas adequately, may need to be augmented with additional infill stations. It will be necessary to continue identifying the amount of facilities/equipment needed to accomplish the level of service (average response time of five minutes) adopted in the Capital Improvements Element and in the Fire and Rescue Impact Fee Ordinance.

Traffic congestion is a significant impacting factor. As major and secondary arteries continue to get busier, there is an adverse affect on the ability of fire/rescue apparatus to respond to an incident in a timely fashion. This has "life or death" implications since the successful outcome of many emergency incidents is dependent upon how quickly trained personnel arrive on the scene to handle the emergency. Furthermore, in emergency medical service incidents, there is a need to transport the patient to a hospital facility as quickly as possible for a higher level of care. Since hospitals are in fixed locations (two in the southwest portion of the County and one in the northwest portion of the County), it will be necessary to find alternative (faster) ways of transporting patients deemed critical to these hospitals. Additionally, State law on emergency medical services require certain classifications of patients to be transported to a Level One trauma center. The closest facility of this type is the Orlando Regional Medical Center in Orlando and often the only efficient way of getting a patient to a hospital facility in a timely fashion is through the use of a helicopter.

As the population increases, and the demand for emergency services increases, more resources will be needed for adequate alarm response. Impact fees fund a portion of this, but additional funding will also be needed to handle the increased call loads within the adopted response time.



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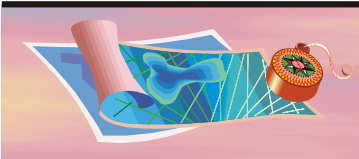
Based upon the requirements of the Seminole County Fire/Rescue Impact Fee Ordinance, legislated requirements for public safety and recently updated population and employment studies, the demand for public safety services is projected to increase. In order to maintain the adopted level of service, meet growth's demands and fulfill interlocal agreements, the County needs to:

- 1 Continue to construct/relocate/share facilities as necessary to ensure vehicles and personnel are properly positioned to meet service demand;
- 2 Continue to replace apparatus and equipment as necessary to maintain fast, efficient responses to alarms and increase the manpower to handle the increased call load;
- 3 Continue to review and evaluate technological methods, tools and training that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing resources - personnel, facilities and equipment; and
- 4 Continue to work with other jurisdictions and agencies to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Specifically, it is necessary for the County to incorporate new and expand existing programs. Proposed programs include an additional station in the northwest area of the county, the addition of a peak load staffing unit, relocation of the Howell Branch Road station, relocation of the Forest City Station, the purchase/lease of a storage facility for reserve apparatus, additional supervisory positions and the movement of county operated ambulance service billing to an in-house status.

Other proposed programs are the incorporation of new technology into the existing telecommunications systems including, but not limited to, automatic vehicle locator systems and mobile data terminals linked to central stations to improve time efficiency of call processing and response time.





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PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL

The County shall provide county fire protection, emergency rescue, hazardous materials incident mitigation, pre-hospital emergency care, disaster management, animal control and other emergency services which are cost effective and serve existing and future populations in Seminole County.

OBJECTIVE PUB 1 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The County shall protect County residents from the effects of natural and technological disasters, unsafe conditions which might otherwise occur in commercial occupancies, hazardous materials releases from products stored or transported through the County and uncontrolled animals.

Policy PUB 1.1 Emergency Medical Care

The County shall provide quality coordinated pre-hospital emergency medical care based upon performance measures, protocols and policies. These medical controls shall apply to the provision of emergency medical care in the unincorporated County, participating municipalities and by the Countywide ambulance service.

Policy PUB 1.2 Ambulance Service

The County shall endeavor to ensure the provision of ambulance service to all areas of Seminole County for the purpose of providing emergency medical transportation of the sick and injured to an appropriate medical facility in support of the medical care efforts of the County or municipal fire/rescue organizations.

Policy PUB 1.3 Medical Delivery System Coordination

The County shall continue to maintain and operate a coordinated delivery system for the provision of emergency medical services for the citizens and visitors of Seminole County.

