



City of Centralia



Lewis County F.D. #12

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# Centralia Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan

**Adopted by:**

**The City of Centralia  
&  
Lewis County Fire Protection District #12**

**August 9, 2007  
October 11, 2007 (Modification)**

**[WWW.Regionalfire.org](http://WWW.Regionalfire.org)**



# Centralia Regional Fire Protection Service Authority

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## Section 1: Definitions

The definitions in this section apply throughout the Regional Fire Protection Service Plan, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- 1.) Board: Means the governing body of a regional fire protection services authority.
2. Participating Jurisdiction: The municipal jurisdiction(s) participating in the RFPSA in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 52.26.
- 3.) Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (RFPSA): A municipal corporation, an independent taxing authority within the meaning of Article VII, Section 1, of the Washington State Constitution, and a taxing district within the meaning of Article VII, Section 2, of the Washington State Constitution, whose boundaries are coextensive with two or more adjacent fire protection jurisdictions and that has been created by a vote of the people under Revised Code of Washington 52.26 to implement a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan.
- 4.) Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee (Planning Committee): An advisory committee created under Revised Code of Washington 52.26.030 to create and propose to fire protection jurisdictions a Regional Fire Service Authority Plan to design, finance, and develop a regional fire protection and emergency service jurisdiction.
- 5.) Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan (Plan): A plan intended to develop and finance a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, specific capital projects, fire operations and emergency service operations pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040(3)(b), and the preservation and maintenance of existing or future facilities and services.



## Section 2: Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Needs Statement

- 1.) The ability to respond to emergency situations by fire protection and emergency medical services jurisdictions has not progressed with the communities needs and special service demands, particularly in urban regions;
- 2.) Providing a fire protection, emergency services, specialized rescue, and fire and life safety prevention services system requires a collaborative partnership and responsibility among the local and regional governments and the private sector;
- 3.) There are financial and operational efficiencies to be gained by regional fire protection, emergency services, specialized rescue, and fire and life safety prevention services delivery while retaining local control;
- 4.) Timely development of significant projects can best be achieved through enhanced funding options for regional fire protection, emergency services, specialized rescue, and fire and life safety prevention service agencies, using already existing taxing authority to address critical fire protection projects and emergency services;
- 5.) The City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire District #12 have been cooperatively striving to provide the highest level of fire and emergency medical services possible to our citizens within the confines of available resources;
- 6.) Cooperation between the two departments has been developing and maturing over the last four years by implementing a series of inter-agency agreements that provide the legal structure for each entity to work cooperatively together. In 2003, this allowed the participating departments to improve services to our citizens. Paramedic staffing was added at the Fords Prairie Fire Station, borderless response boundaries were established, and “closest fire and emergency medical unit response” was implemented;
- 7.) In 2005, community and department stakeholders convened and determined numerous options for consolidating fire and emergency medical services resources. The stakeholders determined that combining administrative functions was the first step in consolidating the two departments into one;
- 8.) In 2006, City and District elected officials voted to combine administrative functions via a Fire Protection Services Agreement which is now known as the Joint Board on Fire and Life Safety. Both departments are now administered under a single organizational structure which provides the opportunity to minimize redundant services and streamline economies of scale;
- 9.) The CFD-LCFD #12 Joint Board on Fire and Life Safety will be asking our citizens to consider combining all functions and services provided by the two departments into a single entity, called a Regional Fire Service Protection Authority.



## Section 3: Authority

### Reference:

- 1.) Authority to form a Regional Fire Protection Authority between the City of Centralia and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 is authorized by Revised Code of Washington 52.26.
- 2.) The authority and empowerment to engage in the Centralia-Lewis County Fire District #12 RFPSA Planning Committee is provided by Revised Code of Washington 52.26.030.
- 3.) Appointment and participation of the Centralia-Lewis County Fire District #12 Planning Committee includes three appointed City Council members and three elected Fire Commissioners.
- 4.) Upon successful development and approval of the RFPSA Plan by the RFPSA Planning Committee, the RFPSA Plan shall be brought to each participating jurisdiction's elected body for approval and adoption by resolution for placement of the RFPSA Plan on the ballot for consideration by the vote of the people.

### Activity and Operation:

- 1.) Current activity and operation of the Fire Protection Services Agreement and the Agreement for Joint Undertaking by and between the City of Centralia and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall remain in force during the planning period of the RFPSA.
- 2.) Should the RFPSA Plan be approved with a successful vote by the collective electorate of the City of Centralia and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12, the RFPSA will be formed on January 1, 2008.

