

Public Safety

The County will continue to be a safe community, reduce criminal activity and prevent personal injury and loss of life and property.

Community Outcomes:

- Achieve a rate of residential fire-related deaths that is less than 2 per year.
- Achieve a rate of fire injuries at 11 or fewer per 100,000 population per year.
- Attain a witnessed cardiac arrest survival rate of 10% or greater.
- The County will experience the following improvements in ALS, BLS and fire suppression response times (equates to a 4 percentage point increase over FY04):

	High density areas*	Medium density areas*	Low density areas*
ALS	73%	75%	69%
BLS	80%	83%	90%
Fire suppression	74%	77%	82%

- Prince William will rank in the lowest third of the Council of Governments (COG) Region Crime Rate Index with a Part 1 crime rate of less than 24 per 1,000 population.
- Maintain a police emergency (in-progress) average response time of 7 minutes or less.
- Attain a juvenile arrest rate of 15.0 per 1,000 youth population per year.
- Prince William County will attain a closure rate of 23% for Part 1 crimes.
- The vehicle crash rate per vehicle miles traveled will be no more than 5 percentage points over the previous year.
- Increase the percent of citizens who report they are prepared to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster.

* Per FRA Policy No. 5.1.4:

High density area (suburban residential) - Density range of 1-4 dwellings per acre. Provided housing types include single family detached, single family attached (townhouses), apartments, use of planned unit development is cluster housing

Medium density area (semi-rural residential) - Density range is 2-1 dwelling units per gross acre for 1-5 acre lots. This diversification is to provide areas of the County with wide-range lot residential development. Cluster housing and use of the planned unit development concepts are permitted.

Low density area (rural residential) - The density range is 2-1 dwelling units per gross acre (5-10 acre lots). Cluster housing and use of planned unit development are permitted forms of development with primary uses to include forestry, agricultural, residential, and compatible community facilities.

Strategy 1: Reduce juvenile crime.

Objectives:

1. Expand the Police Department School Resource Officer Program to all new high schools and middle schools.
2. Strengthen partnerships between non-profit agencies, private sector, schools, the faith-based community and public safety agencies with regard to juvenile crime prevention.
3. Analyze various juvenile crime prevention programs and implement those that address the unique problems that exist within our school system.

Strategy 2: Enhance the quality of life by educating the community on public and personal safety, injury prevention, crime prevention and fire prevention.

Objectives:

1. Seek State funds to support and expand victim assistance.
2. Encourage the installation of residential fire suppression systems in new and existing homes.
3. Enhance public/private partnerships about public education regarding abuse and neglect of children, senior adults and other vulnerable populations.

Strategy 3: Enhance roadway safety and education.

Objectives:

1. Promote education of all traffic regulations.
2. Conduct truck safety and inspection programs, speed enforcement and DUI enforcement and adjust initiatives as necessary based on safety concerns and trends.
3. Improve pedestrian safety in the County.
4. Seek legislation to implement photo red light technology to enforce traffic safety regulations.
5. Monitor and adjust Roadway Incident Management Program (RIMP) on a quarterly basis.

Strategy 4: Identify and implement innovative technologies and methods for the delivery of public safety services.

Objectives:

1. Enhance the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and E-911 system to include modifications as they become available.

2. Include Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) in staffing plans and provide enhancements for maximum capability.
3. Plan for the maintenance, support and replacement of public safety information technology systems.
4. Incorporate a regional focus to Homeland Security and disaster preparedness communications (voice and data), especially concerning interoperability.
5. Pursue new technologies to maintain and enhance report writing/data collection and analysis capabilities.
6. Formalize partnerships between public and private organizations and the County related to safety initiatives.
7. Implement as feasible information systems that coordinate, collect and analyze data that support decision making in public safety, including juvenile justice and at-risk youth.

Strategy 5: Ensure Prince William is providing comprehensive and coordinated disaster preparedness, response to emergencies and Homeland Security in the County and the National Capital Region.

Objectives:

1. The County will employ an all-hazards approach to ensure that the County is prepared to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from manmade and natural disasters.
2. Expand joint training between and among public safety, other County agencies and other organizations.
3. Review and update the County disaster preparedness and homeland security plans.
4. Coordinate with regional emergency management agencies regarding emergency preparedness and homeland security.
5. Exercise the Emergency Operations Center utilizing frequent tests and drills.
6. Communicate the local color-coded emergency warning system with the public.
7. Continue to explore and pursue back up County public safety communications and information technology systems, including facility needs.
8. Educate the County population, including collaboration with civic and community groups, on disaster/emergency preparedness and efforts to achieve 72-hour self sufficiency.
9. Collaborate with civic and community organizations in conducting local area drills in accordance with the law.
10. Plan for the security of County infrastructure against compromise from disasters and emergencies.

