

Special Purpose District Template

Camano Island Fire & Rescue
(Island County Fire District # One)

I.) District Profile

Our fire district, (legally known as Island County Fire District #1), serves the entire geographical region of the Island County region known as Camano Island in Washington State. Our resident population as of 2005 was estimated at 17,000 with a population estimated at 25,000 seasonally. We cover 43 square miles with 65 miles of shoreline and are connected to the mainland by a single bridge. While we are located in Island County, across this bridge (State Highway 532) is the City of Stanwood in Snohomish County. There is no ferry service to the island. This portal is the only direct egress to the mainland.

In 2005 we responded to over 1,400 fire and medical calls, as well as technical rescue calls such as high-angle rescue and marine rescue. We are a combination fire district with one station staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with career firefighters and paramedics. While still classified as rural and having a rather spread-out response area, we are proud of having an average response time for two EMT's to be on your doorstep of 7 minutes and 40 seconds in 2004. Even so, the members of our department will stride to improve upon this each year. We employ a total of 5 fire stations that are also staffed with volunteer firefighter/EMT's which are committed to responding to the communities needs. The District is also fortunate to have a full-time maintenance team and fabrication shop.

The City of Stanwood has signed an interlocal agreement with Camano Island Fire and Rescue to manager its fire department and to provide advanced life support response and transport to the residents of Stanwood City. This went into effect January 1st 2006 and both departments are now operating effectively as one. This brings our combined staffing levels up to 32 career firefighters and paramedic/firefighters, over 20 part-time firefighter and approximately 35 volunteer firefighters, and 10 career administrative and / or support staff..

Camano Island Fire and Rescue Mission Statement To work in partnership with the community and co-operating/co-responding agencies to prevent fires; to provide timely, efficient, appropriate, and safe response to operations at medical, fire, rescue, and hazardous materials emergencies, and public service incidents. To protect life, property, and the economic base of the community; to plan for/prepare for/mitigate natural disasters, and protect the environment from man made disasters, and to provide innovative and cost efficient operation to the taxpayers of the district while addressing the service needs of our patrons through caring, well trained, properly equipped, and highly motivated personnel.

Motto: A community resource dedicated to public service since 1945

Slogan: Neighbors helping neighbors.

1.) Land Area owned

The fire district owns real property and buildings consisting of five (5) fire stations, one (1) fire shop / garage, and (1) one vintage schoolhouse / community hall. These buildings, and

the land they are erected on, are essential to the operation of the fire district in the delivery of fire / EMS services to the citizens and residents of Camano Island. Some additional undeveloped real estate is maintained for future facility expansion. Current fire district properties consist of lot sizes that range in size from two to eleven acres. The total land area held is 23.83 acres.

Land area served

Camano Island comprises 43 square miles of land and is approximately 17 miles in length. The extensive 65 miles of shoreline area and the salt waterways that surround the island are also included within the jurisdiction / protection of the fire district.

2.) List of Critical infrastructure/equipment:

Critical Infrastructure includes: 7 buildings, five of which are fire stations, one serves as a fire shop / garage, and one community hall which was a former one-room schoolhouse. The administration offices are housed and operated within one of the fire stations. This specific station also serves as the agency E.O.C. in times of need. The fire district also maintains a ground water domestic well site and 38,000 gallon storage tank at one of the fire stations which serves to provide water supply for fire suppression on the southern portion of the island. All of the fire stations have kitchen appliances, and the fully staffed station has typical furniture amenities. All but one of the existing fire stations is equipped with an emergency standby power generator.

Agency Equipment includes: 32 vehicles (apparatus), lineal 37,000 feet of fire hose, breathing air compressors, mobile and static, (and storage tanks within each station). There are 54 SCBA backpack sets each with a spare cylinder. Emergency medical "ALS" (Advanced Life Support) equipment is positioned on three of the transport capable Ambulance / Medic Units. "BLS" (Basic Life Support) Aid Cars have similar medical equipment assigned. Each firefighter is assigned individual PPE. Each station / apparatus is equipped with a compliment of the industry standard appurtenances and fittings. There are five portable flood water trash pumps and one specialized portable brush fire pump. Electronic equipment and computer equipment are maintained with each of the stations. Two-Way Radio equipment is assigned to each fire apparatus and each of the stations. The E.O.C. also has a full compliment of radio equipment.

2.) Value of Critical infrastructure/equipment:

The current stated value of all facilities, including 7 buildings, 32 fire district rolling stock (apparatus), and all owned portable and /or fixed equipment is considered to be \$8,567,897. These are not actual replacement costs, but rather stated current value.

4.) List of Critical Facilities (owned by District):

The fire district owns and operates 7 buildings positioned upon real property (land) that comprises 23.83 acres. These facilities include; the Camano City Fire Station and adjoining community hall (formerly serving as a historic single room schoolhouse), the Country Club Fire Station and training drill grounds, the Terry's Corner Fire Station and fire shop /garage, the

Madrona Fire Station, and the Mabana Fire Station. At the Mabana Fire Station there is also a ground water well that provides fire suppression water for that specific region of the fire district.