### Assets and Documentation:

- 1.) No transfer of current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements, or records of the City of Centralia or Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall occur during the planning period of the RFPSA.
- 2.) The transfer of assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements, and records of the RFPSA from the respective participating jurisdictions shall occur on January 1, 2008, and be in accordance with the Articles identified in this RFPSA Plan.



## RFPSA Plan Revision:

- 1.) The authority provision of the RFPSA Plan is subject to alteration only by a revised RFPSA Plan being re-submitted to the electorate for approval.



## Section 4: Jurisdictional Boundaries

### Reference:

- 1.) The authority to define the jurisdiction of the RFPSA is provided by Revised Code of Washington 52.26.020 (2).

### Activity and Operation Transfer:

- 1.) The jurisdictional boundaries of the RFPSA shall be the current legal boundaries of each jurisdiction, which boundaries are depicted in Appendix E of this plan, and shall be transferred on January 1, 2008 upon approval by the collective electorate.
- 2.) All annexation by the City of Centralia after the date of the RFPSA formation (January 1, 2008) shall automatically be transferred into the RFPSA in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 52.26.100. The territory added to the RFPSA by annexation to a participating jurisdiction shall be thereafter subject to the taxation, charges, and bonded indebtedness of the RFPSA in the same means as the RFPSA.

### Asset Transfer:

- 1.) Transfer of authority and jurisdiction for the RFPSA from the respective participating fire agencies shall occur on January 1, 2008 in accordance with the Articles identified in this RFPSA Plan.



## Section 5: Funding

### Reference:

- 1.) The authority to provide funding and levy taxes for the RFPSA is provided by Revised Code of Washington 56.26.050, 52.26.140, 52.26.150, 52.26.160, 52.26.170, and 52.26.180.
- 2.) The authority and mechanism for the collection of taxes and a Fire and EMS Property Tax Levy shall be in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 52.26.200, 52.26.210, 52.26.220, and 52.30.020.

### Funding Methodology:

- 1.) In 2008, the City of Centralia shall contribute to the RFPSA a sum equivalent to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value of all taxable property located within the City boundaries and all revenue collected from the City of Centralia Emergency Medical Services Levy.
- 2.) In 2008, Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall contribute to the RFPSA all regular property tax revenue collected from the regular property tax levy, up to a maximum of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value of all taxable property located within the district boundaries.
- 3.) In 2008, the RFPSA will seek voter approval to fund a portion of the RFPSA by an Emergency Medical Services Levy, in an amount not to exceed \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value of all taxable property located within the RFPSA boundaries, to be collected in 2009. If the combined RFPSA service area Emergency Medical Services Levy is approved, the existing City Emergency Medical Services property tax would not be levied.
- 4.) In 2009, funding for the RFPSA shall be provided by a regular property tax not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value of all taxable property located within the RFPSA boundaries. Said property tax shall be collected throughout the combined RFPSA service area. The maximum City property tax rate would be reduced by the tax rate collected by the RFPSA.
- 5.) To the extent permitted by law, the RFPSA shall contract with agencies and entities exempt from ad valorem taxes in accordance with revised Code of Washington 52.30.020 and related statutes, provided that this shall not include contracts with, or the need to contract with or otherwise pursue funding from the City of Centralia or any other jurisdiction participating in the RFPSA.





### Asset Transfer:

- 1.) No financial assets of the City of Centralia and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall be transferred to the RFPSA on the date of the formation unless otherwise specifically allowed by the RFPSA Plan.
- 2.) Upon formation, the Emergency Medical Services Capital Fund balance will be transferred to the RFPSA.
- 3.) Transfer of funds for the 2008 RFPSA Operating Budget shall occur from the City of Centralia and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 as identified by RFPSA Plan.

### Plan Revisions:

- 1.) The funding provision of the RFPSA Plan is subject to alteration only by a revised RFPSA Plan being re-submitted to the electorate for approval.



## Section 6: Governance

### Reference:

- 1.) The authority to provide governance for the Regional Fire Protection service Authority is provided by Revised Code of Washington 52.26.080 and RCW 52.26.090.

