

**Proposed Revisions to Public Services Element
Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Section**

I. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

This section addresses urban fire issues. Wildland fires are addressed in the Public Safety Element.

A. Background Information

City Fire and EMT Services

Fire services are primarily provided in Calistoga is served by the City of Calistoga Fire Department, which maintains a station at 1113 Washington Street. The 6,400-square foot single-story structure, originally constructed in 1969, was seismically-retrofitted and modernized in 2010/2011.

[photo]

The fire station at 1113 Washington Street

The ~~City of Calistoga~~ Fire Department is currently equipped with the following modern apparatus:

- ~~Three-Two~~ Type 1 engines with a pump capacity in excess of 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm):
- One Type 2 water tender that can also be used as a Type 2 engine:
- ~~Two-One~~ Type 3 engines for use in wildland fires:
- ~~One rescue vehicle patrol truck:~~
- Two support vehicles.

The Fire Department has one full-time fire chief, ~~and two-three~~ full-time firefighters, ~~and The Department also has up to 30-15 paid-on-call part-time~~ firefighters; ~~Although there are 30 on-call firefighters however,~~ not all ~~of them~~ are available ~~on-call~~ at any given time. Response time from the station during the day, ~~Monday through Friday,~~ is approximately one minute. During the evenings and weekends, the response time is usually within 4-three minutes.

~~Currently~~ The City has 198-202 fire hydrants, which deliver between 500 ~~gpm~~ and 1,000 gpm.

Water storage capacity is adequate for fire protection purposes. The City recently completed construction of a 1.5-million gallon water tank, which has greatly increased the residual pressures throughout the city.

The Fire Department receives approximately ~~two-three~~ calls per day. Of all calls received by the Fire Department, approximately 6 percent are for fire service, 76 percent for emergency medical service, and 18 percent for other reasons, including hazardous condition calls such as downed power lines, service calls for accidental lock-outs and false alarms. ~~A significant amount of the medical service calls are due to the large percentage-number of elderly people living in Calistoga. Tourists account for approximately 10 percent of the calls.~~

The City assesses a fee on new development to fund capital improvements and equipment needed to offset public safety impacts.

The Calistoga Police Department's ~~emergency services department currently re-routes~~ local 911 calls for fire service to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) California Department of Forestry's dispatch center. Outside of the city limits, 911 calls for all emergency services are routed by the Napa County Sheriff's Department. Cell phone calls for 911 service are answered by the California Highway Patrol (CHP)'s Golden Gate office, which in Vallejo. The CHP dispatch service then routes all non-traffic-related calls to the appropriate jurisdiction. ~~f~~For Calistoga and the Planning Area, this would be either the Calistoga Police Department or the Napa County Sheriff's Department.

Fire Code

The City has adopted the following regulations in addition to those mandated by the State in order to further promote fire safety:

- New and existing buildings shall have approved illuminated or reflective address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.
- All buildings and winery caves shall have approved radio coverage for emergency responders within the building or winery cave based upon the existing coverage levels of public safety communication systems of the jurisdiction, at the exterior of the building.
- If deemed necessary by the Fire Code Official, additions to existing residential and non-residential buildings that increase the square footage by 50% of the existing gross floor area and/or results in the building exceeding 3,600 square feet shall be installed with an automatic fire sprinkler system throughout.
- If deemed necessary by the Fire Code Official, repairs to existing buildings that have sustained damage of more than 50% of the floor area or more than 50% of the value of the building shall meet the requirements for a new building.
- A change in use or occupancy of an existing building that results in a more hazardous use or occupancy shall meet the automatic fire sprinkler requirements for a new building.

Fire Protection in the Unincorporated Planning Area

In accordance with California law (Government Code Section 65300), cities are also required to look beyond their borders when considering issues which in a city's judgment bear relation to its planning efforts.

The Napa County Fire Department (NCFD) is the fire authority for the unincorporated portions of the Planning Area (see Figure INTRO-2 for the boundaries). NCFD contracts with Cal Fire for fire protection services, which staffs the fire stations. Cal Fire operates a fire station 3.6 miles south of Calistoga's city limits on Highway 29. As a State-funded fire authority, Cal Fire also has the responsibility for wildfire protection in the designated State Responsibility Areas.

Fire Safety Issues

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) provides a Public Protection Classification (PPC) for fire protection, with Class 1 representing the best public protection and Class 10 representing no recognized protection. In California, approximately 62 percent of communities maintain an ISO rating of 5 or better. Fire protection within the Calistoga city limits has an ISO rating of 5 for properties located within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant and 9 for properties located further than 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. However, the City's Fire Department has the ability to provide uninterrupted water supply in excess of 250 gallons per minute (gpm) to all properties located further than 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. ~~This could be credited to improve the existing~~ The ISO has given the city credit for the Fire Department's ability to provide uninterrupted water supply at 250 gpm for rating in those few circumstances within the city limits where a fire hydrant is located further than 1,000 feet from a property, as provided in Section 611(F) of the ISO's Fire Suppression Rates Schedule. For these reasons, the ISO ratings for the city limits are considered to be adequate.

