



# Lakeport Fire Protection District

An independent all risk fire district proudly serving since 1894

## About your Fire District:

The Lakeport Fire Protection District provides fire protection and ALS ambulance service to the residents in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of Lakeport. The Lakeport Fire Protection District operates out of two fire station locations. Headquarters (Station 50) located at 445 North Main Street and our second station (Station 52) located at 3600 Hill Road East.



Lakeport Fire responds to over 2,800 calls per year involving structure and wildland fires, vehicle accidents, technical rescue, hazardous materials, and medical aid. Our Main

Station is staffed with two personnel on duty at all times. We are a combination department, paid and volunteer. Our current paid staff includes one Chief, two Captains, four Firefighters, and one Administrative Assistant. Our volunteer staff consists of three Lieutenants and twenty-two Firefighters. Station 52, located in North Lakeport is staffed by volunteer, and off duty firefighters.



## How is the District Funded?

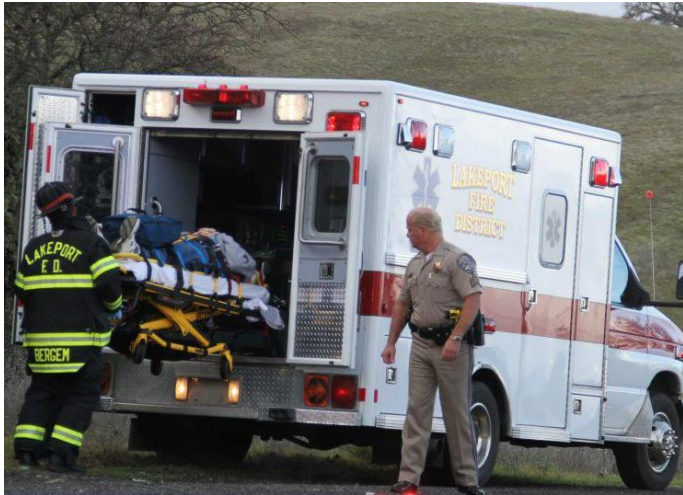
A small portion of the total property tax collected is allocated to special districts such as the Lakeport Fire Protection District. The District is currently funded from property tax revenue (31.5%), ambulance service fees (50.2%), the current parcel tax (10.7%) and the remaining (7.6%) from out of county fires and miscellaneous sources such as burn permits and ambulance memberships. The total revenue for the year ending June 30, 2018, was \$2,631,804.80.

The parcel tax was created to supplement this revenue. When the fire tax was imposed in 1996, there were just over 900 calls and the District did not serve as the primary ambulance service. In 2017, there were around 2800 calls with the District now acting as the primary ambulance service. Approximately 80% of calls are for emergency medical services.

Previously the District could staff at least two ambulances at all times. Unfortunately, the recently adopted budget, while in line with available revenue, does not allow for adequate staffing of our stations. The District can now only staff one ambulance at a time unless administrative staff is utilized to staff a second



ambulance. The lack of sufficient revenue combined with increased service costs and volume has left the District with a deficit close to \$1,000,000.00 to be sustainable.



## We want to be ready when you need us.

The District's revenue shortfalls are the result of several factors. In addition to rising labor costs, the District does not receive property tax allocation for approximately 23% of its service area due to County misalignment of revenues. The District is currently working with County staff to evaluate the tax rate areas.

The creation of the parcel tax in 1996 did not include an inflator for parcels outside of the City limits. There was however, an optional inflator for parcels in the City limits; regrettably, it was not adjusted appropriately for several years resulting in lost revenues. The District is looking to repeal the existing fire protection tax and levy a new tax of \$6.14 per benefit unit annually on each parcel. This new and higher tax will include an optional annual inflator for *all* parcels within the District and will create desperately needed revenue.

Finally, the District has seen consistent declines in overall ambulance revenues for multiple reasons, decreasing reimbursement by commercial payers, more patients on government-subsidized plans, and problems with billing companies resulting in a significant amount of lost revenue. The District has changed billing companies to address past billing concerns and is seeking additional grant funding to bridge the gap.

With the help of residents, we can reverse the deficiencies that have been created by lack of revenue. We can once again have staffed stations with engines that are reliable allowing for faster response times.

**We can be ready when you need us.**

## Your opinion matters.

Opinion polls show that more than 85% of residents believe the District has an outstanding reputation and is doing a good job considering the lack of funding and lower level of service. Also, the community survey shows more than 88% of residents agree there is a need for local stations to be staffed at all times. In addition to staffing shortages, items that increase response times such as outdated or unreliable equipment and Fire Stations with excessive maintenance issues are also considered to be very serious problems by more than half of the residents polled.

Do you agree with the statements above? Are you aware the District has been troubled with insufficient revenue for many years? The District has been forced to defer maintenance on equipment and stations. A majority of our equipment is at, or near the end of its useful life.

## Here's how you can help!

We need your help. If you are interested in assisting the District with raising awareness or funds needed to once again provide services at the level desired by our community please contact the District directly using the contact information listed below. Fundraising events have been very successful due to our community's generous support. We have fundraising opportunities as well as a need for assistance providing outreach to the community with information about the District and our future.

Please join us. The District will not raise the special tax rate without your approval. Attend the upcoming public hearing to discuss the future of our District.

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019  
TIME OF HEARING: 5:00 PM  
PLACE OF HEARING: Lakeport Fire Protection District  
Main Station Meeting Room  
445 N Main Street, Lakeport, CA

For question regarding this flyer or the future of our District, please contact us.

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Phone (707) 263-4396