### Activity and Operation Transfer:

- 1.) As provided by Revised Code of Washington 52.26.080, the RFPSA Governing Board shall be established and have authority as of January 1, 2008.
- 2.) As provided by Revised Code of Washington 52.26.080, the RFPSA Governing Board shall consist of three (3) current, seated city council members from the City of Centralia and three (3) current, seated Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 Board of Fire Commissioners members.
- 3.) There shall be an equal number of members from each represented jurisdiction to sit on the Governance Board.
- 4.) The RFPSA Governance Board shall adopt governance policies and rules for conducting business for the RFPSA upon formation after January 1, 2008, in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 52.26.080.
- 5.) The RFPSA Governance Board shall adopt bylaws to govern RFPSA affairs upon formation after January 1, 2008, in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 52.26.080.
- 6.) The RFPSA Governance Board shall have all the power and authority granted governing boards under Washington State Law, and shall include the power and authority to make any decisions appropriate for the RFPSA and for matters related to Revised Code of Washington 52.26.
- 7.) Placement of ballot measures before electorate of the RFPSA:
  - a. Ballot measures may be placed on the ballot for a vote by the members of the RFPSA by a majority vote of the members of the RFPSA Governing Board.
  - b. Ballot measures may also be placed before the electorate of the RFPSA by unanimous vote of the elected official representatives of the participating jurisdiction constituting a majority of the population of the RFPSA.



### Asset Transfer:

- 1.) Unless otherwise noted in this Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements and records from the respective participating departments relating to the governance of the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall be transferred to the RFPSA.

### Plan Revisions:

- 1.) The governance portion of the RFPSA Plan may be revised by a majority vote of the current sitting RFPSA Governance Board.



## Section 7: Organizational Structure

### Reference:

- 1.) The authority of the RFPSA to establish an organizational structure is provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

### Activity and Operation Transfer:

- 1.) Commencing the day of formation, the RFPSA shall be organized and managed, with leadership provided as shown in Appendix A of the RFPSA Plan.
- 2.) The RFPSA Administrative, Operations, and Prevention Division shall be established within the RFPSA Organizational Chart.
- 3.) The RFPSA shall complete a business plan no later than March 1, 2008. The business plan shall identify the organizational model, identify all divisions of the RFPSA including their mission, duties, internal and external services, and reporting responsibilities.

### Asset Transfer:

- 1.) Unless otherwise noted in the RFPSA Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to organizational structure of the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall be transferred to the RFPSA.

### Plan Revisions:

- 1.) The organizational structure section of the RFPSA Plan may be revised by a majority vote of the current RFPSA Governance Board.



## Section 8: Administrative, Management, and Personnel Components

### Reference:

- 1.) The authority for the RFPSA to establish and provide administrative, management, and personnel components as provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

### Activity and Operation Transfer:

- 1.) The RFPSA shall be organized as provided in Appendix A of this RFPSA Plan.
- 2.) The existing staff of the participating agencies shall transfer to the RFPSA to fulfill assigned duties as outlined in the organization model (Appendix A). All current FTE's of the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall be transferred on the day of formation at their current rank, grade, and seniority.
- 3.) Unless otherwise noted in the RFPSA Plan, the transfer of authority and the administration and management of the RFPSA shall be seamless and shall follow Appendix A.
- 4.) All current employee agreements, collective bargaining agreements, outstanding labor issues, personnel service contracts, and any other contracts or agreements pertaining to work, duties, services, or employment with the City of Centralia Fire Department or Lewis County Fire District #12 shall be transferred to the RFPSA with all personnel on the day of the RFPSA formation. Any consolidation of employees into one of the existing labor agreements, or bargaining units, must be mutually agreed upon by the labor unions and each of the participating jurisdictions prior to January 1, 2008.
- 5.) The City of Centralia will maintain and retain the liability of retired and active LEOFF 1 City of Centralia FTE's to include any medical expenses incurred by City of Centralia LEOFF 1 personnel in accordance with the Lewis County LEOFF Policies and Procedures. Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 will transfer Fire District LEOFF 1 FTE's to include retired personnel medical expenses to the RFPSA effective January 1, 2008.
- 6.) The Lewis County LEOFF Board will continue to oversee LEOFF 1 benefits for said personnel in accordance with the Lewis County LEOFF Policies and Procedures.
- 7.) The City of Centralia will retain the Fire Relief and Pension Fund and make required pension payments to eligible LEOFF 1 participants.
- 8.) The RFPSA will contract with the City of Centralia to provide and maintain the current medical, dental, and vision plan via the Association of Washington Cities for all RFPSA personnel. Expenses associated with the medical, dental, and vision plans for RFPSA personnel will be the responsibility of the RFPSA. In the event that the RFPSA/IAFF Local



451 Labor-Management Committee mutually agrees to an alternative medical, dental, and vision plan, said plan will be the responsibility of the RFPSA.

