





# BOOK 7: PUBLIC SAFETY

## Introduction

The Public Safety book addresses fire and emergency medical services, police protection, and hazards and emergency management with respect to natural, humanmade, and technological disasters. The primary objective of the Public Safety book is to identify the wide-ranging public services and resources that address public safety and ensure the basic needs of the City's residents are met. The goals and policies established in the Public Safety book are related to social services, community resiliency, natural hazards, climate change, hazardous materials, safe neighborhoods, and a strong social network.

# Goals and Policies

**PS-1 Provide services and coordinate with other agencies and organizations to support a safe and welcoming community and provide opportunities for access to social services that are accessible to all who need them.**

- PS-1.1** Support non-profit organizations that provide funding for social services.
- PS-1.2** Continue to partner with Snohomish County Housing Authority to provide **housing solutions** in Arlington.
- PS-1.3** Address the needs of unhoused individuals in Arlington by supporting individual safety to those experiencing homelessness through the Arlington Police Department, working toward housing stability, and participating in a regional approach to address homelessness.
- PS-1.4** Connect low-income residents and those at risk of becoming homeless to service organizations.
- PS-1.5** Maintain the Community Outreach program and social workers funded by the City of Arlington.
- PS-1.6** Support retention and expansion of medical offices and ambulance and EMT services consistent with community needs.
- PS-1.7** Support and expand facilities that provide access to resources and programs for Veterans and seniors.



**See the Housing Book for more housing policies.**

## **PS-2 Protect community members from hazards associated with critical areas and specific land uses.**

- PS-2.1** Regularly review critical areas, including geologic hazards, as part of the development review process. Require consistent compliance with critical areas provisions.
- PS-2.2** Prohibit development on unstable land.
- PS-2.3** Require land uses surrounding the Arlington Airport to be compatible with the operation of the airport and restrict development of potentially hazardous obstructions or other hazards to flight. Prohibit uses that may impact airport operations or do not meet aviation standards.



**Economic Stability  
and Vibrancy**

## **PS-3 Provide outreach and communications to support community preparedness, prevention, emergency response, mitigation, and recovery in an inclusive, equitable, compassionate, and efficient manner.**

- PS-3.1** Maintain an emergency management plan.
- PS-3.2** Maintain an emergency preparedness and response network.
- PS-3.3** Cooperate and coordinate with public safety agencies on a continuous basis.
- PS-3.4** Coordinate city-provided services and support other agencies in preparing for the capability to respond to natural disasters in an immediate way.
- PS-3.5** Provide robust training and exercise program in emergency management response operations for City employees.
- PS-3.6** Provide public safety and emergency services, support other agencies providing public safety and emergency services, and maintain sufficient response times in alignment with growth and development.



**Climate Adaption  
and Resiliency**

**PS-3.7** Use early warning notification systems to notify residents by wireless emergency alert of the need to evacuate in the event of an emergency.

**PS-3.8** Coordinate, design, and plan for public safety services and programs, including emergency management.

**PS-4 Provide support and education to Arlington residents related to the challenges of climate change to promote community resiliency.**

**PS-4.1** Provide effective leadership, inclusive decision-making, stakeholder involvement, and planning integration when addressing community resilience.

**PS-4.2** Ensure residents have access to resources that will enable survival of extreme weather events and the changing climate.

**PS-4.3** Improve access to better indoor air quality to protect against smoke and wildfire.

**PS-4.4** Offer community training and outreach materials on emergency prevention, preparedness, and response to build capacity among residents to respond to an emergency.

**PS-4.5** Strengthen programs that seek to minimize storm-induced **flooding hazards**.



**Climate Adaption  
and Resiliency**

**See related policies  
in the Capital  
Facilities and  
Environment Books  
regarding flood  
reduction.**

*City workers clearing snow from the Legion Park parking lot*



**PS-5**      **Minimize the risk to life and property caused by fires, floods, and geologic hazards.**

- PS-5.1**      Locate critical facilities and utilities in a way that minimizes exposure to hazards.
- PS-5.2**      Implement and enforce fire and building codes.
- PS-5.3**      Manage vegetation and the urban forest in compliance with the Wildland Urban Interface code to reduce combustible load, erosion, and other fire risks exacerbated by climate change.
- PS-5.4**      Continue to be in full compliance and good standing under the National Flood Insurance Program.
- PS-5.5**      Provide surface water management planning and related GIS analysis and stormwater modeling to reduce and minimize flooding risks and provide information to customers in emergency situations.
- PS-5.6**      Provide surface water management planning and related GIS analysis and stormwater modeling to reduce and minimize flooding risks.
- PS-5.7**      Implement and enforce regulations to minimize seismically related structural hazards in new and existing buildings.
- PS-5.8**      Work with other public agencies to reduce potential damage from earthquakes to “lifeline” utility, economic, and transportation systems.
- PS-5.9**      Provide funding for agencies minimizing the risk to life and property in Arlington, including but not limited to the Arlington Police, EMT, and fire department services.



