



## FRESNO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION PLAN

The Fresno County Fire Protection Plan, developed with the input of local Fresno County Fire Firefighters, is the Fresno County Fire Protection District's strategic plan to reduce 911 emergency response times countywide.

Over the past 30 years, 911 emergency response times in Fresno County have been impacted by significant population growth, changes in building materials and dramatic cuts in revenue for fire protection. Fresno County Firefighters protect more than 2,600 square miles of territory in Fresno County

Census numbers show that Fresno County's annual population growth rate consistently outpaces the annual growth rate in California as a whole. The county firefighter-to-resident ratio is currently one per 1,221 residents, this exceeds the national average of one firefighter per 1,000 residents. Some areas of Fresno County are more than 20 minutes from the nearest fire station.

The U.S. Fire Administration says that due to the changes in building materials used in homes and home furnishings, the average available time to escape a flaming fire in a home has decreased from 17 minutes in 1975 to only 3 minutes in 2003.

Since 1978, the Fresno County Fire Protection District has closed five fire stations and eliminated 68 firefighter positions due to loss of revenue. Over that period, 911 emergency calls have increased from approximately 6,000 calls in 1977 to approximately 16,000 calls in 2007. In the past five years, millions of dollars of private property have been destroyed and one fire engine was lost in a major fire incident.

Priorities identified in the Fresno County Fire Protection Plan include the hiring of firefighters and purchase of fire suppression equipment for three new fire stations. Studies performed by Fresno County Fire Protection District personnel show that these three new strategically located stations will help reduce 911 emergency response times by 6 to 10 minutes in areas with the highest call volume.

With continued revenue cuts from the state and county, a new dedicated source of local funding is necessary to implement this plan. The Fresno County Fire Protection District is currently proposing a new fire suppression assessment to fund the additional firefighters and equipment required for the three new stations and at some existing stations.

To learn more, visit [www.fresnocountyfire.org](http://www.fresnocountyfire.org) or call our fire protection hotline at **1-877-510-FIRE (3473)**. One of our firefighters will return your call within 24 hours.