- 9.) The existing Labor-Management Committee shall continue to provide effective communication and input for the leadership and workforce of the RFPSA into operational, administrative, and labor related matters. The Labor-Management Committee will operate in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 10.) The Administrative Staff of the RFPSA shall be current members of the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12. All current administrative and business functions, agreements, documents, operations, and policies and procedures from the City of Centralia Fire Department, Lewis County Fire Protection District #12, and the Joint Board on Fire and Life Safety shall transfer to the RFPSA unless otherwise noted in this plan.
- 11.) Effective January 1, 2008, all human resource and benefit administration activities of the RFPSA shall be provided by the City of Centralia.
- 12.) Effective January 1, 2008, the RFPSA shall contract with the City of Centralia or Lewis County to provide accounts payable and accounts receivable services.
- 13.) Effective January 1, 2008, the RFPSA shall contract with the City of Centralia or Lewis County to provide payroll services.
- 14.) The RFPSA shall provide its own legal services effective January 1, 2008.
- 15.) The RFPSA shall obtain liability and property insurance (via the entity or via the City of Centralia), which will be paid for by the RFPSA.
- 16.) The RFPSA shall conduct and develop an organizational Strategic Plan to include level of service provided, standard of coverage, deployment standards, and customer expectation during the first year of operations (2008).
- 17.) The RFPSA shall conduct and develop a Mission, Vision, and Values statement during the first year of operations (2008).
- 18.) Effective January 1, 2008, the RFPSA shall administer and conduct all hiring and promotional processes.

### Asset Transfer:

- 1.) Unless otherwise noted in the RFPSA Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to administrative, management, and personnel of the City of Centralia Fire



Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall be transferred to the RFPSA.

- 2.) All current executive and command functions, operations, policies, and procedures from the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall transfer to the RFPSA unless otherwise noted in this plan.
- 3.) Transfer of assets for the RFPSA from the participating fire departments shall occur on January 1, 2008 in accordance with the objectives identified in the Plan.

### RFPSA Plan Revision:

- 1.) The administrative, management, and personnel portion of the RFPSA Plan may be revised by a majority vote of the current RFPSA Governance Board.



## Section 9: Operations and Service Delivery Systems

### Reference:

- 1.) The authority of the RFP SA to establish and operational and service delivery system components of the RFP SA is provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

### Activity and Operation Transfer:

- 1.) Upon successful approval of the electorate, all current operational and service delivery aspects of the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall be transferred to the RFP SA on January 1, 2008.
- 2.) Current staffing models, standard of coverage, deployment standards, field operations, command staffing, and operational policies and procedures shall be transferred and maintained at the current level of service effective on January 1, 2008.
- 3.) As part of the Department Strategic Plan (required by the Plan in 2008), the RFP SA shall adopt new standards of coverage and a deployment plan based on providing service to the combined service area.
- 4.) All current inter-local and enabling agreements, mutual and automatic aid agreements, memorandum of understanding, contract for services, and other agreements shall be transferred to the RFP SA effective January 1, 2008 to provide continuous, seamless, readiness and emergency services coverage.

### Asset Transfer:

1. The ownership of real property of each participating jurisdiction that currently has a fire station constructed upon it shall be transferred to the RFP SA.
2. Unless otherwise noted, all non-real property assets shall be transferred to the RFP SA for fire and emergency medical services operation purposes, provided that all reserve funds established for equipment, apparatus, or capital replacement are retained by the RFP SA.
3. All buildings and equipment, shall be, insured and maintained by the RFP SA.
- 4.) Unless otherwise noted in this Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements, and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to operations and delivery systems of the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall be transferred to the RFP SA.
- 5.) Transfer of assets for the RFP SA from the participating fire departments shall occur on January 1, 2008 in accordance with the objectives identified in the Plan.





## Plan Revisions:

- 1.) The operations and delivery systems portion of the RFPSA may be revised by a majority vote of the RFPSA Governance Board.