**Climate Adaption  
and Resiliency**

**See related policies  
in the Environment  
Book regarding  
natural hazards.**

*Flooding in Island Crossing*



## **PS-6 Minimize health and safety impacts related to the use, storage, manufacture, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials.**

- PS-6.1** Review proposed facilities that would produce or store hazardous materials, gas, natural gas, or other fuels. Identify, and require feasible mitigation for, any significant risks.
- PS-6.2** Plan to prevent industrial and transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, and enhance the City’s capacity to respond to such incidents
- PS-6.3** Through enforcement of standard conditions of approval and relevant code provisions, ensure buildings and sites are or have been investigated for the presence of hazardous materials and/or waste contamination before development. If there is reason to believe an existing building or site may contain hazardous materials that pose a threat to possible users.
- PS-6.4** Promote responsible energy use and energy facilities that do not significantly affect public safety or the natural environment.



**Climate Adaption  
and Resiliency**

## **PS-7 Deliver police services in a manner consistent with the values of the community members of Arlington.**

- PS-7.1** Annually review the Level of Service (LOS) provided by the Arlington Police Department.
- PS-7.2** Deliver police services in a professional, timely, objective, and impartial manner.
- PS-7.3** Interact respectfully with everyone, using force only per Arlington Police Department policy.
- PS-7.4** Maintain a police department environment that is open, accessible, responsive, and seeks feedback in a way that is beneficial to Arlington residents, workers, and visitors.
- PS-7.5** Emphasize the need for the police force to have positive, day-to-day interactions with the public that encourage collaboration on problem-solving, rather than responding only to crises.
- PS-7.6** Work with social services agencies and providers to explore potential mutual strategies to address social problems.
- PS-7.7** Set benchmarks to not only reduce violence and the incidence of crimes but to increase the sense of security throughout the city.



**Neighborhoods  
and Connectivity**

*City of Arlington Police Department  
vehicles*



## PS-8 Foster safety and community involvement in all Arlington neighborhoods.

- PS-8.1** Create a Community Liaison position which would manage discussions between the City residents, community representatives, and homeowner associations, to build trust, increase transparency, and give weight to community concerns.
- PS-8.2** Apply Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles in the design of new development as identified in the National Crime Prevention Council's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidebook.
- PS-8.3** Work with Arlington Public Schools to support schools as safe places for students, teachers, staff, and visitors and as places where all youth can experience success in education and preparation for future productive lives.
- PS-8.4** Encourage the development of partnerships among the City, schools, social services providers, and others to address the needs of children and families.
- PS-8.5** Maintain the School Resource Officer in Arlington Public Schools to build relationships with students and be available during emergency situations.
- PS-8.6** Identify high-risk accident locations and develop countermeasure strategies to improve the safety at these locations as funding allows.
- PS-8.7** Investigate and mitigate community-driven safety traffic concerns.
- PS-8.8** Provide local safety improvements and traffic-calming measures.



**Neighborhoods  
and Connectivity**

*Fun activities at the Police  
Department Bike Rodeo*



**PS-9 Create and support strong, vibrant social networks. Provide a public realm including parks, trails, and recreation facilities that promotes social interaction and community cohesiveness.**

- PS-9.1** Identify, enhance, and create safe, inviting, and accessible **venues, parks, recreational facilities, and community places** that encourage beneficial social interaction and community cohesiveness.
- PS-9.2** Provide walkable and bikeable streets, as well as trail systems, to encourage **active transportation** to and from daily origins and destinations while promoting healthy, active lifestyles.
- PS-9.3** Build neighborhood identity and improve communication between residents and the City.
- PS-9.4** Bring community members, organizations, and neighborhoods together to support events and activities which provide opportunities to improve communication of community resources.



**See related policies in the Land Use and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Books for more information about recreational and community facilities.**

**See related policies in the Transportation Book regarding multi-modal transportation.**