ELEMENT 7: SAFETY

VISION In conjunction with the growth of the Tucson metropolitan region, local governments have taken, and will continue to take, the necessary measures to assure that our communities are secure, enjoyable places to live. The regional vision for safety promotes high quality public health, safety, and welfare services in order to secure a safe and healthy environment for the region's population.

The region will strive for improved law enforcement, fire, and sanitation services. Mutual aid agreements between neighboring law enforcement and firefighting agencies will be continued. Police protection will be enhanced through improved design criteria and police/citizen interaction in home and neighborhood safety. Regional preparedness plans will be established and updated in order to provide, at a minimum, adequate responses to a variety of emergencies.

All of the jurisdictions within the Tucson metropolitan region are strongly committed to assuring safe air and water, including groundwater resources, through appropriate government regulation and enforcement.

The *Regional Vision* focuses on recycling efforts and hazardous waste management, including careful siting of facilities that are potential pollution sources. In anticipation of potentially hazardous human activities, enhanced regulations, including floodplain, hillside, and airport approach ordinances, will be key components. Local governments will reduce the endangerment to people and property from aircraft around airports and from flood hazard areas, unsafe construction practices, and seismic and subsidence hazards. The region is committed to establishing community education programs regarding pollution and recycling.

A safe and healthy environment is a primary regional goal.

Finally, the vision incorporates improved traffic safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles through public education, roadway design, and implementation programs generated by all the jurisdictions of our region.

Livable Tucson Goals

Safe Neighborhoods
Includes how safe people feel in their neighborhoods, crime, policing, and risk perceptions.

Clean Air and Quality Water
Includes reduced pollution and provision of clean, potable water.

Engaged Community and Responsive Government
Includes involvement of citizens in the community, volunteering, neighborhood participation, responsiveness of government organizations to citizen input, and the connection between government and the people.

Introduction   Safety policies are intended to provide a framework to address natural and human induced hazards through prevention and emergency response. The Safety element seeks to guide the continuous development of preventative measures that address existing and potential hazards, while also providing contingent emergency response procedures in the instance of a local, regional, or national emergency. These policies encompass issues that include geologic/hydrologic data gathering and mapping, standards for peak load water supply, minimum road widths, structural standards, and emergency and evacuation procedures. By providing guidance to implement these preventative and reactive measures for integration within other planning activities, the City can promote the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens more effectively and more comprehensively.

Natural Hazard Areas

Background

Natural hazards, such as flooding, subsidence, earth faults, and unstable slopes or soils, present a threat to life and property and may necessitate costly public improvements. The City should continue to establish and maintain measures to identify these hazard areas and to review and regulate development where such hazards occur.

Policy 1:   **Continue to identify and map areas with unstable slopes and soils, earth faults, flooding potential, or other natural hazards.**

Supporting Policies   1.1   Promote physical resources research with qualified local, state, and federal governmental agencies to identify and map natural hazard areas.

1.2   Encourage organizing and cataloging of existing research and studies on potential and known hazard areas, including geologic and hydrologic hazard areas, and making this information available to the general public, commercial interests, and governmental organizations.

Policy 2: **Maintain measures to protect life and property in natural hazard areas.**

Supporting Policies

2.1   Continue to administer and update adopted floodplain regulations to reduce the damage and severity of flood events.

2.2   Continue to work with local governments to adopt unified floodplain regulations in the interest of comprehensive floodplain management based on most recent floodplain mapping.

2.3   Promote protection and preservation of natural drainage systems as the primary emphasis of City stormwater management efforts. Nonstructural solutions to floodway hazards shall be the preferred strategy over structural solutions.

2.4   Continue to administer and update adopted steep slope and unstable soil regulations to reduce the threat to life and property.

2.5   Continue to maintain, coordinate, and update flooding, seismic, storm, or natural disaster plans.

Human Activity Hazards

Background

Hazards resulting from human developments or activities - such as faulty construction; poor site layout; improper location of land uses; airport approaches or high noise areas; overpumping of ground water; or use, storage, or disposal of explosive, flammable, toxic, or other dangerous materials - may pose a threat to life and property and may necessitate costly public improvements. To reduce or eliminate these hazards, the City needs to continue to establish measures to identify hazard areas and to review and regulate development where such hazards occur.

Policy 3: **Continue to maintain, update, and administer measures to provide the safe and orderly establishment of human activities and development.**
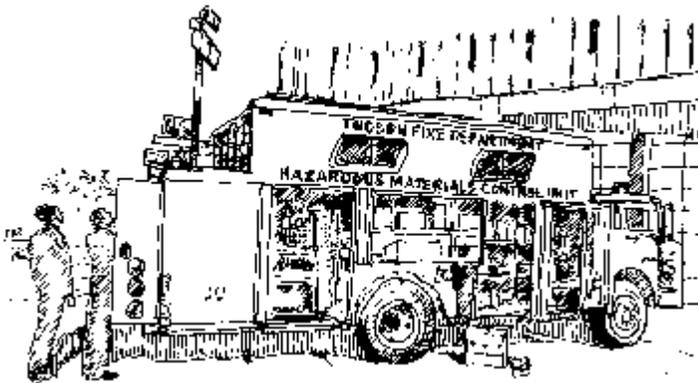
Supporting Policies

3.1   Investigate and research new approaches or techniques to improve the management of human activities and development.