5.) Value of Critical Facilities:

The stated current value of fire district owned facilities and properties is \$4,081,884. This figure is not considered actual replacement value, but rather what the loss of current facilities are protected for. The realized costs today to replace these buildings, if lost, would be substantially more.

6.) Value of area served:

\$2,470,831,500 is the assessed valuation (per the 2006 figures)

II.) Outline of Area served:

Located approximately 60 miles north of Seattle, Camano Island encompasses the eastern most portion of Island County. It resides within the northern Puget Sound region known as Saratoga Passage and Port Susan Bay. To the west is Whidbey Island. Farther to the east is Snohomish County and the communities of Warm Beach and the city of Stanwood. The community of Camano Island is linked to the city of Stanwood and Snohomish County via the main egress of State Highway 532. The salt waterways surrounding Camano Island and extensive 65 miles of shoreline areas also fall within the jurisdiction of the fire district.

III.) Current and Anticipated Service Trends

In recent years Camano Island has been considered the fastest growing part of Island County, with it's population expected to exceed 21,300 by the year 2010. Call for service have seen a steady increase over the past 15 years, with substantial increases over the past 10 years. In the year 2005, calls for service exceeded 1300. It is anticipated that the fire district will exceed 1500 calls for the year 2006.

IV.) Natural Hazard Event History

Natural Hazard Events		
Type of Event	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
Coastal flooding / Windstorm	February 4, 2006	Multiple beach communities impacted
Windstorm / Power outage	February 12, 1995	Multiple homes extended power outage
Earthquake	February 28, 2001	Communications disruption / building cracks
Land slides / bluff failure	January 1, 1997	Bluff failure / damage to homes & properties
Land Slide / bluff failure	December 1990	Bluff Failure / Land Slide damage to homes
Tsunami / loss of life	Early 1800's	Landslide / Tsunami affecting Hat Island

V.) Natural Hazard Risk/Vulnerability Risk Ranking

1.) Seismic event of a significant magnitude. Overall, Island County is considered the most densely populated county in the state with over 347 residents per square mile. Camano Island is

physically situated within the Northern Puget Sound and can easily become physically isolated from the mainland should a significant seismic event occur.

2.) Seasonal wind storm events. Each year brings a storm season which begins in October and continues until late May. Several wind storm events have impacted our community, at times with devastating results.

3.) Seasonal coastal flooding within the beach communities. It is recognized that approximately 1/3 of the total population maintains homes along the shorelines of the island. High tide and low pressure weather conditions typically result in unfavorable results and server damage to private property from flooding.

4.) Extreme duration of cold / warm weather periods. These weather related conditions continue to tax our agency and the residents of our community. Power outages that occur during cold weather events, sometimes as a result of a storm, impact all phases of normal operations.

5.) Disease / Pandemic.

VI.) Existing Applicable Hazard Mitigation Codes, ordinances or policies

Existing mitigation plans, that are currently in place within this agency, are limited to a basic emergency operations plan. The agency has evolved, but the plans have not. The Island County Department of Emergency Management has prompted all agencies within Island County to develop such plans. It is generally accepted that this agency will be the lead during a widespread disaster occurrence.

VII.) Existing applicable Natural Hazards Mitigation Associated Plans and / or documents.

The fire district completed an internal seismic structural assessment in 2006. The results of those findings made clear the fact that all of our fire stations are not currently with seismic standards. Three of the buildings are (partially) constructed with "CMU" (cinder block) materials. All but one of the fire station buildings have some stick frame construction integrated. A Civil Engineering firm provided the fire district with a detailed technical report that outlines the survivability of our buildings. This report concludes that at least one of our buildings could suffer significant damage or become unusable following a earthquake event. This report further describes the likely failure of our remaining structures due to building construction practices and materials types used during their initial construction in the 1940's and 1950's.

The fire district continues to seek funding to mitigate these eventualities and upgrade, reinforce, or replace those buildings that would not survive. The vital service that we now provide on a daily basis to the citizens of our community must continue during those extraordinary times of need that a disaster would bring. If our facilities remain as is, our fears would be more than realized when the pending disaster scenario results. Mitigation funding would prove most beneficial to the citizens of our community as well as our ability to deliver vital emergency services during those episodes.

Plans continue to enhance and modernize our woefully inadequate E.O.C. It became apparent to the fire district many years ago that emergency assistance from the county seat located on our sister

island (Whidbey) would be delayed or perhaps even non-existent should they suffer the same disaster event on that island. We have operated from our E.O.C. numerous times throughout our past during storms and local widespread emergencies that have affected our community. The organizational benefit that has been afforded by use of our E.O.C. has demonstrated the need to utilize that practice as a standard operation procedure.

