

9. AMADOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Amador Fire Protection District (AFPD) provides fire prevention and protection, rescue and emergency medical services. Additionally, AFPD provides contract fire suppression and emergency medical services to the City of Plymouth.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

AFPD was formed in 1990 as a dependent special district of Amador County. The District was formed to provide fire, rescue and emergency medical services.

The principal act that governs the District is the Fire Protection District Law of 1987.¹⁸⁰ The principal act empowers fire districts to provide fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material response, ambulance, and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property.¹⁸¹ Districts must apply and obtain LAFCO approval to exercise services authorized by the principal act but not already provided (i.e., latent powers) by the district at the end of 2000.¹⁸²

Boundary

AFPD's boundary is entirely within Amador County. The bounds encompass approximately 491 square miles, constituting 85 percent of the unincorporated area in the County. The communities of Amador Pines, Fiddletown, Pioneer, Pine Grove, Volcano, Martell, Drytown, Willow Springs, and River Pines are within the AFPD bounds. Areas outside AFPD bounds include the five cities and territory within four other districts providing fire services: Jackson Valley Fire Protection District (JVFPD) (72 square miles), Lockwood Fire Protection District (LFPD) (19 square miles), Sutter Creek Fire Protection District (SCFPD), and Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (KMPUD) (16 square miles). Jackson Rancheria is federal land, and therefore also outside of AFPD bounds. Other providers serve portions of the District's boundary area through an aid agreement that provides for dispatching of the closest resource regardless of jurisdictional authority..

The District's bounds were expanded in 1994, when AFPD absorbed fire services from Pine Acres Community Services District, Pine Grove Community Services District, Volcano Community Services District, and CSA 1.

Sphere of influence

There is no record of LAFCO adopting an SOI for AFPD. After adoption of this MSR, LAFCO will adopt an SOI for the District.

¹⁸⁰ Health and Safety Code §13800-13970.

¹⁸¹ Health and Safety Code §13862.

¹⁸² Government Code §56824.10.

Local Accountability and Governance

The Amador County Board of Supervisors (BOS) is AFPD's governing board pursuant to an organizational option in the principal act. AFPD is one of three special districts overseen by Amador County BOS. District boards are to internally elect officers to the positions of president and vice-president of the board; the BOS has positions of chair and vice chair fulfill this requirement. For more information on the County BOS, see the Amador County profile (Chapter 32).

District information is accessible on the Amador County website. In addition, local reporters attend approximately 20 percent of meetings. There is no newsletter, but the District occasionally has a column in the Ledger-Dispatch regarding safety issues. The District reported that it has had no Brown Act violations in recent history.

With regard to customer service, the Chief is the District's primary ombudsman, although complaints are forwarded to the Board if warranted. Complaints may be submitted to the Chief or Board through a call, a letter, or in person. The District reported that no complaints were submitted in 2012.

The District demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with LAFCO. The agency responded to LAFCO's written questionnaires and cooperated with all document requests.

Management

Daily operations are managed by the Chief, a paid battalion chief, and two volunteer battalion chiefs. The Chief evaluates district performance by tracking response times and conducting monthly reviews of service call volume. The Chief reports to the Board at its regular meetings.

Personnel are accountable to the Chief and the battalion chiefs. The paid battalion chief conducts performance reviews of paid fire suppression personnel while the volunteer battalion chiefs conduct performance reviews of the volunteers.

Planning Documents

AFPD has a mission statement.

District financial planning efforts are completed through the County's annual budgets and annual audited fiscal statements. The most recent audit was completed for FY 12. The District produces a five-year capital improvement plan (CIP) annually. The most recent CIP was completed in 2013. It includes standards for all apparatuses and facilities, an allocation plan for existing equipment, and agency objectives.

