

Wise County ESD #3 Strategic Plan 2026 – 2031

Things to consider when writing this plan:

1. What are we doing now?
2. Why are we doing it?
3. Are we doing it well, or is it working?
4. How can we do it better?

We can fit everything that we do into 4 categories. We should look at each of these categories and analyze what we are doing well (strengths), what areas are we deficient (weaknesses), how can we do it better (opportunities), and what is keeping us from achieving our goal (threats)?

- Category #1 – Standards and Training
 - How are we measuring up against state and national standard
 - Is our current level of training sufficient
 - Strengths:
 - Weaknesses:
 - Opportunities:
 - Threats:
- Category #2 – Facilities and Equipment
 - Are our facilities adequate
 - Are our apparatus adequate, can we better align our assets to cover the district more effectively
 - Strengths:
 - Weaknesses:
 - Opportunities:
 - Threats:
- Category #3 – Programs
 - Do we have or do we need to develop any programs to enhance the effectiveness of the district

- TIFMAS, Community Risk Reduction, Community Education (CPR/First Aid, School Programs)
 - Strengths:
 - Weaknesses:
 - Opportunities:
 - Threats:

- Category #4 – Internal Development
 - Staffing demands
 - Health and Wellness for Fire Fighters
 - Increase pride and ownership in day-to-day operations
 - Strengths:
 - Weaknesses:
 - Opportunities:
 - Threats:

Review of the 46 Responses that we have from the public:

1. How did you learn about WCESD #3?
 - 43% of respondents said that they learned about us through social media.
 - Is this sufficient, how can we improve
2. How important are emergency services (fire department) to you in your community?
 - 96% of respondents said that they are extremely important
3. What services do you believe WCESD 3 provides?
 - This was a click all that apply question. 29% of respondents chose fire and EMS response.
 - 15% indicated they believe that we do fire prevention and inspections
 - We have the capability to do this, but we are far out on this part of the business. County handles all inspections/investigations.
4. What do you feel are the biggest emergency-related concerns in your area?
 - 51% said medical emergencies
 - 24% said motor vehicle accidents
5. How confident are you that emergency responders can reach you quickly in an emergency?
 - 33% chose extremely confident
 - 33% chose somewhat confident

- 24% were neutral
 - There were only 2 respondents that said extremely not confident
6. Have you checked your address accuracy on Google or other mapping apps?
- 74% of people said they had
 - The others stated they had not but will now.
7. Rate the importance of improvements that you would most like to see from WCEDS#3
- Faster response times topped the list
 - Followed by more personnel
 - Better equipment
 - More stations
 - Transparency and communication
 - Community education/outreach
8. How well do you feel WCESD#3 communicates with residents
- 28% stated that we communicate extremely well
 - 30% stated that we communicate somewhat well
 - 26% were neutral
 - One person said we do not communicate well at all
 - 13% stated that they have not seen any communication
9. What is the best way for WCESD #3 to share information with you
- Social media got the top vote at 63%
 - Next in line was email at 17%
10. Does the fire department have any full-time employees
- 11% of people thought we do
 - 11% of people said we have part-time employees
 - 28% stated that we are all volunteers
 - 50% did not know
11. How many active volunteer firefighters do you think the district has
- 37% did not know
 - 30% think we have 10 – 24
 - 28% think we have 5 – 9
12. What does it cost annually to fully (4 – person) staff one engine company 365 – 7 days a week
- 31% felt it would cost between 500 to 100 thousand dollars
 - 29% felt it would cost between 250 to 499 thousand dollars
 - 26% felt it would cost between 100 to 249 thousand dollars
13. Where does the fire department obtain its water from

- 50% of the respondents feel that we get it from a combination of municipal water systems (hydrants), private water systems (wells), and tanker/shuttle operations.
- 22% did not know.

14. How far is the closest hydrant to your house

- 43% had no idea
- 33% said there is no hydrant within a mile of their house
- 7% said there is a hydrant on their property (at the curb)

15. The last question was a free-for-all that citizens could ask questions. Of all the responses that we will respond to I feel the one that needs our immediate attention is the inquiry as to when we will get an ambulance closer so response times will not be so long.