## Section 10: Support Services

### Authority:

- 1.) The authority of the RFP SA to establish and provide a support services components of the RFP SA is provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

### Activity and Operation Transfer:

- 1.) The current Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 staff assigned to support services shall be transferred to fulfill those duties and services for the RFP SA.
- 2.) Unless otherwise noted in this RFP SA Plan, the transfer of authority and the support services of the RFP SA shall be seamless.
- 3.) For 2008, the City of Centralia Information Services and an IT vendor as determined by Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall collectively draft an RFP SA Information Technology Plan for information services to be utilized by the RFP SA. The IT Plan shall be drafted, approved, and implemented no later than December 15, 2007 in order to provide seamless IT Services for the RFP SA starting January 1, 2008.
- 4.) For 2008, facility maintenance services shall be provided by the RFP SA in order to provide seamless repair, maintenance, and readiness of operations of the RFP SA facilities.
- 5.) All fleet vehicle maintenance shall be provided by the Centralia-Chehalis Pupil Transport Cooperative. Minor repairs and/or maintenance may be performed by RFP SA personnel at the discretion of the Fire Chief or designee. The RFP SA shall negotiate a revised contract with the Cooperative to assure that the entire RFP SA fleet is maintained and serviced appropriately.
- 6.) In 2008, the current fuel procurement procedure and associated services will be administered by the RFP SA. The RFP SA shall contract for such services beginning January 1, 2008.

### Asset Transfer:

- 1.) Unless otherwise noted in the RFP SA Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to the support services of the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall be transferred to the RFP SA.



- 2.) Transfer of assets for the RFPSA from the participating fire departments shall occur on January 1, 2008 in accordance with the objectives identified in the Plan.

### Plan Revisions:

1. The support services portion of the RFPSA may be revised by a majority vote of the RFPSA Governance Board.



## Section 11: Prevention & Public Education Services

### Reference:

- 1.) The authority of the RFPSA to establish and provide fire code management, prevention, and public education components of the RFPSA is provided in Revised Code of Washington 52.26.040.

### Activity and Operation Transfer:

- 1.) The RFPSA code management, prevention and education section shall be organized as provided in Appendix A of the RFPSA Plan.
- 2.) The current City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 staff assigned to code management, prevention, public education, and support services shall be transferred to the RFPSA to fulfill the duties outlined in the organization structure.
- 3.) Unless otherwise noted in the RFPSA Plan, the transfer of authority for fire code management, prevention, public education, and support services of the RFPSA shall be seamless and shall initially model the current Fire Prevention and Education services provided by the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12.
- 4.) The RFPSA Fire Marshal will work in a collaborative manner with the City of Centralia and Lewis County in developing, adopting, and updating municipal standards regarding fire prevention, and fire/life safety codes.
- 5.) The RFPSA Fire Marshal will work closely with City of Centralia and Lewis County in reviewing and making recommendations on all new construction and development projects within the RFPSA to include respective annexation and Urban Growth areas in accordance with municipal standards for fire prevention, and fire/life safety codes.
- 6.) The RFPSA Fire Marshal will assume responsibility for all fire investigation activities within the RFPSA. The RFPSA Fire Marshal will work closely with the Centralia Police Department in processing any case including preservation of evidence, chain of custody, suspects and persons of interest for all cases arising from origin and cause investigations within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Centralia. In the same way, the Fire Marshal will work cooperatively with the Lewis County Sheriff on all cases arising from origin and cause investigations within the RFPSA outside of the Centralia jurisdictional limits.
- 7.) The City of Centralia and Lewis County will retain code enforcement authority in accordance with Washington State law for their respective jurisdictions. The RFPSA will



provide all inspection and fire prevention services and will rely on the respective jurisdiction for code enforcement powers as granted by the State of Washington.

- 8.) The City of Centralia Legal Department will provide the RFPSA the legal services necessary to operate the RFPSA fire prevention division in matters that are within the City limits and Urban Growth Areas. However, the primary legal services for code enforcement activities will remain with each City and county participating in the RFPSA for activities occurring within said participating jurisdictions.

### Asset Transfer:

- 1.) Unless otherwise noted in the RFPSA Plan, all current assets, equipment, documents, contracts, agreements and records from the respective participating fire departments relating to the fire and life safety code management, public education, injury prevention of the City of Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire Protection District #12 shall be transferred to the RFPSA.
- 2.) Transfer of assets for the RFPSA from the participating fire departments shall occur on January 1, 2008 in accordance with the objectives identified in the Plan.

