
Chapter 18. Police and Fire

BACKGROUND

Police Services

The City Police Department currently operates out of a single station in the core area. The number of sworn police officers is 53 and the number of full-time employees is 81. Sworn officers perform law enforcement tasks as well as administration and supervision, and civilian personnel are involved in administration, support services, supervision, dispatch, parking enforcement, and community service duties. UC Davis also contains on-campus police department that maintains a mutual aid agreement with the City for major incidents, although direct officer-to-officer communication is severely limited due to non-compatible radio systems.

Table 17 provides statistics on typical police activities. The most frequent types of calls for police services are related to property crimes (theft and burglary), domestic violence, and noise complaints. However, the per capita level of crime against people has been slowly rising over the last twenty years.

Table 17
CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICE

Type of Call	1991	1995	Change
Part 1 Offenses (homicide, rape, assault, burglary, etc.)	3,624	3,243	-10.5%
911 Calls	6,836	7,505	9.8%
Driving Under Influence	220	153	-30.5%
Noise Complaints	3,602	2,981	-17.2%
Parking Citations	16,699	15,552	-6.9%
Moving Violations	6,955	5,984	-14.0%

The demand for police services and the need for police staff is expected to grow in direct proportion to the growth of population and businesses. To meet increased demands, the Police Department expects that the automation of records and administration will continue to increase and that there may be increased reliance on non-sworn personnel for actions traditionally performed by sworn staff, such as some investigations.

Fire Protection Services

The Fire Department provides emergency and non-emergency services. The non-emergency services are provided to attempt to prevent an emergency response.

Non-emergency services include plan checking, construction inspection services, fire and life safety inspections, fire code investigations, public education and weed abatement. Emergency services include fire response, emergency medical response, hazardous materials response and public assistance.

Emergency services are dictated by people and property. Demand for service can be a function of population, although this consideration does not take into account non-resident employees or visitors to a jurisdiction. Demand for service may also be correlated to residential and non-residential building. Table 18 summarizes the increase in calls for fire service over the last 10 years.

Table 18
CALLS FOR FIRE SERVICE

	Population	% Increase	Emergencies	% Increase	Min. Staffing	% Increase
1985	40,524		1,611		10	
1995	51,507	27%	2,176	35%	10 ¹	0%
1999	56,018	9%	2,717	25%	12 ²	20%

- (1) In 1994, one firefighter per shift was hired to reduce overtime costs with Proposition 172 monies. Minimum staffing has remained at 10 per day.
- (2) In 1999, OSHA's 2-in 2-out regulation was implemented; two firefighters per shift hired.

The City Fire Department currently operates three fire stations, located in the downtown (core) area, south Davis and west Davis. The Fire Department attempts to operate within a standard of a five-minute response time, 90% of the time. Response time includes alarm processing, turnout time and travel time.

Based on response time maps prepared for a station location study completed by the Fire Department in April 1999, some existing parts of the City lie outside the five-minute response time area, including parts of West Davis that are closest to Highway 113, large parts of Central Davis that lie west of Anderson Road and north of Eighth Street, most of North Davis bounded by Covell Blvd., Highway 113, and F Street, most of East Davis north of Fifth Street and east of Pole Line Road, and the western portion of South Davis. A developed area in which response time is most deficient is the Wildhorse development, in which the response time maps indicate that response time would be over seven minutes.

To improve the Fire Department's five minute response time coverage, the City Council has directed the Fire Department to pursue planning for a fourth fire station.

GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

SERVICE CAPACITY AND RESPONSE TIMES

GOAL POLFIRE 1. Provide high quality police and fire protection services to all areas of the City.

Policy POLFIRE 1.1 Recruit and maintain a staff of high-quality police officers and firefighters.

Actions

- a. Set police and fire salaries to allow recruitment and maintenance of excellent staff.
- b. Ensure that police officers receive ongoing training in all areas of operations, including access to facilities for physical and simulated training, including but not limited to a live firing range.

Policy POLFIRE 1.2 Develop and maintain the capacity to reach all areas of the City with emergency police and fire service within a five-minute emergency response time, 90% of the time. Response time includes alarm processing, turnout time and travel time.

Actions

- a. Increase police and fire protection personnel commensurate with population growth.
- b. Continue planning for fire, medical and other emergency services for areas of the City outside of the five minutes response time.
- c. Develop a standard for numbers of sworn police officers per population or developed land use.
- d. Develop a standard for number of firefighters and associated staff per population or developed land use.
- e. Consider ways to improve ambulance service within the City.

POLICE

GOAL POLFIRE 2. Provide for an emotionally and physically safe environment where the people of Davis are able to live without fear of violence or other forms of abuse.

Policy POLFIRE 2.1 Reduce crime through community policing, public education, crime prevention, neighborhood watch and outreach programs.

Actions

- a. Maintain a police presence in the downtown area through foot or bike patrols or a station annex if a new police station is constructed.
- b. Continue to work with the School District to familiarize students and parents with law enforcement officials and roles, along with conflict resolution programs and services and other local programs providing crisis intervention services.
- c. Maintain safety education programs at the Senior Center.
- d. Continue and expand the program of police outreach to the public through participation at fairs and community events and distribution of crime prevention information through City publications, news media, and community-based organizations.
- e. Promote and support neighborhood watch and safety programs.

FIRE PROTECTION

GOAL POLFIRE 3. Increase fire safety through provision of adequate fire protection infrastructure, public education and outreach programs.

Policy POLFIRE 3.1 Provide adequate infrastructure to fight fires in Davis.

Actions

- a. Conduct an assessment of fire station, facility and equipment needs to ascertain how the fire department should grow to adequately serve Davis.
 - b. Monitor water fire flow throughout the City and set a high priority on improving fire flow in those areas where adequate flow is not available.
 - c. Improve fire flow in areas where adequate fire flow is not available.
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- d. Continue to coordinate fire protection services with UCD, including continuing provisions for interconnection of water systems for emergency use.
- e. Provide sufficient water system capacity through wells, mains and water storage facilities to provide for a fire flow of 2,500 gallons per minute for four (4) hours at 20 lbs. residual pressure, assuming operation at 80 percent of available well capacity.
- f. Continue to implement a residential resale program which keeps the housing stock in higher quality condition.

Policy POLFIRE 3.2 Ensure that all new development includes adequate provision for fire safety.

Standards

- a. All new development shall comply with the fire safety requirements of the California Fire Code and California Building Code as adopted by the city of Davis.
- b. All new development shall provide water mains and hydrants to create adequate fire service.
- c. All new development shall provide adequate roadway access to create adequate fire service. Roadway surfaces shall support fire apparatus in all weather conditions.

Actions

- d. Adopt and enforce new editions of the Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Building Codes as they are published.
- e. Consider a requirement for fire sprinklers in any Group R-1 (hotels and apartments) building over 5,000 square feet.
- f. Consider Fire Department recommendations for adoption of other regulations governing conditions that will lessen hazards to life and property from fire and explosion.

Policy POLFIRE 3.3 Make fire protection services visible and accessible to Davis residents.

Actions

- a. Continue to support the Fire Department Public Education Program and its fire prevention programs.
- b. Publicize the Fire Department Education Program.