

**Item Title:**

Fire Tax District Long Range Plan Guiding Principles and Standards

**Specific Action Requested:**

The Fire Commission accepts the Long-Range Plan Guiding Principles and Standards as presented by the Fire Commission Administrative Committee to serve as the basis for future long-range planning decisions around staffing and station locations utilizing actual Fire Tax District data compared to the following established standards:

1. Travel time for the first arriving unit, running emergency traffic, on all incidents should be 7 minutes, 0 seconds 90 percent of the time in unincorporated districts of Wake County
2. First arriving apparatus on fire risk classifications will have a minimum of 3 qualified firefighters, be capable of providing 500 gallons of water; with a pumping capability of 1250 gallons per minute; establish incident command procedures, provide initial size up and request additional resources; initiate fire attack and perform any needed immediate rescues
3. The Effective Response Force (ERF) for any reported structure fire responding emergency traffic with a minimum of 16 qualified firefighters should be 12 minutes 0 Seconds, 90 percent of the time in unincorporated districts of Wake County. The ERF for any structure fire will be capable of establishing a command post; establish personnel accountability; establish a safety officer; secure an initial water supply; operate multiple hose lines; establish a rapid intervention crew; perform search and rescue operations; complete forcible entry; provide ventilation and utility control; perform any needed salvage and overhaul operations.
4. Travel time for the first arriving apparatus, responding emergency traffic, on an EMS call with a minimum of 2 firefighters should be 7 minutes 0 seconds 90 percent of time in unincorporated districts of Wake County. The first arriving crew will be capable of providing Basic Life Support care to include use of an Automatic External Defibrillator, establish incident command and document all needed information.
5. Travel time for the first arriving apparatus, responding emergency traffic, on an Technical Rescue call with a minimum of 3 firefighters should be 7 minutes 0 seconds 90 percent of time in unincorporated districts of Wake County The first arriving apparatus will be capable of establishing command, providing initial size up; requesting additional resources as needed; creating a safe space and providing basic stabilization and extrication
6. Travel time for the first arriving apparatus, responding emergency traffic, on an Haz-Mat call with a minimum of 3 firefighters should be 7 minutes 0 seconds 90 percent of time in unincorporated districts of Wake County. The first arriving apparatus shall be capable of providing 500 gallons of water; with a pumping capability of 1250 gallons per minute; establish incident command procedures, provide initial size up; request additional resources if needed; mitigate situation if possible or start initial evacuations.

## Additional Recommendations

1. Individual fire districts should meet the standard of response performance. If not, Wake County Fire Services staff will evaluate the individual district to determine where the gaps are and provide recommendations to close the gaps.
2. The recommended effective response force (ERF) for structure fires did not include tankers. Tankers are an important part of a structure fire response in the rural areas where hydrants are not available. Tankers were not included in the ERF because these apparatuses are not staffed and most rely on volunteers to respond from home to get tankers enroute to a fire, which account for a longer than normal response time. It was not easy to determine through the travel time evaluation the effectiveness of tanker responses in Wake County. A tanker response evaluation is recommended to determine if the county has a problem with getting tankers to fires and if so, provide recommendation to solve it. Wake County Fire Services has agreed to study tanker responses moving forward.
3. Call Processing plays a part in total response time, however, this study and recommendation only focused on travel time (station locations). It is recommended that a call processing time is evaluated, and recommendations are provided.
4. Turn out time plays a part in total response time, however, this study and recommendation only focused on travel time (station location). It is recommended that turn out time is evaluated, and time recommendations are provided.
5. Wake County Fire Services shall be the lead agency and monitor the response times semi-annually to determine any gaps. (need for additional targeting staffing or future station locations)
6. Wake County Fire Services shall facilitate and conduct new risk assessments and critical tasking every 5 years
7. Consider supplemental documents such as Community Engagement Study, ITRE/ORED Documents as well as older applicable studies in future decision-making opportunities regarding Stations and Staffing.

## **Item Summary:**

Wake County Fire Commission Administrative Committee was tasked with developing the framework for a Long-Range Plan in 2019. The plan was to assess our current risk, develop critical tasking and identify standards to guide future decision making for staffing and stations. Over the last 2 plus years, the Committee met bi-monthly in the development of this guiding document. In January 2021, the Committee presented their full recommendations for consideration.

**Attachments:**

Final Presentation  
Final Plan and Appendices  
Supporting Documentation