### Plan Revisions:

- 1.) The fire prevention and public education portion of the RFPSA may be revised by a majority vote of the RFPSA Governance Board.



## Appendix A: Organizational Structure



## Appendix B: Funding - Fire and EMS Levy

### RCW 84.52.044 Limitations Upon Regular Property Tax Levies — Participating Fire Protection Jurisdictions.

(1) If a fire protection district is a participating fire protection jurisdiction in a regional fire protection service authority, the regular property tax levies of the fire protection district are limited as follows:

(a) The regular levy of the district under RCW 52.16.130 shall not exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of taxable property in the district less the amount of any levy imposed by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1)(a);

(b) The levy of the district under RCW 52.16.140 shall not exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of taxable property in the district less the amount of any levy imposed by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1)(b); and

(c) The levy of the district under RCW 52.16.160 shall not exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of taxable property in the district less the amount of any levy imposed by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1)(c).

(2) If a city or town is a participating fire protection jurisdiction in a regional fire protection service authority, the regular levies of the city or town shall not exceed the applicable rates provided in RCW 27.12.390, 52.04.081, and 84.52.043(1) less the aggregate rates of any regular levies made by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1).

(3) If a port district is a participating fire protection jurisdiction in a regional fire protection service authority, the regular levy of the port district under RCW 53.36.020 shall not exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of taxable property in the district less the aggregate rates of any regular levies imposed by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1).

(4) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district; and

(b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection service authority.



### **RCW 84.52.069 Emergency Medical Care (EMS) levies.**

(1) A "taxing district" means a county, emergency medical service district, city or town, urban emergency medical service district or fire protection district.

(2) A taxing district may impose additional regular property tax levies in an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars of the assessed value of property in the taxing district. The tax shall be imposed (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each year for ten consecutive years, or (c) permanently. A tax levy under this section must be specifically authorized by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of registered voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters thereof voting on the proposition when the number of registered voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election. Ballot propositions shall conform with RCW 29A.36.210. A taxing district shall not submit to the voters at the same election multiple propositions to impose a levy under this section.

(3) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section shall provide for separate accounting of expenditures of the revenues generated by the levy. The taxing district shall maintain a statement of the accounting which shall be updated at least every two years and shall be available to the public upon request at no charge.

(4) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section shall provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the ordinance or resolution imposing the tax. This referendum procedure shall specify that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance or resolution. Within ten days, the filing officer shall confer with the petitioner concerning form and style of the petition, issue the petition an identification number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive ballot title from the designated local official. The petitioner shall have thirty days in which to secure the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters of the taxing district, as of the last general election, upon petition forms which contain the ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, shall certify the referendum measure to the next election within the taxing district if one is to be held within one hundred eighty days from the date of filing of the referendum petition, or at a special election to be called for that purpose in accordance with RCW 29A.04.330.

The referendum procedure provided in this subsection shall be exclusive in all instances for any taxing district imposing the tax under this section and shall supersede the procedures provided under all other statutory or charter provisions for initiative or referendum which might otherwise apply.





(5) Any tax imposed under this section shall be used only for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services, including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services.

(6) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing district within the county may levy a tax under this section. If a regional fire protection service authority imposes a tax under this section, no other taxing district that is a participating fire protection jurisdiction in the regional fire protection service authority may levy a tax under this section. No other taxing district may levy a tax under this section if another taxing district has levied a tax under this section within its boundaries: PROVIDED, That if a county levies less than fifty cents per thousand dollars of the assessed value of property, then any other taxing district may levy a tax under this section equal to the difference between the rate of the levy by the county and fifty cents: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if a taxing district within a county levies this tax, and the voters of the county subsequently approve a levying of this tax, then the amount of the taxing district levy within the county shall be reduced, when the combined levies exceed fifty cents. Whenever a tax is levied county-wide, the service shall, insofar as is feasible, be provided throughout the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no county-wide levy proposal may be placed on the ballot without the approval of the legislative authority of each city exceeding fifty thousand population within the county: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section and RCW 36.32.480 shall not prohibit any city or town from levying an annual excess levy to fund emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if a county proposes to impose tax levies under this section, no other ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under this section by another taxing district in the county may be placed before the voters at the same election at which the county ballot proposition is placed: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district emergency medical service levy that is limited in duration and that is authorized subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy that is limited in duration, shall expire concurrently with the county emergency medical service levy.