Service Demand and Growth

Present land uses within the District's boundary area are primarily agricultural, with large areas of timber preserve zone and undeveloped, vacant land. Residential uses are concentrated in the central portion of the District, in developed areas and around Pine Grove and Buckhorn. Commercial land uses are located primarily in Martell, and also in the

Buckhorn, Red Corral and Pine Grove communities within district bounds. Nearly all land in the east is vacant; this land is within the Mokelumne wilderness.¹⁸³

Farming, ranching and mining are the area's primary industries. Major employers within district bounds are Amador County and Jackson Rancheria Casino in the Jackson vicinity. Major employers within the District's primary service area are Sierra Pine (lumber manufacturing) and Volcano Communications Group (utilities) in Pine Grove.

There were approximately 17,147 residents in the District's boundary area.¹⁸⁴ The District's overall population density is 35 per square mile, compared to the countywide density of 64. Existing residential structures in unincorporated Amador County include 5,614 one-unit dwellings, 115 two-unit dwellings, 62 three or four unit dwellings, 526 apartments (5 units or more) and 559 mobile homes.¹⁸⁵

The District reports moderately increasing service demand, due to development and growth. The population of unincorporated Amador County grew by 9.6 percent between 2000 and 2010.

There are multiple planned and proposed developments within the District. In the 2008 MSR, it was reported that there were 10 approved residential development applications within AFPD bounds. These plans covered an aggregate of approximately 715 acres of unincorporated territory. Construction plans detailed 247 residential units and another 109 units of mixed use (residential, commercial, recreation).

As of January 2013, there were 13 approved residential development applications within AFPD bounds. These plans covered an aggregate of approximately 786 acres of unincorporated territory. Construction plans detail 358 residential units and another 106 units of mixed use (residential, commercial, recreation). Subdivisions are located in the areas of Sutter Creek, Drytown, Buckhorn, Pine Grove, and Pioneer.¹⁸⁶ If all residential units are built and occupied, this would be an addition of 823 to 1,067 residents to the area.¹⁸⁷

Three commercial and industrial development applications had also been approved within the District, as of the drafting of the 2008 MSR. The Amador Central, Martell Business Park and the Sierra West Business Park would together cover 444 acres and contain over 70 commercial structures. The Amador County Planning Department reported in 2013 that all three of these developments are in the process of being built.¹⁸⁸ In addition, there is a new commercial development application that has been approved since the previous MSR, in the Sutter Creek Area called East Ridge Business Park. If the development is successfully built, it will include six units on 9.7 acres.

¹⁸³ Amador County, *General Plan Existing (2007) Land Use Classification Map*, 2007.

¹⁸⁴ The District population estimate was calculated using the 2010 population (DOF) in unincorporated Amador County less population estimates for JVFPD and LFPD (described in their respective profiles).

¹⁸⁵ Numbers are estimates from DOF American Community Survey 2007-2011.

¹⁸⁶ <http://amadorgov.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=3492>

¹⁸⁷ Population growth projection was calculated using the average household size (2.3) in Amador County in 2010, according to the DOF.

¹⁸⁸ Conversation with Susan Grijalva, Planning Director, Amador County on October 11, 2013.

In the 2008 MSR it was also reported that in and around Plymouth there were six proposed residential developments with 1,028 residential units on 733 acres. As of 2013, two developments are in progress: Zinfandel and Shenandoah Ridge. Other proposed developments in the Plymouth are no longer active. At completion, Zinfandel and Shenandoah Ridge¹⁸⁹ subdivisions will be comprised of 365 and 137 dwelling units, respectively. If all units are built and occupied, the service area population would increase by 1,195 residents in the coming years.¹⁹⁰

Considering the approved subdivision applications, there is a possibility for growth of as many as 2,416 residents in the District. For more information on proposed or planned development, see the Amador County profile (Chapter 32) and the City of Plymouth profile (Chapter 7).

The District is not a land use authority, and does not hold primary responsibility for implementing growth strategies.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCO is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities as part of this service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. A disadvantaged unincorporated community is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters, or as determined by commission policy, where the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median.¹⁹¹

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a mapping tool to assist in determining which communities meet the disadvantaged communities median household income definition.¹⁹² DWR identified nine disadvantaged communities within Amador County—three of which are cities and are therefore not considered unincorporated.¹⁹³ Three of the identified disadvantaged communities are within AFPD bounds. The three disadvantaged communities include River Pines (population 574), Drytown (population 210), and Martell (population 153).