Policy PUB 1.4 Hazardous Materials Response Unit

The County shall continue to maintain a plan for funding and staffing of a hazardous materials response/mitigation vehicle. A cooperative effort involving all municipalities and the County shall be utilized for hazardous materials and other functions vital to effective fire/rescue operations by supplying much needed manpower to the scene of greater alarm incidents in a timely manner. This effort would include, but not be limited to, hazardous materials facility pre-planning, equipment maintenance, training, etc.

Policy PUB 1.5 Super Fund Amendments & Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)

The County shall maintain the training, hazard identification and mitigation objectives of the SARA Title III legislation as well as all other applicable law



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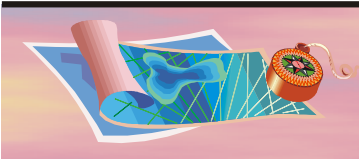
Policy PUB 1.6 Public Education and Information

The County shall continue to maintain and support the position of Public Education and Information Officer. The position, at a minimum, coordinates all contact with the public, develops public education and safety programs and acts as a resource person for the field units.

Policy PUB 1.7 Animal Control

The County shall continue to enforce in a humane manner all applicable Federal and State laws and the Seminole County Code provisions relating to animals and fowls.





Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan Seminole County, Florida

OBJECTIVE PUB 2 LEVEL OF SERVICE OPERATIONS

The County shall endeavor to provide sufficient fire protection, emergency rescue, hazardous materials incident mitigation and pre-hospital emergency medical care and services in an efficient and cost effective manner.

Policy PUB 2.1 Adopted Level of Service

The County shall maintain adopted level of service for fire protection and rescue through the day-to-day activities of the Department of Public Safety, the implementation of the Capital Improvements Element and the adopted annual budget. The County establishes the level of service for fire protection and rescue as an average response time of five minutes in the unincorporated area.

Policy PUB 2.2 Equipment Renewal and Replacement

The County shall provide and maintain new and replacement equipment to maintain fast, efficient responses to alarms consistent with the Capital Improvements Element and maintain EMS/fire/rescue companies to serve the unincorporated areas of Seminole County based on the number of EMS/fire/rescue companies to equivalent residential units as defined in the Fire/Rescue Impact Fee Ordinance.

Policy PUB 2.3 Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The County shall continue to maintain, support and upgrade as necessary the Emergency Operations Center to enable effective and adequate disaster coordination with all agencies.

Policy PUB 2.4 Operational Facilities

The County shall provide and maintain stations, mobile command centers and training and storage facilities as necessary to ensure appropriate and effective service delivery.



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OBJECTIVE PUB 3 COST EFFECTIVENESS AND MAXIMIZATION OF USE

The County shall maximize the use of existing facilities by using the most cost effective means of providing fire protection, emergency rescue, hazardous materials incident mitigation and pre-hospital emergency medical care and through adequate training of personnel.

Policy PUB 3.1 Telecommunication

The County shall continue to incorporate and maintain new technology into existing telecommunications systems in an effort to provide time efficient call processing and response times consistent with, or in an effort to improve the Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating.

Policy PUB 3.2 Intergovernmental Coordination

The County shall pursue interlocal agreements with other jurisdictions to coordinate the delivery of fire protection, emergency rescue and pre-hospital emergency medical care services. This coordinating effort is intended to provide for effective service delivery to the entire County, avoid unnecessary duplication of services, prevent the under-utilization of resources and negate excessive costs.

Policy PUB 3.3 EMS Hospital Transport Billing

The County shall oversee, ensure and/or maintain an effective and efficient billing service for County operated ambulance services to ensure effective cost recovery.

Policy PUB 3.4 Computerized Data Management System

The County shall continue to develop and maintain a computerized data management system that integrates both information management and geo-base mapping capabilities.

Policy PUB 3.5 Communications/New Technology

The County shall continue to review additional alternatives to deal with the problem of increased vehicular traffic which negatively impacts emergency response times. Solutions considered shall include, but not be limited to, traffic signal intervention systems, mobile data terminals, staging of units at key locations during peak times and acquiring an automatic vehicle locator system for "closest unit" response to incident.

