



The Village of Glenview

Glenview Fire Department Reorganization Plan provides for more emergency response services to protect our community

Answers and facts about changes that expand ambulance service for high demand

We are grateful for Glenview's first responders who work to provide emergency services to residents and businesses throughout the Village and in certain unincorporated areas.

Dispatched from Glenview's fire stations, emergency responders do much more than put out fires. In fact, more than 65 percent of Glenview's calls are for emergency services to aid in medical emergencies and provide ambulance transport services to an area hospital, and that demand is increasing. All Glenview firefighters are required to be certified paramedics who are trained to stabilize patients and transport them to the hospital when needed.

Understanding the ongoing shift in the community's emergency needs, the Village Board recently reached consensus to close the under-utilized Station 13, at 831 East Lake Avenue, and realign Fire Department resources among the four other fire stations serving Glenview. The decision, based on data, prioritizes public safety as well as the Village Board's fiduciary responsibility for taxpayer dollars.

The resulting reorganization plan answers the need for additional ambulance services in parts of the Village where ambulance calls have increased. The realignment of emergency resources provides more ambulance service where needed.

The number of firefighters/ EMS responders employed by the Village will remain unchanged and there will be no layoffs as part of the reorganization, while the number of 24-hour ambulances will increase from two to four.

Following are facts to address some questions raised regarding the reorganization plan:

Q: Why is the Village making these changes now?

The reorganization plan is important because it **adds ambulance coverage for Glenview residents and businesses in overworked areas** and makes **better use of taxpayer dollars**. In short, it provides more services where they are needed and still maintains the same number of emergency responders throughout the Village without additional costs to taxpayers. In fact, the reorganization plan is projected to save tax dollars.

The plan **adds more resources to help over-worked ambulance rescue teams**. With the increased demand for emergency medical services and the fact that less than 2 percent of all calls represent actual fires, this plan ensures Glenview can quickly transport those who are sick or injured to medical care facilities. The reorganization plan puts equipment and trained personnel where they are needed most.

Q. Why is Station 13 closing? Won't this move make east-side residents and businesses more vulnerable?

The reorganization plan actually increases community safety by more fully utilizing **Village resources, which in return will help reduce waste**. It also better uses **taxpayer dollars** by adding ambulance support in areas most in need.

Due to safety needs necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Station 13 was closed several months in 2020 and response times from all other stations were within Glenview's internal response standard of 6 minutes for emergency medical and 6:20 minutes for fire calls. Data supports the reorganization plan that will **help ensure emergency personnel and equipment are positioned where they are needed most** to protect residents and businesses.

Data analysis shows that in 2019 Station 13 spent on average less than 37 minutes in a 24-hour day responding to emergency incidents. This is in contrast with the ambulance at Station 7 (the busiest of all Glenview ambulances), which receives many more calls and spent on average 4 hours and 49minutes responding to emergency calls in a 24- hour day. This is in part due to the fact that ambulance 7 is responsible for covering two response areas in the night time hours as ambulance 8 is usually not staffed at night. The reorganization plan **better distributes personnel and equipment to address the higher call volume in certain areas of town.**

Q. Why isn't Station 13 as busy as other stations?

Station 13's district responds to fewer calls than the other station areas because of low call volume in that area and its close proximity to other stations. For example, in 2019 Engine 13 was in service responding to calls, on average, 17 minutes per day within its district. Eleven of these minutes were EMS and 6 minutes were fire-related calls. On average, in 2019 Engine 13 spent 36 minutes per day responding to all calls regardless of where they occurred. Additionally, Ambulance 6 spends on average 25 minutes per day responding to calls in Station 13's district. Station 13 does not currently have an ambulance, which requires Ambulance 6 to respond for the purpose of transporting patients to the hospital.

The reorganization plan will add additional ambulances allowing for a more equitable distribution of workload based on the demand for service. Additionally this will increase the availability of resources in high demand response areas when they are needed.

Q. Why doesn't the Village just add more emergency responders and add new ambulances?

The Village currently has more fire suppression units than are needed. Four fire suppression units provide more than adequate resources to respond to fire emergency calls. The Village is committed to balancing the protection of all Glenview residents and businesses with being fiscally responsible with taxpayers' dollars. The Board wanted the data and facts to inform making a responsible decision for the community. The reorganization plan will more evenly distribute **ambulance emergency response services** throughout the Village.

The plan adds services so there will be **four ambulances providing 24-hour service** in the Village. This means emergency responders will be able to better deliver time-critical response, effective patient care, **and patient transport** to a hospital. This is true because fire engines cannot transport someone who is sick or injured to a medical facility rapidly.

Q: What will happen to the Station 13 site?

A review of options for the property is expected to be considered.

For more information, visit the Village of Glenview website at glenview.il.us.