However, DWR is not bound by the same law as LAFCO to define communities with a minimum threshold of 12 or more registered voters. Because income information is not available for this level of analysis, disadvantaged unincorporated communities that meet LAFCO's definition cannot be identified at this time.

Financing

The District reported that current revenues do not support the staffing level required to adequately deliver fire protection services to the communities in the District.

¹⁸⁹ Telephone conversation, Jeff Gardner, City Manager.

¹⁹⁰ Population estimate calculated with the 2009 DOF average household size (2.38) in the City of Plymouth.

¹⁹¹ Government Code §56033.5.

¹⁹² Based on census data, the median household income in the State of California in 2010 was \$57,708, 80 percent of which is \$46,166.

¹⁹³ DWR maps and GIS files are derived from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and are compiled for the five-year period 2006-2010.

AFPD accounting is reported in the aggregate within the County's financial statement and budget. The District practices fund accounting for each revenue source. Measure M, which was approved by Amador County voters in 2009, is accounted for in a separate fund.

Revenues

The District's total revenues were \$2,488,783 million in FY 12. Revenue sources include Measure M sales taxes (46 percent), a special tax collected through a community facilities district (22 percent), aid from the County (18 percent), fees for services (eight percent), and miscellaneous (four percent) sources. Property taxes, impact fees and interest payments comprised the remaining revenue sources.

The District's benefit assessment varies by land use: vacant lands are charged a maximum annual assessment of \$24.46; residential units (single-family or multi-family units) are charged a maximum of \$36.78; and mobile home parks and commercial or industrial parcels are charged a base of \$92.02 plus a charge based on the number of mobile homes and a fee based on the square footage of any buildings and their use. Annual assessments may vary from these amounts due to square footage and, for commercial or industrial land uses, the level of risk assigned to the business type. The schedule is updated annually; the schedule increased, on average, 10.4 percent from the rates in 2008.

The Amador County general fund provides financial aid to AFPD through the County budget process. The County does not designate a specific purpose to its AFPD contribution. A portion of the County's annual contribution is used to finance the contract for county-wide fire dispatching services with CAL FIRE. The FY 13-14 contract was \$235.655.

Historically, other significant revenue included grant monies from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (IGSDF), a statewide fund used to allocate monies to communities impacted by tribal government gaming facilities.¹⁹⁴ AFPD has received support from this source for several years: \$185,000 in 2004; \$251,300 in 2005; \$166,000 in 2006; and \$152,000 in 2007. However, the District reported that they have not applied for or received funding from IGSDF since 2009.

AFPD collects development impact fees to fund additional fire protection facilities and equipment to meet the increased demand inherent in new development.¹⁹⁵ These are one-time fees paid by new development projects in the District. The residential fee is \$250 per unit; the commercial fee is \$650 plus an additional cost of \$0.25 to \$0.60 per square foot, depending on risk categorization. Structures larger than 5,000 square feet or three stories in height are assessed individually to determine their impact fee amount, as large structures create unusual fire risk. The District reported in the 2008 MSR that development impact fees have been adequate to meet the financial needs of the District, but an increase may be required in the future.¹⁹⁶ As of 2013, the District had not yet increased the development impact fees.

Contracts for services provide additional revenue for the District. The contract between the City of Plymouth and AFPD was initially signed on July 13, 2005 and was valid through

¹⁹⁴ Pursuant to SB 621, signed into law on October 11, 2003.

¹⁹⁵ Pursuant to Amador County BOS Resolution No. 91-401.

¹⁹⁶ Interview with Jim McCart, Fire Chief, AFPD, January 17, 2008.

