

SECTION 7: PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A safe community attracts quality businesses and provides a positive social environment. Increasingly, cities rely on each other to efficiently create the public safety network that is a hallmark of desirable communities. For Lauderdale, this means the City Council has an ongoing responsibility to negotiate and coordinate for the best possible fire and police services with our neighboring cities. When it comes to emergency management planning, it means maintaining and developing a relationship with Ramsey County.

Police

Lauderdale's law enforcement services are provided by the St. Anthony Police Department. The City established the relationship in 1993. St. Anthony officers provided police services sixteen (16) hours a day and were on-call an additional eight hours a day until 2007 when the City Council authorized 24-hour police service for Lauderdale. Every three years the City renegotiates the police contract to obtain the most cost-effective services for residents.

St. Anthony officers provide law enforcement services including patrol and police protection, investigation, traffic enforcement, and crime prevention (including neighborhood watch and safety seminars). Most recently, the St. Anthony Police Department offered residents the opportunity to learn more about police life and duties through their "Citizen's Academy."

Medical

Lauderdale's ambulance services are provided by the City of St. Paul's Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Ambulances and paramedics are dispatched from Fire Station No. 23, which is located on Como Avenue between Highway 280 and Snelling Avenue. In most instances, residents are taken to the hospital of their choice.

Fire

The City contracts with the City of Falcon Heights for fire protection services. The Fire Department is comprised of paid, on-call volunteer fire fighters from Lauderdale and Falcon Heights including a paid on-call Chief, a part-time Fire Marshall, and a force of 20 volunteer fire fighters. The fire station is part of the Falcon Heights City Hall campus at 2077 Larpenteur Avenue West.

The Falcon Heights Fire Department provides fire prevention, fire suppression and rescue services. The Falcon Heights Fire Department currently responds to approximately 110 incidents per year. The Insurance Services Office, which evaluates and rates fire protection services, has assigned Falcon Heights a Class 5 ISO Rating¹⁸. This favorable rating results in better insurance rates for Lauderdale and Falcon Heights residents.

¹⁸ This Rating was reported as of 11/14/2005. For more information on ISO ratings visit http://www.iso.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1059&Itemid=1096.

The Falcon Heights Fire Department service area is approximately 3 square miles (Falcon Heights: 2.28 Sq/Miles; Lauderdale .50 Sq/Miles), with a resident population of 7,700. The Department has mutual aid agreements with surrounding fire departments which allows them to call in help from other communities for large-scale emergencies.

Emergency Management

Natural and human made disasters pose a threat to the Lauderdale residents' health and safety. These disasters include tornadoes, floods, blizzards, as well as train wrecks, plane crashes, communicable disease outbreaks, explosions, hazardous materials releases, pipeline leaks, and terrorism. An emergency management plan encompasses all the actions necessary to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

After the events of September 11, 2001, Ramsey County and the cities within Ramsey County revised their emergency management plans in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security. The plans for each individual city are a part of the *Ramsey County Emergency Operations Plan*.¹⁹ The plan assists key officials and emergency organizations in carrying out their responsibilities for the protection of life and property.

Public Safety / Emergency Management Goals, Policies, and Recommended Actions

Goals

- Sustain the quality of life within Lauderdale by providing an environment that promotes security and safety.
- Educate property owners about public safety issues.
- Enhance the overall safety in the City through encouragement of high quality redevelopment efforts.

Policies

- Encourage public safety through participation in on-going education, crime prevention, and fire prevention programs.
- Promote volunteerism and engage residents in public safety issues.
- Encourage residents to be vigilant and proactive in reporting suspicious behavior to prevent crime and violence within the community.
- So long as it is cost-effective, contract with neighboring cities and the Ramsey County for public safety and emergency management services.

Recommended Actions

1. Continue to work with the St. Anthony Police Department on public safety issues, including:
 - Receiving annual police report and presentation from the Chief-of-Police regarding incidents of crime.
 - Establishing more National Night Out types of events where residents can meet the officers and their neighbors.
 - Maintaining the strong visual presence of the officers.

¹⁹ Ramsey County Emergency Operations Plan <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/NR/rdonlyres/CA11817D-2B5C-4778-92FB-55A052A7980E/1386/PublicRamseyCountyEOP.pdf>.

- Establishing and promoting a “Police Desk” within the City that includes office hours.
 - Periodically evaluating the effectiveness of crime prevention efforts.
 - Investing in the 800 MHz radio Public Safety Radio System.
 - Preventing vandalism.
 - Assess the network of street lights; optimize for safety.
2. Continue to work with the Falcon Heights Fire Department, including:
- Improving coordination between the Lauderdale Building Official and the Falcon Heights Fire Marshall for plan reviews and multi-family rental housing inspections.
 - Promoting the opportunity for Lauderdale residents to be volunteer firefighters with the Falcon Heights Fire Department.
 - Assessing whether a second fire station or storage area for fire equipment should be created within Lauderdale City limits.
3. Continue to work with Ramsey County on emergency preparedness, including:
- Updating emergency action plan as needed or required.
 - Continuing to have a staff liaison work with Ramsey County on emergency preparedness.
 - Preparing for emergencies through mock or table top exercises.
4. Continue and enhance education and community public safety programs, including:
- Advertising and promoting St. Anthony Police Department educational services, such as: Citizens Academy, Safety Trainings, and e-mail listserv.
 - Hosting Red Cross trainings in Lauderdale (e.g. CPR, First Aid, Baby-Sitter Training).
 - Offering to host Roseville School District Community Education classes in the Social Room or Lauderdale Community Park.
 - Coordinating public safety messages with the local schools and school district.
 - Holding regular emergency services community meetings like the one recently offered after a vandalism incident.
 - Engaging area residents by having local or Minnesota celebrities/experts present information on public safety and health topics.
 - Displaying winter survival and disaster planning kits at City Hall as a way to educate residents.
 - Recruiting block captains in neighborhoods where there currently are not any, including the apartment complexes.
 - Developing the block captain / community liaison program. This may include a Neighborhood Commission to support the coordination of block activities and the training of block captains.
 - Using the newsletter to educate Lauderdale residents about fire safety and prevention. (For example, remind residents to update and practice their fire escape plans ever six months. And, create safety plans that do not include the use of cell phones).
 - Using the newsletter to educate Lauderdale residents about emergency preparedness within their home and the City’s emergency management plans.

- Encouraging residents to participate in Community Emergency Response Training (CERT).
 - Engaging residents through periodic *Quality of Life* surveys.
 - Assessing the needs for new or upgraded street lights and the “light cycling” patterns.
5. Address public safety concerns during development and public infrastructure projects by:
- Evaluating City building, development, and safety codes and update / change as needed.
 - Assessing public safety impacts of development proposals and public infrastructure projects.
 - Encouraging crime prevention through environmental design, where feasible. This may include more or improved street lights and sidewalks.