3.2   Encourage preparation of plans, regulations, or ordinances to lessen safety problems in the location and design of land uses and the construction and remodeling of structures.

3.3   Encourage preparation of regulations or ordinances to assign minimum road widths according to specific capacity projections and programs.

Policy 4: **Continue to maintain and promote measures to protect life and property from hazards resulting from human activities and development.**

Supporting Policies 4.1 Continue to encourage existing research and studies on potential and known hazards to public health and safety and make this information available to the general public, commercial interests, and governmental organizations.

4.2 Continue to conduct and participate in studies with other agencies to identify existing and potential hazards to public health and safety.

4.3 Encourage preparation of plans, regulations, or ordinances to protect life and property in the location and design of land uses; the construction and remodeling of structures; the use, transport, or storage of hazardous or dangerous materials; and the design and construction of waste disposal or storage sites.

4.4 Continue to promote programs that encourage or educate the public in the proper handling and disposal of household hazardous waste or dangerous materials.

4.5 Continue to study and evaluate methods to reduce the amount of damage from subsidence.

4.6 Continue to maintain, coordinate, and update hazardous spills or accident/disaster and community evacuation plans.

4.7 Continue to maintain the critical centralized infrastructure and plan for enhancements to both the emergency and general City communications systems.

4.8 Continue to evaluate peak load water supply requirements at regular intervals.

Emergency Services

Background The prevention of crime or fires can be defined as the assessment of a crime or fire risk, along with the action needed to reduce or eliminate that risk. Frequently, conditions for public safety can be enhanced and property loss reduced by utilizing land use planning and site design techniques, application and enforcement of Fire and Building Codes, and the proper location of fire hydrants or other public facilities to deter criminal activity and reduce the potential for fires. In addition, the provision of first response rescue/first aid to individuals as a result of illnesses or injury from ill health, crime, fire, natural disasters, or other accidents is a key safety service.

Policy 5: **Continue to maintain high quality and efficiency in police services to the extent that is consistent with policies and finances of the City.**
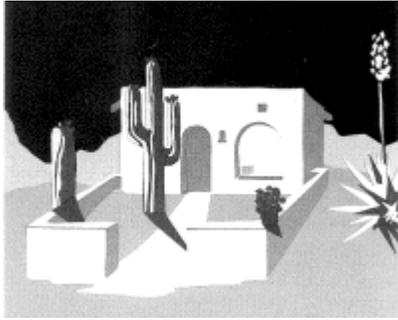
Supporting Policies

5.1   Provide effective, visible police presence in the community; timely, appropriate response to calls for service; and appropriate involvement in the resolution of problems.

5.2   Provide timely, relevant information to both officers and citizens.

5.3   Plan and prepare for the future service needs of the community.

5.4   Pursue alternative means of funding, volunteer services, and alternate resources to improve police services.

5.5   Enhance the Police Department's knowledge of the public's perception and expectation of law enforcement services.

5.6   Emphasize the role of community members, governmental agencies, and the private sector in the development of a successful crime prevention effort.

5.7   Promote excellence in police service by providing an environment conducive to personal satisfaction and professional enrichment.

5.8   Promote the safe and orderly movement of traffic on city streets through the use of safety engineering, education, and enforcement.

5.9   Promote a safe environment for the community's youth while investing in their healthy growth and development through involvement with parents, schools, and youth activities.

5.10   Pursue the reduction of the overall narcotic problem through participation with the community in education and intensified enforcement programs.

5.11   Encourage an interactive process within the community to address and solve problems of crime, substance abuse, public safety, and quality of life.

5.12   Encourage and support continued research and the use of new concepts and technological improvements.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design "Safe by Design"

5.13   Encourage crime prevention through the development and use of specific design criteria, standards codes, regulations, and development standards, such as "Safe by Design" guidelines.

5.14   Continue to conduct police facility planning studies to determine where and when new facilities will be required.

5.15   Continue to educate the public on issues of personal safety and crime prevention by emphasizing that all citizens need to play a part in crime prevention in order for it to be effective.

Policy 6:   **Continue to maintain high quality and efficiency in fire, hazardous materials, and medical services.**

Supporting Policies   6.1   Continue to conduct fire and rescue/first aid planning studies to determine where and when new facilities will be required.

6.2   Encourage and support continued research and the use of new concepts and technological improvements for fire prevention, fire suppression, hazardous materials management, and medical service delivery.

6.3   Administer a continuously reviewed and updated *Uniform Fire Code* to promote the public's safety in occupancies that must comply with the *Code*.

6.4   Educate the community about fire prevention and safety through a comprehensive public education program.