

11. Peacekeeping, Health and Safety

General Goal

To ensure that residents and visitors can conduct their lives in a peaceable environment, with adequate protection against fire and medical emergencies.

Overview

The Town of Springdale has the responsibility of providing police services and protection. Fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) are provided through the Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District (R/SFPD), a separate agency. Because Springdale is such a small community, it cannot support a full array of medical services. However, a private medical clinic operates seasonally.

Existing Conditions and Key Findings

1. Public Safety

Springdale has one full-time police officer. During the main tourist season, the Town provides funding to hire an additional part-time officers. The Town also recruits extra enforcement personnel when there are special events, demands and/or needs. While Springdale maintains a relatively peaceful demeanor, modest problems do occur from time to time.

2. Fire and Ambulance Service

The Fire District provides fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS), including transportation by ambulance to the hospital located in St. George. Springdale's fire service used to be entirely volunteer. Volunteers continue to serve but a paid fire chief provides oversight for the District. A paramedic and emergency medical technicians are on call for ambulance runs. This service is available for tourists as well as residents. About 50 percent of the service is used by residents. Zion

National Park also has fire and EMT capability for incidents arising in the Park. A mutual aid agreement between the Park and the Town allows the Park to respond to emergencies in town if the R/SFPD cannot otherwise respond.

3. Medical Clinic

A private medical clinic, staffed by a physician assistant and a nurse practitioner operates part-time seasonally, in a building located next to the Town Hall. Other medical services are available in Hurricane and there is a hospital in St. George.

Objectives and Implementation Strategies

The objectives and implementation strategies for this element follow on page 11.2.

Objectives and implementation strategies for this element are grouped into the following categories:

- 11.1. Law Enforcement
- 11.2. EMT and Fire
- 11.3. Health Services
- 11.4. Emergency Management

11.1. Law Enforcement

Goal

To provide law enforcement and peacekeeping services to the residents of Springdale and to ensure those services do not decline in quality or effectiveness during the tourist season.

Objective 11.1.1.

Reduce crime rate, traffic violations and other illegal infractions within the Town.

Springdale's main traffic artery is SR-9. Because this highway also doubles as the Town's main street, traffic problems are potentially even more hazardous to both residents and visitors. While many things can be done to improve the safety of residents and visitors, slowing traffic and enforcing speed limits reduces the potential for vehicle/pedestrian accidents.

The Town has a portable radar trailer that is used to assist motorists to be aware of the speed limits in town. The trailer should be used extensively during the tourist season to help drivers slow down.

The Town should consider requiring housing and commercial developments to utilize Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design techniques to improve the safety of residents and visitors. CPTED techniques reduce crime by reducing the opportunity for criminals to act or increasing the likelihood that illegal activity will be seen. Techniques include design aspects such as locating windows to be able to observe potential crime areas and adequate lighting in potential crime locations.

Pedestrian lighting along the highway and other public streets will also add to the sense of security for the Town's residents and visitors.

Implementation Strategies

11.1.1.a. Establish educational and outreach programs to seek voluntary compliance with statutes and ordinances.

Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Police

11.1.1.b. Support efforts to install traffic calming devices, such as the curb bulb-outs associated with the shuttle stops.

Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager, Police, Public Works

11.1.1.c. Utilize portable radar trailer year-round to reduce speed through town.

Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Police

11.1.1.d. Require new housing and commercial developments to utilize Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques.

Implication: Policy/Legislative
Implementation: Town Council, Planning Commission, Community Development

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Objective 11.1.1. (cont)

Reduce crime rate, traffic violations and other illegal infractions within the Town.

Implementation Strategies (cont)

11.1.1.e. Train Town staff in CPTED principles and techniques.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Manager, Police,
Community Development*

11.1.1.f. Continue installation of pedestrian oriented lights along the SR-9 corridor and other appropriate public rights-of-way.

*Implication: Capital/Budget
Implementation: Town Council,
Administration, Public Works*

11.1. Law Enforcement

Goal

To provide law enforcement and peacekeeping services to the residents of Springdale and to ensure those services do not decline in quality or effectiveness during the tourist season.

Objective 11.1.2.

Strengthen the law enforcement officers' relationships with the community.

The Springdale Police Department should seek ways to strengthen its relationship with local residents. While the department generally enjoys a good relationship with residents, some things can be done to ensure that local residents know and trust their police officers.

Currently the Springdale Police Department assists the elementary school with drug awareness, crime prevention and other educational programs. These activities should be expanded as is possible.