Fire protection within the unincorporated Planning Area is rated 6 for properties located within 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant and rated 9 for properties located further than 1,000 feet from a hydrant. The ISO ratings cannot be reduced in the unincorporated Planning Area since it is not possible at this time to provide an uninterrupted water supply of at least 250 gpm to all properties located further than 1,000 feet from a hydrant.

~~The Fire Department is in major need of updating and equipment needs to be replaced. In addition, the fire station's location is not optimal, since route options to and from the station are limited, and in the future, increased traffic congestion on Washington Street and Lincoln Avenue in the future may further impede the ability of volunteer personnel to get to the fire station, and fire trucks to emergency response to an emergency call.~~ Furthermore, a few parcels along Myrtdale Road in the far northern part of the City are more than 1.5 miles from the station; the ISO recommends a distance of 1.5 miles or less. Despite these issues, there are significant benefits to the its present downtown location, including ample parking for personnel and good community visibility, which increases awareness of fire prevention. ~~Therefore, this Public Services Element includes policies and actions to upgrade the current fire station instead of relocating it.~~

~~Some people have~~ It has been suggested that Calistoga needs an additional road across the Napa River to improve fire protection access. The construction of a new "southern crossing" of the Napa River from Washington Street to Foothill Boulevard would provide ~~some benefit in allowing for more circulation~~ other routes for emergency vehicles, but ~~would is not be~~ essential for maintenance of adequate fire protection unless considerable development were to occur on the ~~down valley~~ south side of the ~~City~~.

~~Water storage capacity in the City is currently inadequate, with a deficit of 0.859 million gallons, meaning that insufficient reserves are available for emergency fire protection. In addition, the water delivery system is unable to accommodate adequate fire flows during typical maximum day demands, causing pressures in the network to drop below 20 psi while fighting a fire during periods of heavy demand. Firefighting capability is worst in the residential areas at the north and south ends~~

~~of the City. The City is in the process of completing preliminary engineering and environmental review for a new 1.5 million gallon water tank on the east side of town, which will hydraulically balance the system and solve the current storage deficit. Addition of the new water tank would enable pressures to be maintained at a minimum of 40 psi under current conditions and at buildout.~~

Wildland fires are a significant hazard in some parts of the City and much of the ~~p~~Planning ~~a~~Area. While parts of the City located on the valley floor are considered at low risk from wildfires, heavily vegetated hillside areas such as those found at the edges of the ~~C~~city and Planning Area are considered at greater risk. The Public Safety Element describes and maps wildland fire hazard in greater detail, and contains goals, objectives, policies and actions to protect life and property from these risks.

The downtown has a large number of old buildings built in close proximity to each other. Both the age of these buildings and their proximity to each other presents a fire hazard. ~~This could be addressed by updating downtown buildings and requiring fire sprinklers in any remodeling. However, such a requirement could also be costly for owners to implement, so requires further study to determine how these individual costs may be reduced while protecting public health and safety. However, the City has adopted a more-restrictive fire sprinkler ordinance than required by state law, as described above, to address this issue over time. The Fire Department also inspects multi-family residential projects, and commercial and industrial business on an annual basis. The latter is also inspected upon change of occupancy.~~

~~Fire Protection in the Unincorporated Planning Area~~

~~In accordance with California law (Government Code Section 65300), cities are also required to look beyond their borders when considering issues which in a city's judgment bear relation to its planning.~~

~~The Napa County Fire Department (NCFD) is the fire authority for unincorporated Napa County, with the exception of some areas serviced by the American Canyon Fire Protection District. Napa County contracts with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) for fire protection services, which staffs the fire stations. CDF, as a State-funded fire authority, also has the responsibility for wildlife fire protection in the designated State Responsibility Areas. CDF operates a fire station 3.6 miles south of Calistoga's city limits on Highway 29 and fir station, staffed by two on-duty CDF personnel, 1 mile north of Calistoga's city limits on Tubbs Lane.~~

~~Fire protection within the unincorporated Planning Area (see Figure INTRO-2 for the boundaries) is provided by CDF and NCFD and is rated 6 for properties located within 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant and rated 9 for properties located further than 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. The ISO ratings cannot be reduced in the unincorporated Planning Area since it is not possible at this time to provide uninterrupted water supply of at least 250 gallons per minute to all properties located further than 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant.~~

Emergency Medical Services

Medical emergency treatment, including basic and advanced life support, and transport is provided by a contracted service. The Calistoga Fire Department also provides basic life support.

