



# Snohomish County Fire District 21

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**"We aspire to serve our community with professionalism, honesty, education and integrity by building a firm foundation that provides safety and security for all."**

## Minimum Standard of Cover for Snohomish County Fire District 21

Snohomish County Fire District 21 believes that it is the responsibility of the District to provide a safe and quick response for its Fire and EMS service. We believe, based off NFPA 1710 and 1720 as well as the NIST studies, that our department, at a minimum, should supply 3 person Engine companies that can reach 90% of our District within 10 minutes. We also believe that they must be trained to a level of FF1 and EMT-B as a minimum. We also believe that continued education is of the utmost importance; with FF2, Swift Water Technician and Hazmat Operations levels be achieved within two years of employment. Our apparatus will receive regular maintenance to maintain them at a top level of performance also.

As an executive board consisting of the Board of Fire Commissioners as well as the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief, these are the options available to us to possibly achieve these minimum standards:

*Contract with the City of Arlington Fire Department for Fire and EMS service to our Southern District and hire two Employees to achieve Three (3) people on duty at Station 49*

### COST

- The cost to Fire District 21 would be approximately \$500k-\$835K for the contract
- The cost of hiring two employees would be \$225,000

### PROS

- Arlington is a mostly career department with high checks and balances in place
- Arlington is a full service agency that also offers ALS services

### CONS

- There is no guaranteed increase in service for the Southern District
- Currently, no Fire Station within 5 miles for a majority of the Residents in South District
- Arlington Fire units are consistently out of service due to an increased call volume
- ISO rating for residents would not increase
- Would not be compliant with NFPA 1710 and 1720 guidelines

### VARIABLES

- Arlington could staff a station if Fire District 21 built it for approx. 3.5 million (staffing cost of \$995,000), not including OT, administrative, facility and apparatus costs.

*Build a new Station to Cover South District and staff both with Three (3) person engine companies*

### COST

- New Station would cost approximately \$211,000 per year
- New employees would cost \$580,000 for South District, not including OT, administrative, facility and apparatus costs

### PROS

- NFPA 1710 and 1720 guidelines of 8-10 minute travel would be met



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Citizens would have a fire station within 5 miles and would receive a better ISO and WSRB rating

- SCFD would be self sufficient and not reliant on neighbors and mutual aid contracts.
- Additional units would be added into a stressed system, reducing call load

## CONS

- Adding a station and staffing requires an increase in taxes for a fire levy

## VARIABLES

- Possibility of a shared station with AFD
- Dependent on continued upkeep of levy rates

*Join a Regional Fire Authority (RFA)*

## COST

- Taxpayers would most likely pay \$1.50 per thousand for fire coverage
- Same costs as building a new fire station and, possibly, additional in staffing

## PROS

- Larger organization adds professional standards that smaller departments can't meet
- Service level increase due to NFPA guidelines and union contracts
- Cost savings from combined administration adds increases for line staff
- Less mutual aid due to all departments being the same, combined transport revenue

## CONS

- Local BOC doesn't have as much control or say in fire department operation
- Becoming part of a larger organization can cause loss of identity

## VARIABLES

- Combining for an RFA may not cause levy to be at \$1.50, a financial study would be needed
- Getting Executive level support can be difficult: BOC, City Councils, Mayors