The Town often has public events occurring during the tourist season (e.g. St. Patrick's Day parade and festival, 4th of July celebrations, etc.). The Springdale Police Department should play a prominent role in the planning and implementation of these events.

Implementation Strategies

11.1.2.a. Consider utilizing foot and bike patrol during the tourist season.

Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Police

11.1.2.b. Participate and be present at community events on and off duty, as possible.

Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Police

11.1.2.c. Continue and encourage more participation with Springdale Elementary, local Boy and Girl Scout groups and other organizations, through canine patrol awareness education and other educational presentations.

Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Council, Police

11.1. Law Enforcement

Goal

To provide law enforcement and peacekeeping services to the residents of Springdale and to ensure those services do not decline in quality or effectiveness during the tourist season.

Objective 11.1.3.

Actively prevent drug use and drug-related crimes.

Drugs are an ever-present issue for municipalities. Efforts to reduce drug-related crimes and drug use should be a high priority for local businesses, the Town and the Police Department.

Currently the Town supports drug awareness programs at the elementary school. This support should be expanded as is possible. The drug-free zone around the school should be strictly enforced to reduce drug use among the Town's youth.

Many business are currently using drug screening to assist in employee selection. The Town should support these efforts through appropriate means.

Implementation Strategies

11.1.3.a. Continue designation and enforcement of drug-free zones near Springdale Elementary in accordance with state statutes.

*Implication: Policy/Legislation
Implementation: Town Council, Police*

11.1.3.b. Enforce drug laws and promote a drug free environment throughout the Town.

*Implication: Policy/Legislation
Implementation: Town Council, Police*

11.1.3.c. Encourage drug awareness presentations within Springdale Elementary.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Council, Police, Springdale Elementary*

11.1.3.d. Encourage local business to establish drug-free work places within the Town.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Council, Police with assistance from ZCVB*

11.1. Law Enforcement

Goal

To provide law enforcement and peacekeeping services to the residents of Springdale and to ensure those services do not decline in quality or effectiveness during the tourist season.

Objective 11.1.4.

Improve community safety.

It is important that Springdale be perceived as a safe community. Such a perception is an important influence on others' decisions to visit or move to our community. Because Springdale's local economy is so heavily focused on tourist visits, Springdale must take every available opportunity to be perceived as a safe community. These safety efforts should include: police, fire and EMT staffing and training, neighborhood watch, and appropriate Town ordinances.

The Town currently runs a small animal shelter to handle animal related issues. Currently, the shelter is staffed by the Springdale Police Department. As Springdale continues to grow, the need for an animal shelter will grow.

Implementation Strategies

11.1.4.a. Continue to support and staff the animal shelter in Springdale.

*Implication: Capital/Budget
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager*

11.1.4.b. Encourage and promote EMT training within the law enforcement ranks.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager, Police*

11.1.4.c. Establish and maintain a Neighborhood Watch program.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Council, Police*

11.1.4.d. Ensure ordinances support and aid law enforcement and safety.

*Implication: Policy/Legislative
Implementation: Town Council, Police*

11.1.4.e. Ensure that police staffing is sufficient to ensure effective law enforcement during the tourist season.

*Implication: Capital/Budget
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager, Police*

11.2. EMT and Fire

Goal

To provide adequate emergency medical services and fire protection.

Objective 11.2.1.

Provide adequate property identification and vehicular access and circulation in all new developments so police, fire and EMT personnel can respond to calls as quickly as possible.

Proposed commercial and residential developments are reviewed by the Fire Marshal to ensure that adequate vehicular access and circulation is being provided. During development reviews, the Town should consider the Fire Marshal's report and recommendations, thus ensuring the needs of the Fire District are considered during development reviews.

The State Fire Code requires marking new commercial and residential buildings so emergency personnel can respond to emergencies. The Town Building Inspector should ensure that addresses are properly marked both during construction and before a certificate of occupancy is posted.

Implementation Strategies

11.2.1.a. Ensure adequate vehicular access and circulation when new construction proposals are reviewed and submitted.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Planning Commission,
Fire District, Community Development*

11.2.1.b. Ensure that street signs in new developments are installed per Town specifications prior to construction of structures.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Public Works*

11.2.1.c. Require and ensure that all residential and commercial buildings have addresses that are clearly visible from the street both during construction and after occupancy.

