

III. Community Risk Reduction



Adopted
11 Feb 2020

We will identify, evaluate and offer appropriate risk management programs to mitigate anticipated community hazards.

Goals:

The District is committed to serve the community with prompt, consistent and professional fire suppression, basic life support, rescue and prevention/preparedness services.

Strengthen our involvement with the community.

Values:

The District will identify, evaluate and offer appropriate risk management programs to mitigate anticipated community hazards.

Historical perspective:

The District has regularly maintained ongoing risk reduction programs, including educational assemblies at local schools, home-owners' addressing signage, community CPR training, life vests at local marinas, providing and installing smoke detectors, providing and fitting bicycle helmets for children and other public education elements via District media (i.e. Newsletter, website, electronic signage, etc.).

Current situation:

While the District's ongoing efforts are appropriate and provide value, they are being managed as routine activities. There is no current process to systematically identify risk reduction priorities, focus District resources on new opportunities and effectively measure and evaluate outcomes.

Future Strategies:

The risk of wildland-urban interface fire with potentially devastating results is expected to increase. Delivery of readily available preventative and educational materials (e.g. National Fire Protection Association "Firewise") to mitigate this problem should be a high priority.

As the citizen population within the District ages, calls for help for chronic health issues and injuries (falls) are expected to increase significantly. Programs to educate citizens and proactively address preventative measures can improve utilization of District staff and help in improving outcomes.

Risk reduction should be treated as an essential element of the District's mission. Risk reduction plans, activities and results should receive equal prominence by the public, District leadership and staff as does incident readiness & response.

A variety of strategies are available to improve community risk reduction, including:

Local community needs that are targeted by the District include:

- *Bike helmets*
- *Public access defibrillators*
- *Water craft life vests*
- *Wild-land urban interface fire prevention*
- *Safety education resources*
- *District responder outreach efforts*

- Education through classes, community presentations, school assemblies, Newsletter articles, website postings, and other media/venues.
- Providing safety-related resources to the community such as bicycle helmets, public-access-defibrillators (PADs), home address signage, personal floatation devices (e.g. “loaners” at marinas) and smoke detectors.
- Utilize standardized programs to assess risk; a reasonable cost benefit analysis should be conducted to evaluate the efficiency of any program implementation.
- The District should involve qualified members of the public to provide educational and preventative efforts. This can leverage the scope of the effort beyond available District staff members.
- The District should create a culture in which every interaction with the public is viewed as an opportunity to educate and prepare.

Risk reduction efforts should be integrated into District management and planning to take advantage of all these strategies. A comprehensive approach involving established priorities, focused resources and means to measure successful outcomes should be established.

Risk reduction education is a key component of communications with the public. Any related planning efforts must be closely coordinated with the District’s communications processes and plans.

Objectives:

1. As part of ongoing management activities, the Fire Chief will continuously seek, assess and prioritize opportunities to improve community risk reduction consistent with District strategies and resources.
2. As part of the annual planning process, the Fire Chief will develop and present SMART objectives for proactive community risk reduction including ongoing activities and new initiatives that have been vetted.
3. Risk reduction will be highlighted as a primary District function for the Board’s annual review in budget policy.
4. Elements of the District’s risk reduction plan will be included in each District member’s Performance & Development Plan (PDP).
5. Risk reduction activities and results will be reported as part of the District’s annual performance assessment process.