The fire district continues to provide CERT Team training to the residents of the community to bolster the readiness and awareness for the great potential of disasters. In 2006 three separate CERT Classes were delivered. The agency also was awarded a state EMD grant for citizen emergency preparedness in 2006. That action provided for enhanced local HAM Radio Communications through a never before owned HAM community radio repeater, emergency HAM radios for each of the schools within the surrounding school district and for each fire station, and lastly hand held two way radios for the CERT Team Members to coordinate their response and recovery efforts.

VIII.) Proposed Natural Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Mitigation Initiatives						
No.	Mitigation Initiative	Administrating Agency	Funding Source	Time Line	Goal #	Objective #
1	Complete our ongoing Seismic Study for all fire district buildings / facilities – in process	Fire District	Fire District General Funds	In Process	1	1
2	Pursue Grant Monies to complete seismic upgrades to facilities for rebuilding or replacement	Fire District	Grants / Bonds <i>(Bonds require approval of the voting populace)</i>	?	2	2
3	Update the fire district Comprehensive Emergency Plan	Fire District	Internal Administrative Function	2007-2008	3	3
4	Work with the Island County DEM to establish Tsunami Evacuation Zones for Camano Island.	Fire District & Island County DEM	Fire District & Island County DEM	2007-2008	4	4
5	Work with Water System Purveyors to bolster and encourage system readiness	Fire District & Water Purveyors	Grants	?	5	5

IX.) Benefit Cost Review of mitigation Initiative

Priority #	Mitigation Initiative #	Estimated Cost	Estimated Benefit	B/C #	Ratio Greater than 1 Yes or no
1	1) Seismic Analysis of all fire district buildings / structures. (now in process).	\$10,500	\$10 million (potential loss)	1	Yes
2	2) Seismic Upgrade for Fire Station # 1-2 (Country Club)	\$100,000	\$2 million (potential loss)	2	Yes

2	2) Seismic Upgrade for Fire Station # 1-3 / E.O.C. (Terry's Corner)	\$100,000	\$2 Million (potential loss)	2	Yes
2	2) Seismic Upgrade for Fire Station # 1-1 (Camano City)	\$100,000	\$2 Million (potential loss)	2	Yes

2	2) Seismic Upgrade of Fire Station # 1-5 (Mabana)	\$100,000	\$2 million (potential loss)	2	Yes
2	2). Seismic Upgrade / building retrofit / REPLACEMENT of FIRE STATION # 1-4 (Madrona) Currently CMU Cinder Block Construction.	\$2 Million	\$2 million (potential loss)	2	Yes
3	Upgrade the fire district Comprehensive Emergency Plan	Staff Function done internally	15,000	3	Yes
4	Establish Tsunami Evacuation Routes and planning	Staff Function done internally with assistance from Island County DEM	?	4	Yes
5	Work with local water system purveyors to assist with planning and funding sources to bolster and harden water systems resilience	Island County DEM and Fire District internal function with Collective Water Purveyors	?	5	Yes
6	Explore ideas and methods to establish delivery of food stuffs, motor fuel, and pharmaceuticals during times of disaster.	Island County DEM, Fire District, Local Businesses, and Local Emergency CERT Teams	?	6	Yes

Explanation of priorities

High Priority: The Seismic Hardening of the existing fire stations, or the complete replacement of those specific buildings that cannot be adequately retrofitted and / or strengthened. Grant funding, or general obligation bonds, could serve as a source of funding for this action. Bonds do however require a majority yes vote of the populace.

High Priority: Relocation of our existing makeshift E.O.C. to our headquarters building where operations and recovery efforts can be better conducted. Grant funding would expedite this project.

Medium Priority: The numerous domestic water systems that serve the residents of the island vary in size from those that serve less than 2 customers to the larger systems that serve over 1,500 homes. Only some of these water systems provide for fire flow to suppress widespread fires that might occur. Even fewer have the ability to provide delivery of water during long term power outages. Grant funding to address these concerns could help to strengthen this concern.

Medium Priority: The delivery of motor fuel, food stuffs, and regular pharmaceuticals to the island could become delayed, or suspended, if the only method of egress, a State Highway bridge, was to fail during a significant seismic event. Alternate means of fuel delivery might include barges or some form of deliver via the waterways that surround the island. Additional Planning is required.

Low Priority: The fire district has no “low priority” risks identified at this time.

X.) Future needs to better understand risk/vulnerability

Seismic Hardening of the existing fire stations is a major focus for the fire district. Funding to complete that action may come in the form of grant funding or via a general bond issue. All physical mitigation efforts will be dependant upon available funding sources.

Increased awareness for citizens regarding earthquake potentials and aftermath. Citizen preparedness and readiness will prove a worthy undertaking if this seismic eventuality occurs.

Increased awareness campaign for residents that addresses the potential for windstorm damage.

Increased awareness for residents located within beach communities addressing the potential for continued coastal flooding during high tide – low pressure – high wind weather conditions.

XI.) Additional Comments:

None at this time

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