*Implication: Policy/Legislative
Implementation: Planning Commission,
Community Development, Fire District*

11.2. EMT and Fire

Goal

To provide adequate emergency medical services and fire protection.

Objective 11.2.2.

Continue to support and work with the Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District to ensure that EMT, ambulance and fire services sufficiently cover future growth needs.

The Town currently supports the Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District through a one percent (1%) transient room tax (TRT). The money generated by the TRT is shared with the Fire District in order to fund emergency medical services (ambulance and EMTs).

Fire operations are funded through stand-by fees assessed on property in Rockville and Springdale. The fees are designed to be higher for commercial uses that have a higher potential for fire related emergencies.

Future growth in Zion Canyon, particularly in the number of hotel/motel rooms will require fire district personnel to be better equipped and trained.

Implementation Strategies

11.2.2.a. Ensure ordinances support and aid emergency services.

*Implication: Policy/Legislative
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager, Rockville/Springdale Fire District*

11.2.2.b. Continue to show support for the ambulance service.

*Implication: Capital/Budget
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager*

11.2.2.c. Consider an ordinance amendment that would require fire suppression sprinkler systems in buildings and structures at high fire risk, especially those in the foothills, large buildings, and commercial structures.

*Implication: Policy/Legislative
Implementation: Town Council, Planning Commission, Community Development*

11.2.2.d. Encourage a partnership with the Fire District to seek funding sources to cover EMT and fire needs associated with future growth.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager, Rockville/Springdale Fire District*



Picture 1 – Fire Station in Springdale

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Objective 11.2.2. (cont)

Continue to support and work with the Springdale/Rockville Fire Protection District to ensure that EMT, ambulance and fire services sufficiently cover future growth needs.

The Town and the Fire District should partner to identify various EMT and fire funding sources, including federal and state money and public/private partnerships.

Implementation Strategies (cont)

- 11.2.2.e Encourage a partnership with the NPS for training, resources and service sharing.

Implication: Action/Program

Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager, Rockville/Springdale Fire District

11.3. Health Services

Goal

To support private provision of health care services.

Objective 11.3.1.

Maintain current level of medical services.

Medical services in town are currently provided by the Zion Canyon Medical Clinic. The facility is located adjacent to the Town offices on Lion Boulevard.

The Town does not currently directly operate or sponsor the provision of medical services, nor does it intend to in the future. However, the Town should identify ways to support the existing medical facilities and to promote expanded medical services and facilities. These efforts should focus on promoting an environment in which private medical service providers can successfully operate.

Implementation Strategies

- 11.3.1.a. Support existing medical services and identify opportunities to support expanded private medical services.

*Implication: Policy/Legislative
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager*



Picture 2 – Zion Canyon Medical Clinic building located adjacent to Town Hall on Lion Boulevard.

11.3. Health Services

Goal

To support private provision of health care services.

Objective 11.3.2.

Explore options for expanded medical services.

As Springdale continues to grow, the need for expanded medical services will grow as well. While the sufficiency of the existing clinic is currently debated, future residents and visitors will require more services than presently available.

To facilitate more medical services, the Town may want to consider building a medical facility that could be leased to one or more physicians. Lease rates for such a facility must be structured to cover applicable bonding and operation and maintenance costs.

Implementation Strategies

11.3.2.a. Consider the construction of a medical services building for lease to physicians or other medical providers.

*Implication: Capital/Budget
Implementation: Town Council, Planning Commission, Town Manager, Community Development*

11.3.2.b. Actively seek opportunities to bring expanded or enhanced medical services to Zion Canyon.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager, Zion Canyon Medical Clinic*

11.3.2.c. Work with medical service facilities in other municipalities to bring expanded or enhanced medical services to Zion Canyon.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Town Council, Town Manager, Zion Canyon Medical Clinic*

11.4. Emergency Management

Goal

To plan and prepare for major emergency events in the Town.

Objective 11.4.1.

Prepare for potential emergencies within the Town.

The unique location of the Town presents risks from natural disasters, including flooding, fire, earthquakes and landslides. The Town should prepare an emergency management plan that details responses for various emergencies and natural disasters.

Implementation Strategies

11.4.1.a. Prepare and adopt an Emergency Management Plan.

*Implication: Legislative/Policy
Implementation: Police Department,
Town Council*

11.4.1.b. Conduct necessary training to ensure that Town Staff is ready to implement emergency management procedures.

*Implication: Action/Program
Implementation: Police Department,
Administration*