June 30, 2010. On November 9, 2010 a 20 year extension was signed under the same terms. AFPD agreed to provide all fire protection, fire suppression, and emergency response services for the City. The District leases the existing Plymouth fire station for a nominal amount (one dollar). The City pays AFPD an amount equal to the total the District would collect were parcels within the city limits subject to the AFPD benefit assessment schedule. The District performs annual audits of city parcels to update the service charge. Payments are made in two annual installments in December and April.¹⁹⁷

In November 2007, the AFPD Board passed and adopted an ordinance establishing a fee schedule for plan review, inspections, and providing reports.¹⁹⁸ Plan reviews for subdivisions with four lots or less are \$123, more than five lots is an additional \$10 per lot. Plan reviews and/or inspections for other structures such as new commercial buildings, automatic sprinkler systems, and water storage systems among others range from \$61.50 to \$184.50. Some reviews and inspections are charged hourly others are a flat rate.¹⁹⁹ Fire reports are \$10. Penalty amounts for failure to secure required permits or approvals are twice the amount of the original fee.

Expenditures

AFPD expenditures were \$2,118,383 in FY 12. Expenditures included salaries and benefits (54 percent), services and supplies (38 percent), and fixed asset spending such as building improvements and equipment purchase (eight percent).

Other AFPD expenditures include the cost of service provision and automatic aid agreement payments to Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (KMPUD). AFPD pays KMPUD \$2,200 annually plus \$72 per response to compensate the District for increased insurance costs for its primary response area, which includes land in AFPD bounds.

Debt and Reserves

The principal act permits fire districts to incur general obligation bonded indebtedness for the acquisition or construction of any real property or other capital expense or for funding or refunding of any outstanding indebtedness. At the close of FY 12 the District had no long-term debt.

The District does not have a formal policy on maintaining financial reserves. AFPD had \$1,648,686 in reserve funds at the close of FY 12. The amount is equivalent to just over 75 percent of all expenditures in FY 12. In other words, the District maintained nine months of working reserves.

¹⁹⁷ Contract between City of Plymouth and AFPD, signed 2010.

¹⁹⁸ Ordinance No. AFPD 002

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

Nature and Extent

AFPD provides fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical, and rescue services. For calls involving emergency medical services, AFPD provides basic life support (BLS) until American Legion Ambulance Service arrives to perform advanced life support and ambulance transport.

The District also provides plan review and inspection services for SCFPD, City of Plymouth, and the City of Jackson and collects impact fees for JVFPD and LFPD.

The District's boundaries overlap with the CAL FIRE State Responsibility Area in some portions. In these areas of overlap, CAL FIRE provides primary wildland fire response and AFPD provides primary structure fire response.²⁰⁰ All of unincorporated Amador County is SRA jurisdiction.

The time of day with the highest percentage of calls for service was at 2:00 pm with approximately six percent of the daily call volume.²⁰¹

Personnel

All sworn personnel in the District are firefighters. There are a total of 56 sworn personnel, including the fire chief, three battalion chiefs, and two prevention officers. The median firefighter (paid and volunteer) age is 29 years, with a range from 19 to 66. Thirty-one sworn personnel (55 percent) are certified by the State at Firefighter Level 1 or higher. Thirty-two sworn personnel (57 percent) are certified at the EMT-1 level or higher.

The District reported that revenue from Measure M and the formation of a community facilities district which collects a special tax for fire protection services provided by AFPD in 2007 has made it possible to hire paid fire suppression personnel and as such the District began paying some personnel in October 2010. Of the 56 sworn personnel, 22 are paid; 20 suppression personnel and two part-time prevention officers.²⁰² The 20 paid suppression personnel are supervised by a paid battalion chief. The 32 volunteers are supervised by two volunteer battalion chiefs.

AFPD has a contract with SCFPD to provide paid staff to SCFPD's Station 141.

Initial training for firefighting in the District is a 67-hour course, which is held annually and is open to all County providers. State-mandated training is provided by or through AFPD, including medical and hazardous materials training. The District provides emergency vehicle operation training in-house; drivers must take this course no less than once every two years. AFPD battalions each have scheduled training one day per week. Volunteer firefighters must attend at least half of these training events.

