

# Frederick-Firestone Fire & Emergency Medical Services



## Your Fire District Needs Your Help, Please.

Under staffed – 12 firefighter/paramedics needed now. National Standards require fire trucks to have four-person staffing on your fire trucks. Currently, your fire trucks have two-person staffing. This is a huge liability for you and your family's safety along with your firefighters' safety. The District is striving to get three-person staffing on fire trucks, which is why 12 firefighter/paramedics are needed now.

## How many residents does the Fire District serve and protect?

The District currently serves approximately 34,000 residents, with an average 7% increase per year the last five years. This number does not include daytime population or concurrent visitor transitioning through our community at any given time of day.

## Why does the Fire District need more funding when my property values increase?

Even though property values increase across the front range, we lose funding through the Gallagher Amendment which ratchets down the Residential Assessment Rate (RAR). The District's last mill levy increase was in 2006. Now we need to bridge this funding gap we have by requesting a 2.54 mill levy increase before services become compromised any more.

## Why are there more calls for services related to emergencies?

This is caused by population growth, increase traffic flow in and through our community and in fact, in the past five years, our emergency calls for service has increased by 50%. Growth has outpaced our budget 2:1, because the Fire District has not asked for more money and has operated off of the same mill levy for 13 years.

In 2018, Frederick-Firestone Fire District personnel touched over 19,000 lives through emergency calls, non-emergency calls, educational events and everyday service calls reducing our communities' risk. Calls for service are projected to increase 9% annually.

## How has the community been involved in the Fire District's planning?

Concerned citizens formed the Citizens for a Safer Frederick-Firestone in early summer of 2018. This committee is made up of over 30 community leaders, business owners and residents who have a concern in creating a safer community. The District has hosted public forums, community meetings, surveys, focus groups and planning updates for over a year on the gaps your Fire and Emergency Medical Services District is experiencing. We want our citizens to be informed and we remain transparent at every level.

## How is the Fire District funded?

Many people believe that the Towns of Frederick and Firestone provide the Fire District funding. This is not true. Both Towns are separate governing agencies from the Fire District. The Fire District is governed by its own citizen elected board of directors and is its own taxing entity. Even though we have Intergovernmental Agreements with the two Towns to provide fire, rescue and emergency medical services, we do not receive any funding or revenue from the Towns, County or the State of Colorado to provide this service.

As a Title 32 Special District in the State of Colorado, we are not allowed to impose any type of sales tax or impact fees on new development as well. Our main funding is strictly property tax, in return limits our funding mechanisms to maintain and expand services without your support.

## What are we considering?

Potential ballot question in November 2019:

- Increase the annual fire district budget the first fiscal year by \$1,984,744 through a 2.54 mill levy increase.
- For each \$100,000 home value, the annual tax impact would be approximately \$18.00 a year.
- Your Fire & EMS District mill levy has been unchanged since 2006.
- As a Fire District we are not able to impose a developer impact fee or impose a sales tax for funding emergency services.

## What happens if nothing is done?

- You and your family's safety and property is compromised.
- Shut down fire stations and move current personnel to fill vacant spots.
- Increased response times to you or your family's emergency.
- Current fleet will not be replaced and out of service times for fleet will increase.
- Insurance Service Office ratings will increase causing home and business insurance rates to rise.
- We will continue to lose valuable firefighters and paramedics to neighboring agencies who are able to compensate more.
- Tax dollars will continue to be utilized for ongoing hiring, training and equipping replacement personnel.

## What is our Mission for you?

- To provide the highest level of life and property protection to all of its residents and visitors.
- Every resident of FFFPD to be within 5 miles of a fire station.
- Quick response times to your emergency.
- Maintain low property and business insurance rates. Saving you money year after year.
- Community Risk Reduction such as code enforcement, education and community service.

## Who does FFFPD serve?

FFFPD serves all residents within the Towns of Frederick and Firestone, as well as unincorporated areas surrounding both Towns. In 2006, the population of FFFPD was 14,000. Today the population of FFFPD is more than 34,000. FFFPD responds to approximately 2,500 emergency service calls per year.

## What services does FFFPD provide?

- Fire Protection/Property Conservation
- Traffic Accident Response/Medical Service
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance Service
- Public Education in the Schools
- All Hazard Special Rescue
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Response
- Fire & Life Safety Business Inspections
- Car Seat Safety Checks & Installations
- Wildland Fire and Urban Interface
- Community CPR and First Aid Courses
- Emergency Management for large-scale incidents, such as the 2013 flood

## How can you contact FFFPD with further questions or feedback?

FFFPD can be reached by e-mail or phone:



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**Help Us Maintain Your Fire and Emergency Medical Services**