



Functional Cooperation

In the fall of 2015, The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association conducted a “Consolidation Study for the Darien-Woodridge & Lisle-Woodridge Fire Districts” commissioned by the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois. The study was completed and delivered to both districts on January 11, 2016. The primary purpose of this study was to determine the impact on emergency services response if the Lisle-Woodridge and Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection Districts were to consolidate into a single District. This project applied nationally accepted response and staffing standards to each department and evaluated the effectiveness of a consolidated response effort.

The study’s conclusions revealed that an operational consolidation of the Lisle-Woodridge and Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection Districts should occur and that the consolidation will benefit both entities. A steering committee was formed to oversee the process. The committee was comprised of Trustees, Chief Officers and Union representatives from both agencies. The committee has met every month since the study was completed (January 2016), and have worked diligently to develop a transition plan focusing on, but not limited to the following areas:

- Communications / Dispatch
- Information Technology / Scheduling
- Emergency Medical Services and Resource Hospitals
- Fire/Rescue Response
- Apparatus Typing, Placement and Reserve Capabilities
- Training

It is understood that a full consolidation is a major undertaking that could result in years of administrative and legal proceedings. As a result, at this time the committee is embracing a **Functional Cooperation** model in the interim to gain many of the advantages outlined in the study. These advantages include:

- Providing a safer, more efficient Fire/EMS response closer to the recommended staffing per NFPA 1710 (*Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*)
- Providing a more efficient, cost effective use of resources and manpower by the combined agencies
- Use of a combined dispatch allowing for the geographically closer units to be dispatched regardless of District boundaries
- Providing more consistency in training and Standard Operating Guidelines

We encourage everyone interested to view the study in its entirety which can be found on both agencies websites: www.dwfd.org and www.lwfd.org . Effective May 1, 2017, the Darien-Woodridge and Lisle-Woodridge Fire District will begin joint operations.