(7) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 shall not apply to the tax levy authorized in this section.

(8) If a ballot proposition approved under subsection (2) of this section did not impose the maximum allowable levy amount authorized for the taxing district under this section, any future increase up to the maximum allowable levy amount must be specifically authorized by the voters in accordance with subsection (2) of this section at a general or special election.

(9) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 shall not apply to the first levy imposed pursuant to this section following the approval of such levy by the voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(10) The following definitions apply:

(a) "Fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district; and

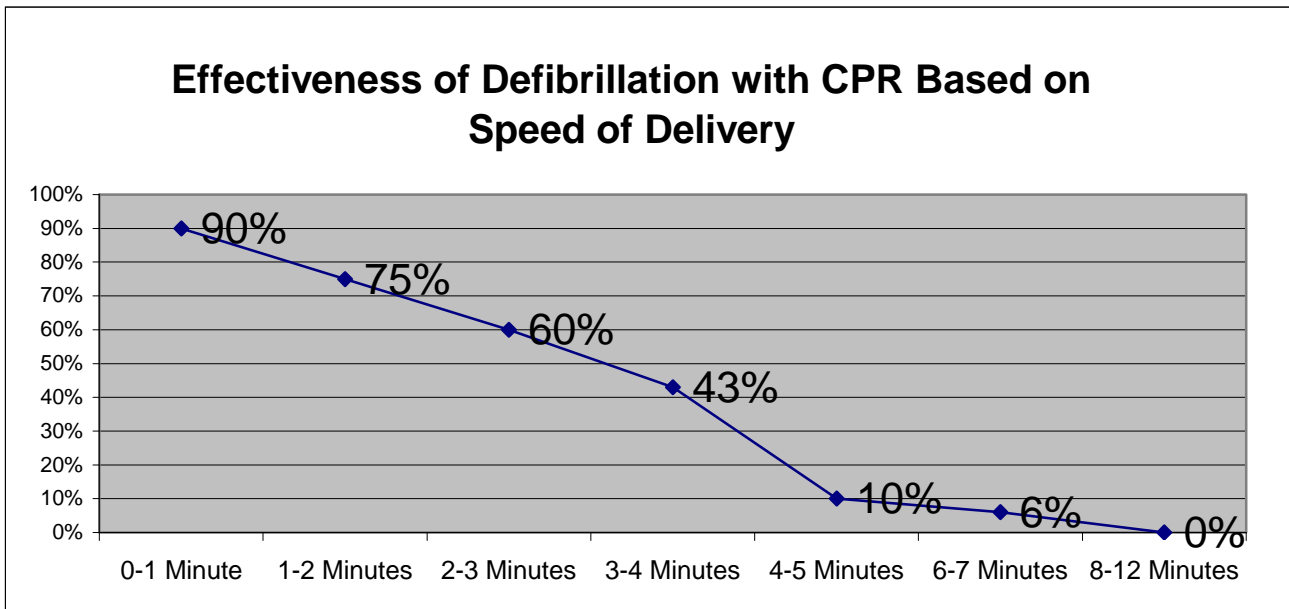


(b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection service authority.



## Appendix C: Response Time Objectives

**DEFIBRILLATION AND CPR:** The following graphic (figure 1) shows how the success of cardiac defibrillation erodes as time goes by. At 3 – 4 minutes the chances of defibrillation being successful are less than 50/50. At 6 minutes, successful resuscitation rarely occurs. The participating fire jurisdictions currently provide defibrillation as well as significantly higher levels of emergency medical services by delivering advanced life support (ALS) via dual trained Firefighter/Paramedics.



(Figure 1)

