

Public Service Update: Adjustments to Fire Department Operating Model

March 2, 2026

Following a recent structural evaluation of Fire Station 1, the Westwood Fire Department has temporarily adjusted its operating model to have all Fire Department personnel and front-line apparatus operate out of Fire Station 2. The change was made after a structural engineer determined that key apparatus bays at Fire Station 1 are not suitable for housing large fire vehicles at this time. This model will ensure that the continued, high-level emergency services are delivered to our community.

To maintain strong response coverage across town, the Department has coordinated with neighboring communities. Through our established mutual aid agreements, these neighboring fire departments will be dispatched to incidents when they are able to arrive first. This regional response model ensures that residents continue to receive reliable emergency service. Westwood appreciates the aid of its neighbors; however, this regional arrangement is not a permanent substitution for a fully functional FS1.

During the day and when weather permits, an engine and ambulance may be strategically located to maintain a geographic presence on the Fire Station 1 side of town. However, to protect water, medications, and specialized equipment onboard the apparatus from freezing temperatures, all staffed apparatus must be housed indoors overnight at Fire Station 2. As a result, Fire Station 1 will continue to be closed during overnight hours.

The Town recognizes the importance of having fire personnel maintain a presence on both sides of town and is actively working to establish temporary operations on the Fire Station 1 side as soon as possible. Concurrently, the Town is assessing long term needs of the Fire Department, including the replacement of FS1 with an appropriate new facility.

As we make these adjustments to the Westwood Fire Department's operating model, we are focused on keeping our firefighters safe and delivering dependable emergency services to the Westwood community. We will continue to provide updates on our website and social media as more information becomes available.