Mutual Aid

~~Although its contract for fire service with the City has been terminated, CDF-Cal Fire, NCFD and the Calistoga Fire Department continue to maintain a mutual aid agreement for emergencies, including wildland fires, and structure fires, and traffic emergencies incidents. The Fire Department also has a series of formal and informal mutual aid agreements with a number of local fire protection agencies, including the Cities of Santa Rosa and St. Helena, and Napa, the American Canyon Fire Protection District, as well as and the Knight's Valley and Mountain Fire Departments. These agreements are expected to continue.~~

B. Key Findings

1. Fire protection and ~~E~~emergency ~~M~~medical ~~S~~service provision within the city limits is adequate, ~~although the fire station is in need of updating and equipment needs to be replaced.~~
2. ~~Although fire protection within Calistoga is adequate, the City should continue to enforce development codes that reduce fire hazard~~The City has adopted regulations that exceed the State's in order to maximize fire safety.
3. While the present location of the fire station is ~~problematic not optimal~~ because of ~~somewhat~~ limited ~~routes to and from the station accessibility~~ and increasing levels of traffic ~~congestion~~ downtown, the present location is beneficial because it raises the profile of the ~~f~~ire ~~d~~epartment and increases awareness of fire prevention in Calistoga. Therefore, there is no need to plan for a new fire station at this time.
4. Current water storage capacities ~~is~~ ~~deficits mean that there~~ are inadequate for fire protection reserves and fire flows ~~in some areas of the City. A planned 1.5 million gallon water tank will address these deficiencies.~~
5. An additional north-south circulation route in Calistoga would provide benefit from a public safety perspective, but is not essential to maintenance of adequate fire protection in the City unless development in the south part of Calistoga were to significantly increase.
6. ~~The downtown is already~~ densely developed and has many older commercial buildings. The ~~P~~rovision of fire sprinklers would enhance their safety.
7. The Fire Department inspects multi-family residential projects, and commercial and industrial business on an annual basis. The latter are also inspected upon change of occupancy.
6. ~~In July 2002, Napa County terminated its contract with the City of Calistoga for provision of fire service outside the city limits. The City is no longer obliged to provide fire service to the County beyond the terms of its ongoing emergency mutual aid agreement. Reestablishing an~~

~~agreement on mutually beneficial terms would enable fire and EMT service in the Planning Area to be improved.~~

7.8. ~~Wildland~~ fire is a significant hazard in some portions of the City and Planning Area. These hazards are discussed further, and goals, objectives, policies and actions to address them can be found in the Public Safety Element.

C. Goals, Objectives, Policies and Actions

Goal SER-1 Minimize loss of life and property from fires, and medical emergencies ~~and public emergencies.~~

Objective SER-1.1 Plan for the ongoing ~~management maintenance~~ and development of fire protection services.

Policies

~~P1. The City shall maintain and improve the fire station at its current location a water system that provides adequate water pressure for fire protection.~~

~~P2. The City shall be amenable to working with Napa County in the future to re-establish/maintain a contracts for fire protection outside of the city limits within the Planning Area.~~

Actions

~~A1. Expand cooperation between ~~the Fire Department and the Department of Public Works~~ Departments shall work together to address regarding the effects of planned water system improvements on fire flows.~~

~~Support ongoing efforts to continuously improve performance and efficiency in the City Fire Department.~~

~~A2. Maintain mutual aid agreements with appropriate agencies.~~

~~A3. Conduct a study to identify needed improvements at the fire station, their costs and funding mechanisms for them.~~

Objective SER-1.2 Promote coordination between land use planning and fire protection.

Policies

~~P1. Major land use development proposals in fire hazard areas shall be reviewed for site design criteria and appropriate preventive and self-protective measures.~~

P1. The City ~~should shall~~ review ~~quest~~ notifications from the County of development projects within the unincorporated part of the Planning Area that could ~~call for~~ require fire protection services from the City.

P2. New development projects shall pay a fair and equitable amount to offset the costs for expanded fire services ~~expansion~~ they require.

Actions

~~A1. Conduct a study to consider development of an ordinance requiring installation of fire sprinklers as part of any new development or significant remodel in the downtown.~~

Ensure through the development process that roadways are adequate in terms of width, radius and grade to facilitate access by City fire-fighting apparatus, while considering maintenance of Calistoga's small-town character.

A2. Advise the County of fire protection requirements for development projects within the unincorporated part of the Planning Area.

A3. Continue to Monitor traffic conditions and development in Calistoga to determine if the location of the fire station needs to be changed.

Objective SER-1.3 Maintain and Enforce fire protection codes ~~related to fire protection.~~

Policies

P1. Ensure that City fire safety codes provide an adequate level of fire protection.

~~P2. A regular program of fire inspection for~~ Promote fire safety in commercial and industrial buildings ~~shall be maintained.~~

~~P2. The City should continue to cooperate with State, County and other cities' fire protection agencies.~~

Actions

A1. Update City fire safety codes as necessary.

~~Ensure that roadways are adequate in terms of width, radius, and grade to facilitate access by City fire-fighting apparatus, while considering maintenance of Calistoga's small-town character.~~

A2. Maintain a regular program of fire inspections for multi-family residential, commercial and industrial buildings and require building owners to address identified deficiencies.

A3. Ensure through building permit review that required fire sprinklers are installed.