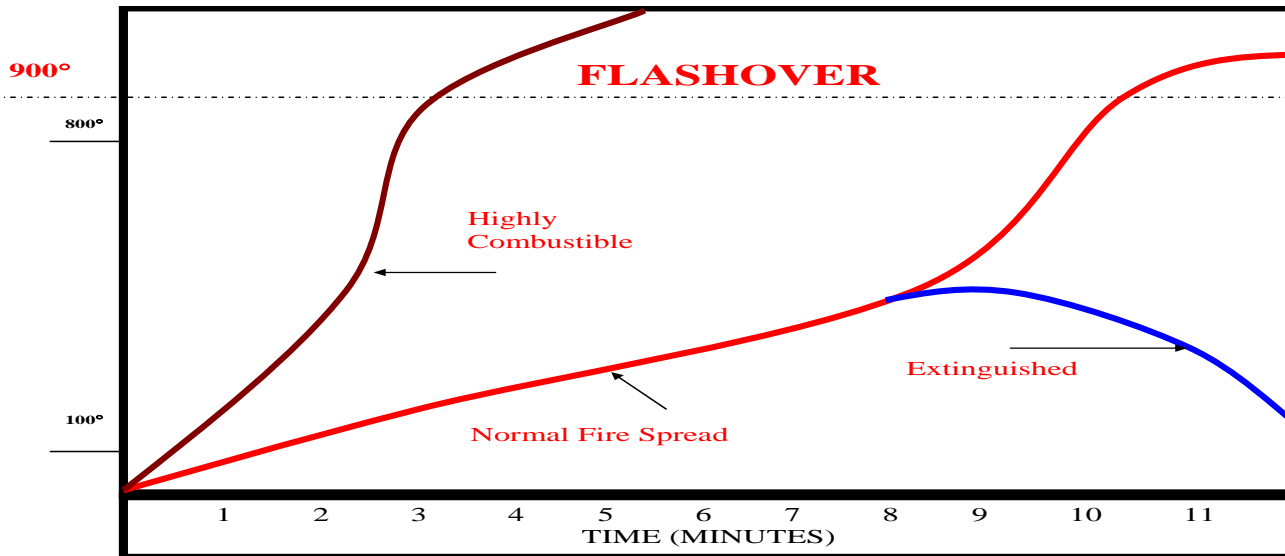
As previously illustrated in the early defibrillation and CPR chart showing that once a heart stops there is a six minute window of opportunity for resuscitation and beyond that six minute window there is only the slimmest margin of success. Finally, add even another measure – The Golden Hour – which states the patient of a severe trauma has the best chance of survival if they reach surgery within one hour after the injuries are sustained. (Gunshots, car accidents, falls, etc., increase in fatality exponentially if the trauma is not surgically repaired within that first hour).

**HOUSE FIRES AND FLASHOVER:** The time/temperature curve (fig 2) shows the relationship of time to the progress and intensity of fire. In a typical room in any house, a fire will double in size every minute, assuming it has a steady supply of fuel and oxygen. While the fire is growing the temperature in the room is increasing usually to about 1000 degrees at ceiling level and a few hundred degrees at 3 feet high. Eventually the room temperature reaches a point where everything in the room begins to burn – this is called flashover. Flashover is deadly. After a flashover, the residence is no longer survivable for all occupants including firefighters beyond a brief exposure. In flashover everything in the room is damaged or destroyed and generally the heat in the rest of the house



is such that life would not be sustainable without intervention such as fire hoses or a fire protection sprinkler system. Flashover is the eventual outcome of every house fire and occurs generally at about 8 minutes. That means that firefighters need to be on scene and working prior to that 8 minute benchmark to achieve life safety rescue and fire extinguishment.

These measures establish what the RFPSA defines as “response time” as the most important measure of performance. Other measures the RFPSA considers as critical service delivery



(Figure 2)

factors include the number of personnel responding, the capabilities and efficiency of the personnel once on scene, the capabilities of the equipment, and preventative or mitigation measures in place prior to arrival, such as sprinkler systems or fire extinguishers. The following graphic shows the various constituent elements of the “response time”:

0 – 10 Min.	1 - 2 Min.	1 - 2 Min.	3 – 25 Min.	1 – 5 Min.	6 – 43 Min.
<b>Recognition of a problem.</b> People try to extinguish fire before 911. People ignore chest pain and deny they have a problem.	<b>Calling 911:</b> Once problem established finding a phone, an address etc. eats up some time.	<b>Dispatching:</b> Determining type of emergency, jurisdiction to respond, broadcasting over radio.	<b>Travel to the Scene:</b> Getting gear on, driving to scene, finding the address, etc. – highly dependent on location in response area.	<b>Set up:</b> Connecting to a hydrant, pulling hoses, Putting on air masks, etc., setting up a defib unit, putting oxygen on etc.	The Total amount of time it takes to “respond to an emergency.

\*There are a number of factors that affect response time including station location, road conditions, and dispatch efficiency however adequate staffing and an effective use of volunteer resources are paramount in providing the highest level of service possible.



## Appendix D: Combined Service Area Map & Fire Station Locations