²⁰⁰ Pursuant to Health and Safety Code §13811.

²⁰¹ Information received via email from Fire Chief Jim McCart, October 22, 2013.

²⁰² As reported by Fire Chief Jim McCart, 2013.

The payment policy for call (volunteer) firefighters is a flat reimbursement of \$8 per response. These funds are intended for undocumented expenses and are paid twice annually.

AFPD turnover rates in recent years for paid and volunteer firefighters were 25 percent in 2011 and 29 percent in 2012.

Recruitment of call firefighters is accomplished through advertisement in the local newspaper and local cable station, although the District has limited success with these efforts. Most call firefighters are recruited by friends. Many recruits are young people looking for a career.

Regional Collaboration

The District's goal is to fully participate in local and State mutual and automatic aid systems.²⁰³ AFPD collaborates with other fire providers in the County through the Amador Fire Protection Authority and previously through the Amador Plan agreement, and had cooperative agreements for the staffing of district-owned apparatuses. Ione volunteers staffed a district-owned rescue squad vehicle in the City of Ione, and Jackson call firefighters staffed a district-owned 75-foot aerial apparatus, housed in Jackson. The District donated the rescue squad vehicle operated by the Ione volunteers to the City of Ione in 2009 and the 75-foot aerial apparatus to the City of Jackson in 2012.

AFPD has a master Amador County Mutual Aid Agreement between AFPD, City of Ione, City of Jackson, JVFPD, LFPD, SCFPD, and CAL FIRE. The agreement states that it is of mutual benefit to each party in some circumstances, if mutually the services of the fire department of one party were extended to the aid of another party.²⁰⁴ The parties of the agreement therefore agreed to respond to emergencies outside their jurisdictional boundaries and within the jurisdictional boundaries of the other.²⁰⁵ Therefore, all fire jurisdiction equipment and personnel are dispatched as the closest available resource regardless of jurisdictional boundary.²⁰⁶

As previously mentioned, AFPD also has an automatic aid agreement in the form of payments to Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District and a contract with SCFPD to provide paid staff to SCFPD's Station 141, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Additionally, AFPD has an informal mutual aid agreement with Latrobe Fire Protection District in El Dorado County and a mutual aid agreement with Pioneer FPD in El Dorado County.

AFPD participates in two joint powers authorities including Amador Fire Protection Authority and Fire Agencies Self Insurance System (FASIS). FASIS is funded by membership premiums.

²⁰³ AFPD, *Capital Improvement Plan: 2007-08*, 2007.

²⁰⁴ Amador County Mutual Aid Agreement.

²⁰⁵ Ibid.

²⁰⁶ As reported by AFPD Fire Chief Jim McCart in 2013.

The District is also a member of the Fire Districts Association of California, National Fire Protection Association, International Code Council, and Amador County Fire Chiefs Association.

Dispatch and Communications

All 911 calls made from landlines in Amador County are automatically routed to the Amador County Sheriff's communication center in Jackson (the Public Safety Answering Point, PSAP). Cell phone 911 calls are answered by the California Highway Patrol in Stockton, and then are routed to the Sheriff. Fire and EMS calls are routed from the PSAP to CAL FIRE's Camino Interagency Command Center, which in turn dispatches appropriate responders. AAFP is dispatched to all calls within its primary response area.

All fire providers in Amador County, including AAFP, communicate through the same radio systems. Due to shared radio frequencies, AAFP is able to communicate with other providers. When multiple service providers respond to an incident, the first unit to arrive on scene is responsible for incident command. The incident commander will give the dispatch center a report on conditions at the scene and the personnel and equipment needed to mitigate the situation. The dispatch center then modifies the initial dispatch by cancelling resources en route or notifying additional providers to respond to the scene. For incidents such as vehicle accidents, law enforcement is responsible for incident coordination once it arrives on scene through universal command protocols; prior to law enforcement arriving on scene, the first fire provider responding remains responsible for incident command.

