



"Committed to protecting our community"

Questions and Answers for Property Owners

Q. What services does the Fire District provide and how is it governed?

A. The District is a special purpose agency, unrelated to the County, and is responsible for fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency response and emergency medical services in your community. The District covers about 35 square miles of unincorporated Placer County and a portion of the Town of Loomis. The District is governed by an elected Board of Directors and serves approximately 26,000 residents along with all the commercial, retail, and other properties. The District responds to approximately 1800 fire, medical and other emergencies annually. The District also responds to other emergency calls including vehicle accidents and entrapments, hazardous materials incidents, and a variety of other emergency situations. In addition, the District provides year-round fire prevention services such as fire and emergency education.

Q. What will happen if a local funding measure is not approved?

A. Since 2007 the District's revenue has decreased by over 10% as a result of declining property values. This year's revenue is predicted to decrease by another 6% if no other revenue source is found. Without additional revenue the District will be forced to consider letting go additional firefighters, and may have to eliminate another fire engine causing emergency response times to increase in many areas. Increased response times decrease the ability of firefighters to successfully save lives in medical emergencies and prevent major fires.

Q. How will this affect emergency response times and emergency services?

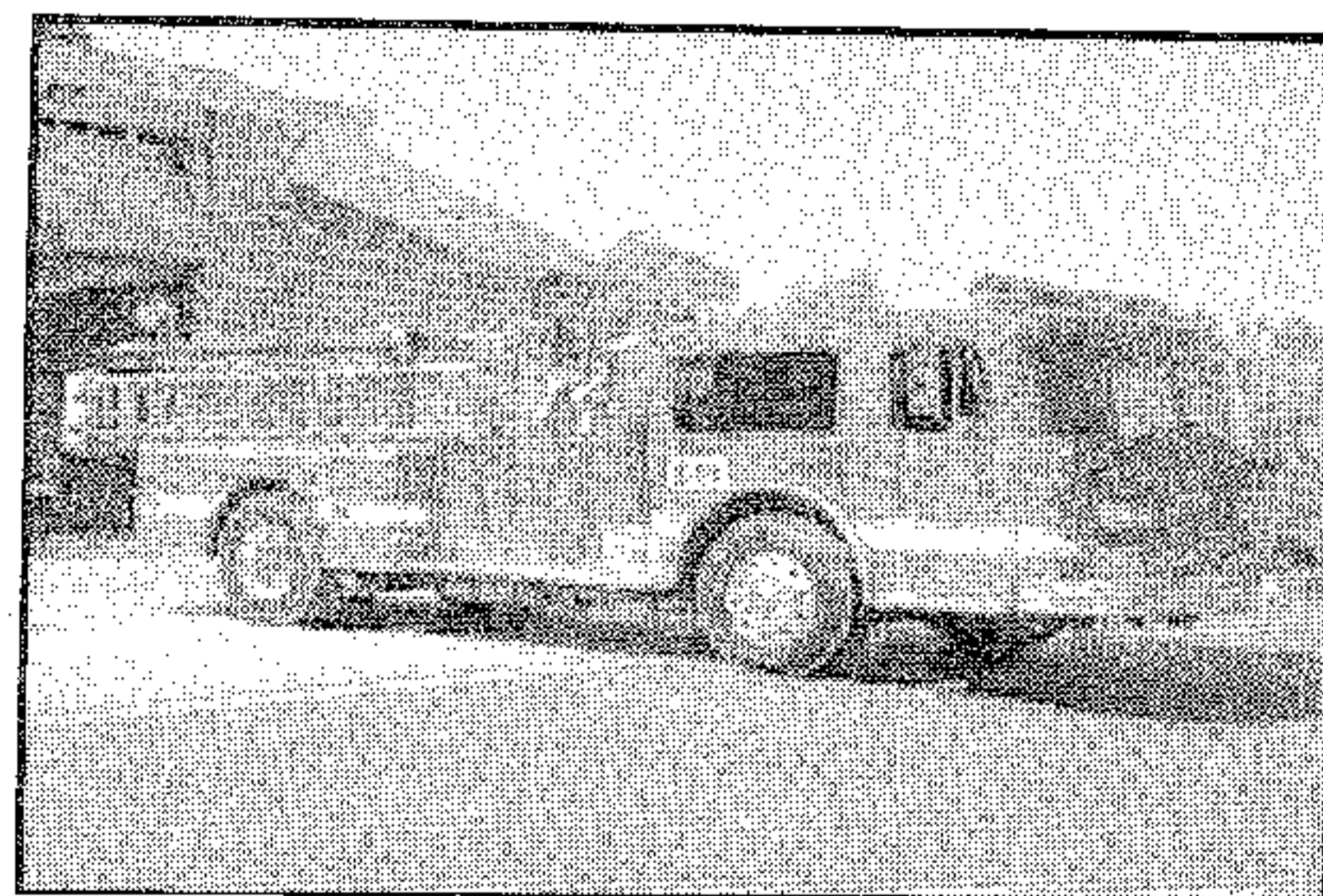
A. In a medical emergency, brain damage typically occurs in 4 to 6 minutes, and brain death occurs in 8 minutes, without oxygen. In addition, studies have shown that a fire will double in size and significantly increase in severity every two minutes. Under the current budget conditions the response time has already increased in some areas to over 6 minutes. Without a funding measure the response time would expand to affect even more areas of our community. Approval of a local funding measure for fire and emergency services could ensure the District can provide prompt and adequate responses to local fires, and emergencies of all types. The Lowest Cost Option could hold the response time at the current compromised levels which put parts of the community at response times over 6 minutes. The Mid-Level Option could improve response times to a 4 ½ minute average. The Full Service Option could also bring response times back down to the desired level of 4½ minutes on average. It could also increase engine staff to 3 firefighters allowing for a more effective firefighting team. With only 2 firefighters are on an engine, they need to wait until a second engine arrives with more firefighters before entering a building to fight a fire.

Q. What accountability provisions would be included in any funding measure?

A. If a local funding measure is approved, the funds could only be used to provide fire protection and emergency services in the areas served by the District. The funds could not be used for any other purpose or in any other areas. Also, the revenues and expenditures for these funds would be regularly audited by an independent auditor and would be presented to the public annually at a noticed public hearing.



Funding to keep trained Firefighters



Funding for needed Fire Equipment



For more information visit www.southplacerfire.org