11. Ensure interoperability of County and regional equipment.
12. Research and apply for grants to support homeland security and emergency preparedness initiatives.
13. Research systems to provide 24-hour public alert capability in the event of disasters and emergencies.

Strategy 6: Dedicate sufficient resources to public safety to address gang formation and violence.

Objectives:

1. Strengthen local and regional efforts in gang intelligence, enforcement and prevention.
2. Focus specialized training for public safety officials and solicit feedback on state law regarding gangs.
3. Continue gang-abatement sweeps targeting youth on probation or parole.
4. Review and enhance information technology and database sharing with other jurisdictions.
5. Create a full-time Intelligence Unit, as staff becomes available, to deal with terrorism and gang issues on a local and regional basis.

Strategy 7: Implement alternatives to incarceration.

Objectives:

1. Research and evaluate innovative sanctions for adult and juvenile offenders of drug and alcohol violations and provide recommendations to judges.
2. Explore usage and trends for greater utilization of electronic monitoring.
3. Promote increased work release opportunities as the jail population grows.
4. Enhance the Restorative Justice program.

Strategy 8: Develop a recruitment and retention incentive program for public safety employees, to include enhanced training and facilities.

Objectives:

1. Research and implement incentives/practices that enhance recruitment into hard-to-recruit targeted public safety positions; this may include signing bonuses, targeted skill payments and bonus recruitment pay.
2. Explore and implement incentives/practices that retain the most qualified employees in targeted positions and contribute to their training and development, including tuition reimbursement.

3. Develop and implement an aggressive public relations campaign showcasing PWC as a premier place to work.
4. Expand the police take-home-car program.
5. Continue staffing plans that support future police, fire and rescue and communications. Provide adequate staffing for new facilities for adult and juvenile corrections program/facility enhancements.
6. Research and implement a volunteer Fire and Rescue recruitment and retention program including incentives.
7. Continue to prioritize public safety personnel in housing programs to encourage and allow public safety personnel to live in the County.
8. Continue training for public safety providers on how to recognize and communicate with special populations.

Strategy 9: Improve safety at the County courthouse.

Objectives:

1. Conduct a threat assessment of the County courthouse and develop a plan to address findings.
2. Pursue facility hardening measures for security purposes.
3. Explore conducting practical training and drills to include all emergency response agencies, courthouse staff and judges.
4. Enhance security awareness training for employees and judges.
5. Study communication system options within the Courthouse to advise occupants of emergencies.
6. Analyze Sheriff's Office staffing including hallway security (Courthouse), additional security in criminal court and prisoner processing to ascertain adequacy and need and make recommendations based on findings.

Strategy 10: Support the Fire and Rescue Association (FRA) and Department of Fire and Rescue (DFR) partnership to deliver quality emergency response service that meets the demands of increased citizen requests.

Objectives:

1. Ensure adequate Fire and Rescue staffing and supervision for system-wide 24-hour coverage.
2. Prepare standardized specifications for the purchase of each type of Fire and Emergency Medical Service apparatus and equipment.
3. Prepare standardized fire and rescue station designs to meet the needs of the community and the workforce.
4. Develop a plan for the optimum placement of fire and EMS apparatus throughout the County.

5. Explore capabilities to ensure new Fire and Rescue Stations have the ability to provide services on their projected opening date (e.g. temporary facilities).
6. Ensure balanced emphasis on existing commercial occupancy fire inspections to that of new construction inspections.
7. Maximize efforts to improve the County's Insurance Service Office's (ISO) classification.
8. Further the development and implementation of public safety wellness and safety initiatives.

APPENDIX TO PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGIC GOAL

**To be re-visited by Board of County Supervisors
during 2007 Strategic Plan Update**

Strategy 1: Reduce juvenile crime.

Objectives:

1. Implement a corrective program for juvenile fire setters.
2. Work with community organizations in crime prevention activities (e.g. Neighborhood Watch).
3. Encourage and publicize juvenile crime prevention programs (e.g. recreational and educational).
4. Expand parent education program outreach and marketing to probation officers, juvenile court staff, social service providers, mental health workers and school personnel to increase referrals to the Juvenile Justice Parenting Program.

Strategy 2: Enhance the quality of life by educating the community on public and personal safety, injury prevention, crime prevention and fire prevention.

Objectives:

1. Increase emphasis on programs and consequences of domestic, substance and child abuse.
2. Promote awareness and use of all dispute resolution services.
3. Expand automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs) in high risk areas throughout the County and provide education through available public service areas.
4. Provide County support for public safety outreach programs such as Public Safety Explorer Posts, Teen Academy, CAPP (Community and Police Partnership), Fire/EMS Citizen's Academy, Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT), or similar programs.
5. Expand educational efforts on the proper use of E-911.
6. Extend all public safety prevention and educational programs to multi-cultural groups.