Location

AAFP provides service to 71 percent of its boundary area; the remaining areas are served by other providers through automatic aid agreements. AAFP serves the northern area of the County along the western Amador-El Dorado County line including the City of Plymouth, as well as the areas east of Sutter Creek except for the KMPUD area in the northeast and LFPD's territory along the central Amador-El Dorado County line.

Territories within AAFP's bounds served through automatic aid agreements with other providers include:

- ❖ 39 square miles in the Sutter Creek vicinity, including portions of Martell, are served by SCFPD;
- ❖ 45 square miles in the Jackson vicinity, including portions of Martell, are served by the City of Jackson;
- ❖ 38 square miles in the Lone vicinity are served by the City of Lone; and
- ❖ 6 square miles in the Kirkwood vicinity are served by the Kirkwood PUD.

The River Pines community is served by Pioneer Fire Protection District in El Dorado County as well as by AAFP. Latrobe FPD in El Dorado County responds to assistance requests in the vicinity of Latrobe Rd. and Old Sacramento Road in AAFP bounds.

Infrastructure

AFPD operates seven fire stations across the County: two in Pioneer (Stations 111 and 112), two in Pine Grove (114 and 115), two in Plymouth (121 and 122), and one in Fiddletown (123). The District owns four of the seven stations, leases one (122) from the City of Plymouth for \$1.00 as part of contractual services to the City, and occupies two others owned separately by Pine Grove Community Services District (114) and Volcano Telephone Company (115). Three stations are in fair condition: the leased Plymouth station and both stations in Pine Grove. The District-owned station in Plymouth and both stations in Pioneer are in good condition. The Fiddletown station was built in 2005 and is in excellent condition.

A new station is planned in the Pine Grove area near the intersection of Mt. Zion Road and SR 88. Its construction date is dependent on identifying a financing source, as the estimated cost to build is \$2.25 million. An additional station is scheduled to be built in Martell in 2017 costing \$2.5 million. The Martell station will also serve as a training center and emergency operations center.

The District has created an acquisition schedule that addresses their infrastructure needs. In FY 14, the District intends to acquire 2 water tenders for \$389000. Between FY 14 and FY 16, the District plans to purchase 70 self-contained breathing apparatus and a filling station. FY 17 calls for the building of the Pine Grove station. And finally, in FY 18, the new fire station in Martell will be built.

Station 123 in Fiddletown and Station 122 in Plymouth are open to the community for polling and election events.

Opportunities for future shared facilities at the planned station in Pine Grove include possible partnerships with American Legion Ambulance, Amador County Sheriff, and Pine Grove CSD. The planned station in the Martell area will provide opportunities to partner with Sutter Creek Fire Protection District, the County Office of Emergency Services, and include a fire training facility for countywide use.

AFPD relies primarily on fire hydrants and reservoirs to refill its water tenders during firefighting incidents. There are fire hydrants in Martell, Pine Grove, Pioneer, Plymouth, River Pines, Drytown, Volcano, and Fiddletown. New wineries are required to install appropriately sized water tanks for fire flow purposes.

Service Adequacy

There are two general indicators of service adequacy for municipal fire providers: ISO rating and response times. The Insurance Service Office (ISO), an advisory organization, classifies fire service in communities from 1 to 10, indicating the general adequacy of coverage. Communities with the best systems for water distribution, fire department facilities, equipment and personnel and fire alarms and communications receive a rating of 1. AFPD's service goals include achieving an ISO rating of 6 for all areas with qualifying water systems (a hydrant within 1,000 feet) and a rating of 8 for all areas not having water hydrants.²⁰⁷ The District achieved these goals as of the last grading. In 2004, however,

²⁰⁷ AFPD, *Capital Improvement Plan: 2007-08*, 2007.

statewide policy eliminated Dwelling Class 8 and made all those with that grade, including certain AFPD areas, a Dwelling Class 8B.

