



DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Fire Protection District

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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25th, 2017

Functional Cooperation/Consolidated Operations

On Wednesday, April 18th 2017, during the regularly monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees, the **Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District** Board unanimously voted to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District that will improve the delivery of emergency services to both entities by allowing for shared resources, including staffing. On Tuesday, April 25th, 2017, the **Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District** Board of Trustees followed suit.

On Thursday, April 27th, 2017, there will be a ceremonial signing of the IGA at 10:00 a.m. at Darien-Woodridge F.P.D. Headquarters & Training Facility located at 7550 Lyman Avenue in Darien, IL.

In 2015, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Consulting Service began data collection from both Fire Districts and DuComm, the public safety dispatch center for both agencies, for the purpose of completing a study on a more efficient and safer delivery model for Fire, Emergency Medical, and other Rescue Services for the two Districts. The Study was funded by the Associated Firefighters of Illinois (A.F.F.I.), and the Districts collectively worked with the local unions that represent the firefighters and line officers. In January of 2016, the 114 page study was completed and delivered to both Districts' Board of Trustees and following lengthy discussions, both Boards agreed to move forward with assembling a committee to explore, and present recommendations to implement many parts of the plan.

The committee was comprised of: 2 members of each Board of Trustees, the Fire Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Local Union Board members, and line personnel from each District, as well as technical assistants from the A.F.F.I.

Much of the study focused on response data coupled with staffing efficiencies. Following implementation of the Tax Extension Limitation Act, staffing for both Fire Districts has steadily eroded as operating costs rose at a rate far greater than the ability levy for funds to keep up with those expenses. Those staffing reductions created enormous safety concerns as well as dangerous operating conditions for the line personnel and general public. Response modeling using GIS and Computer Aided Dispatch data concluded that optimal resource and staffing allocation be adjusted by decommissioning either Lisle-Woodridge Station 53, located at 63rd St/Woodridge Dr. in Woodridge, or Darien-Woodridge Station 88, located at 59th and Belmont in Downers Grove, with the most logical choice being Station 88. In doing so, benchmark response times recommended by the National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) Standard 1710 will remain. As such, on May 1st, 2017, Darien-Woodridge Station 88, and the single Engine Company housed there, will be placed out of service and the personnel assigned to it will be redistributed to other fire suppression companies.

The study can be viewed at <http://www.dwfd.org/functional-cooperation-between-dwfd-lwfd.html>

Highlights:

- Darien-Woodridge and Lisle-Woodridge Fire Suppression Companies will be staffed with three (3) personnel at all times. Though still below the N.F.P.A. 1710 recommended staffing of four (4) per Engine Company and five (5) per Truck Company, it is an overall improvement from the frequent staffing of two (2) on Darien-Woodridge Fire Suppression units.
- The two Districts will function as a combined, seven station entity with a daily minimum staffing level of 33 personnel filling the roles of Firefighter/Paramedics, Company Officers and Battalion Chiefs with resources of:
 - Five Advanced Life Support Engine Companies.
 - Two Advanced Life Support Truck Companies.
 - A north side and south side Truck Company with 63rd St/Hobson Rd. as the response border.
 - Five Mobile Intensive Care Units (Ambulances).
 - On days with unassigned personnel, a sixth MICU will be placed in service.
 - Two Battalion Chiefs.
 - Sharing the same response border as the two Truck Companies
 - Specialty Teams including: Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, Dive/Water Rescue and Fire Investigation.
 - Two Training/Safety Officers.
 - Training Center with Burn Tower.
 - Three Reserve Engines, Two Reserve Ambulances, One Reserve Truck and “Special Use” vehicles including:
 - Inflatable boats, Special Event Unit, Polaris 6 wheel drive Forestry Unit, and a Fire Investigation Unit, among others.
 - “Closest Station” response through DuComm (DuPage Public Safety Communications).
- Elimination of “jump company” stations, where personnel operate as either an Engine or Ambulance depending on the call type, leaving that stations response area unprotected at times.
- Shared Staffing that reduces overtime costs and “Out-of-rank” stipends.
- Standardized responses.
- Standardized Operating Guidelines.

In preparation for the implementation, both Districts’ personnel have been conducting joint training on a regular basis while administrative staffs have been organizing response areas, procedures, guidelines and other operational efficiencies.

The initial term of the I.G.A. runs through December of 2018, during which time data collection and analysis will be continual and adjustments to response areas made if warranted. During that time, Darien-Woodridge will maintain Station 88, where much of the reserve fleet will be housed and inspected on their normal schedule. Following the initial term, officials will look at the data and make a determination on continuation of the arrangement.

Perhaps the biggest change the general public will notice is the “school bus” yellow color of the Lisle-Woodridge units responding to the Darien-Woodridge areas. Lisle-Woodridge officials however, have assured Darien-Woodridge that they will try their best to leave them outside to try and ripen to the traditional “red” that fire apparatus should be.