Emergency response time standards vary by level of urbanization of an area: the more urban an area, the faster a response is required. The response time guideline established by the California EMS Agency is five minutes in urban areas, 15 minutes in suburban or rural areas, and as quickly as possible in wilderness areas. The District's primary response zone includes suburban, rural and wilderness classifications.²⁰⁸ AFPD's 90th percentile response time is 11 minutes, decreasing from 12.7 minutes in 2008, meeting the suburban/rural standard.

AFPD has achieved greater efficiency in the provision of services through reorganization into two battalions. Battalion 20 has three stations, and Battalion 10 operates four.

The District reported that it is the expressed desire and goal of AFPD to consolidate local government fire services in Amador County into one agency. As such, AFPD discussed the possibility of consolidation with the City of Jackson, Lockwood FPD and Sutter Creek FPD. The discussions have not resulted in any actions to date, but consolidation continues to be discussed.

Currently, AFPD is beginning discussions with Sutter Creek FPD on the consolidation of the two districts. Sutter Creek FPD contracts for services from AFPD for station staffing and fire prevention.

²⁰⁸ Mountain Valley EMS, *Amador County Ambulance Grid Map*.

Figure 9-1: AFD Fire Profile

Fire Service					
Service Configuration			Service Demand		
Fire Suppression	Direct		Statistical Base Year	2012	
EMS	Direct		Total Service Calls	1,844	
Ambulance Transport	American Legion		% EMS	74%	
Hazardous Materials	Calaveras and San Joaquin ¹		% Fire	5%	
Air Rescue & Ambulance Helicopter	CHP, Private		% Hazardous Material (no fire)	2%	
Fire Suppression Helicopter	CAL FIRE		% Other	18%	
Public Safety Answering Point	Sheriff		% False Alarm	1%	
Fire/EMS Dispatch	CAL FIRE		Calls per 1,000 people	107.5	
Service Adequacy			Resources		
ISO Rating ²		6/8b	Fire Stations in District	7	
Median Response Time (min)		7:37	Fire Stations Serving District	7	
90th Percentile Response Time (min)		11	Sq. Miles per Station ³	53.4	
Response Time Base Year		2012	Total Staff ⁴	62	
Training			Total Full-time Firefighters	20	
Initial training includes a 67-hour course that is held annually. State-mandated training is provided by AFD including EMS and HAZMAT training. Emergency vehicle operation training is also provided and is required by drivers at least once every two years. AFD's battalions each have training one day per week.			Total Call Firefighters	34	
			Total Sworn Staff per Station ⁵	8	
			Total Sworn Staff per 1,000	3.2	
			Service Challenges		
Maintaining and recruiting a sufficient and diverse pool of volunteers is challenging.			Fire Flow Water Reserves ⁶	NP	
			Facilities		
Station⁷	Location	Condition	Staff per Shift	Apparatus	
Station 111	26517 Meadow Dr., Pioneer, CA 95666	Good	Staffed full-time, number of staff not provided	Engine, Rescue	
Station 112	23770 Van de Hei Ranch Rd., Pioneer, CA 95666	Good	Unstaffed	2 Engines, Water tender, Squad	
Station 114	19840 Highway 88, Pine Grove, CA 95665	Fair	Staffed full-time, number of staff not provided	2 Engines, 2 Squads, Utility Vehicle	
Station 115	18655 Ridge Rd., Pine Grove, CA 95665	Fair	Unstaffed	Engine	
Station 121	16850 Demartini Rd. Plymouth, CA 95669	Good	Unstaffed	2 Engines, Water tender, Squad	
Station 122	18534 Sherwood St., Plymouth, CA 95669	Fair	Staffed full-time, number of staff not provided	2 Engines, Squad, Utility Vehicle	
Station 123	14410 Jibboom St. Fiddletown, CA 95629	Excellent	Unstaffed	2 Engines, Water tender	

Fire Service, continued.

Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

New fire stations are scheduled to be built: one in Pine Grove in FY 15 if financing is secured and one in Martell in FY 17. The District also has projected the need for a structure engine, two water tenders and interface engine between FY 13 and FY 17.

Facility Sharing

Current Practices: Station 123 in Fiddletown is open to the community for polling and election events.

Opportunities: There are many opportunities associated with the planned stations in Pine Grove and Martell including partnerships with American Legion Ambulance, Amador County Sheriff and PGCSO. AFPD is amenable to county-wide fire district consolidation.

Mutual & Automatic Aid Agreements

Master Amador County Mutual Aid Agreement with City of Ione, City of Jackson, JVFPD, LFPD and SCFPD. Automatic aid agreement with KMPUD consisting of payments to compensate the District for increased insurance costs for its primary response area. AFPD provides paid staff to Station 141 in SCFPD. AFPD also has an informal mutual aid agreement with Latrobe Fire Protection District in El Dorado County.

Notes:

- (1) Amador County has a MOU with Calaveras County and a secondary MOU with San Joaquin County for Hazmat services.
- (2) AFPD has an ISO Rating of 6 for areas within 1,000 feet of a hydrant and a rating of 8B in areas without a hydrant.
- (3) Primary service area (square miles) per station.
- (4) Total staff includes sworn and non-sworn personnel.
- (5) Based on ratio of sworn full time and call staff to the number of stations. Actual staffing levels of each station vary.
- (6) Reserves include public and private water sources.
- (7) Station 141 in Sutter Creek Fire Protection District is staffed full time by AFPD by contract.

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS

Growth and population projections

- ❖ Growth in AFPD's boundary area between 2000 and 2010 was 9.6 percent; a majority of this growth is associated with commercial developments in the area.
- ❖ Growth is expected to continue, due to the number of proposed and approved residential applications within the District's bounds.
- ❖ New residents and businesses may desire or expect higher levels of service.

The Location and Characteristics of Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Agency's SOI

- ❖ There are three disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the District's bounds and SOI based upon mapping information provided by the State of California Department of Water Resources. The identified communities are River Pines, Drytown, and Martell.

Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs and deficiencies

- ❖ AFPD now has the capacity to serve its district constituents, due to the infusion of Measure M funds. However, available finances do not provide for adequate staffing levels at all staffed stations. Automatic aid agreements ensures service adequacy.
- ❖ AFPD plans to expand its capacity with two planned new stations in Martell and Pine Grove to address current and anticipated growth in those areas.

Financial ability of agencies to provide services

- ❖ The District reported that with Measure M funds they are now able to pay firefighters. However, available finances do not provide for adequate staffing levels at all staffed stations.
- ❖ The District relies on volunteers for some of the services it provides. While this is currently an effective arrangement, the long-term availability of able volunteers, which is often unpredictable, may affect the sustainability of service provision.
- ❖ AFPD effectively supports services provided by other government agencies through contracts, agreements and cooperative efforts. Reorganization and/or consolidation of services with those agencies may further improve the financial ability of AFPD and other fire service providers to offer the highest level of services at the lowest possible cost to citizens.

Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities

- ❖ AFDPD collaborates with other fire providers in the County through membership in Amador Fire Protection Authority, as well as extensive automatic aid and mutual aid agreements. Opportunities for future facility sharing include the use of the planned Martell training facilities as a joint training facility for all County fire providers.
- ❖ Consolidation/reorganization or further functional consolidation with other fire service providers will likely offer increased opportunities for shared resources, including facilities and vehicles, as well as pooled finances to hire full-time staff.

Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

- ❖ AFDPD demonstrated accountability and transparency by disclosing financial and service related information in response to LAFCO requests.
- ❖ There is a close working relationship among the fire providers in Amador County. The similarity of challenges faced by each agency and potential cost savings offered by consolidation or reorganization suggests that fire agencies will need to review opportunities for reorganization in some form, including functional consolidation.
- ❖ AFDPD 's network of services and service support functions affirm that reorganization and/or consolidation, including functional consolidation, is a feasible option.