

2024

Annual Report

LOS PINOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Mission

Los Pinos Fire serves and protects the community through prevention, preparedness, and exceptional emergency services. This is accomplished with professionalism, compassion, and dedication.

Vision

Los Pinos Fire will provide the highest quality of protection to the communities we serve. We remain a progressive organization through enhanced training, knowledge, and equipment.

Values

Reverence

We commit to upholding the trust placed in us by our family, community, and stakeholders while humbly maintaining a steadfast dedication to doing what is right.

Service:

We prioritize the safety and well-being of our community above all else, delivering honest and compassionate service with integrity and respect.

Professionalism:

We believe in the power of continuous learning, honing our skills, and expanding our knowledge base to provide unparalleled solutions, deliver exceptional service, and adapt swiftly to evolving changes.

Community Engagement:

We actively engage with and educate the community on fire safety, prevention, and preparedness, fostering a culture of safety and resilience. This is the foundation of the organization.



Fire District History

Los Pinos Fire District provides fire suppression and emergency services to a 325-square-mile area of Southwest Colorado. The Fire District encompasses portions of La Plata and Archuleta Counties and includes the communities of Oxford, Tiffany, Allison, Arboles, and the Town of Ignacio. A substantial portion of the response area consists of Southern Ute Tribal Lands, Bureau of Land Management property, territory belonging to the U.S. Forest Service, Division of Wildlife areas, and land owned by the State of Colorado.

From the humble beginnings of helpful residents manning a hose cart to today's staff of career firefighters/EMTs, the Los Pinos Fire Protection District remains ready to serve the citizens of the region in any situation.

On November 16, 1917, the citizens of Ignacio formed a bucket brigade to save the Commercial Hotel and Apaas Store from fire. In December of 1922, a fire hydrant was installed at the corner of what is now Goddard Avenue and Ute Street. The hydrant was installed in anticipation of the delivery of firefighting equipment. Prior to the arrival of the equipment, a fire destroyed Fabian Martinez's restaurant in January 1923. A horse cart with 1000 feet of hose arrived in February 1923. It wasn't until 1948 that the Town of Ignacio purchased their first piece of motorized fire equipment, a 1936 Seagrave.

In 1975 the Ignacio Volunteer Emergency Squad (IVES) was formed to provide emergency medical services, followed by the creation of the Ignacio Volunteer Fire Department (IVFD) in February 1977. Recognizing the need for fire services outside the town limits, the Los Pinos Fire Protection District was established in 1985. In 1987 the LPFD Station 1 in Ignacio and Station 2 in Oxford were completed and equipped. In 2002 the Allison and Arboles areas were incorporated into the District and IVES was integrated into the LPFD in 2005.

Contents

PG.3-4

**FIRE CHIEF
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

PG.5-6

**DISTRICT MAP
FACILITIES**

PG.7-8

**OPERATIONS
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

PG. 9-10

**DISTRICT TRAINING
DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

PG. 11-12

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-29
INCIDENT DATA 2024**

PG. 13-14

**WILDLAND FIRE REPORT
WILDFIRE PSA**

PG. 15-16

**RECOGNITION AWARDS
PERSONNEL**

PG. 17-18

**FIRE MARSHAL REPORT/BURN BAN
INFORMATION
CPR/AED AWARENESS**

PG. 19-23

**WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS FOR
FARMERS & RANCHERS
WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN**



Fire Chief

Dear Community Members,

I am pleased to share the 2024 Annual Report for the Los Pinos Fire Protection District. 2024 was another year of accomplishment and growth for the fire district. None of this is possible without the talented individuals that comprise our response staff, administrative staff, Board of Directors, and of course, the support we receive from the community.

As a district, we believe that continued community engagement through events and education, has reflected positively and strengthened our connection with the residents we are entrusted to serve.

Looking ahead, our strategic plan, along with our revised mission and vision statements, will serve as a roadmap for the future of our fire district. These guiding principles reflect our unwavering commitment to reverence, service, professionalism, and community engagement, ensuring that we continue to uphold the highest standards in serving our community.

This plan outlines our goals and objectives for the next five years, focusing on enhancing communication and transparency with the community, strengthening partnerships, improving recruitment and retention, and ensuring the continued development of our facilities, equipment, and fleet. We are also committed to identifying sustainable funding mechanisms to support our district's long-term success. Achieving these goals will require collaboration and engagement—from our personnel, community members, and key stakeholders. By working together and investing in our team, we will continue to grow, adapt, and build the next generation of leadership within our district.

A copy of our strategic plan is available on our website, and I encourage you to review it as we move forward in this important work.

<https://lospinosfire.com/annual-report.html>



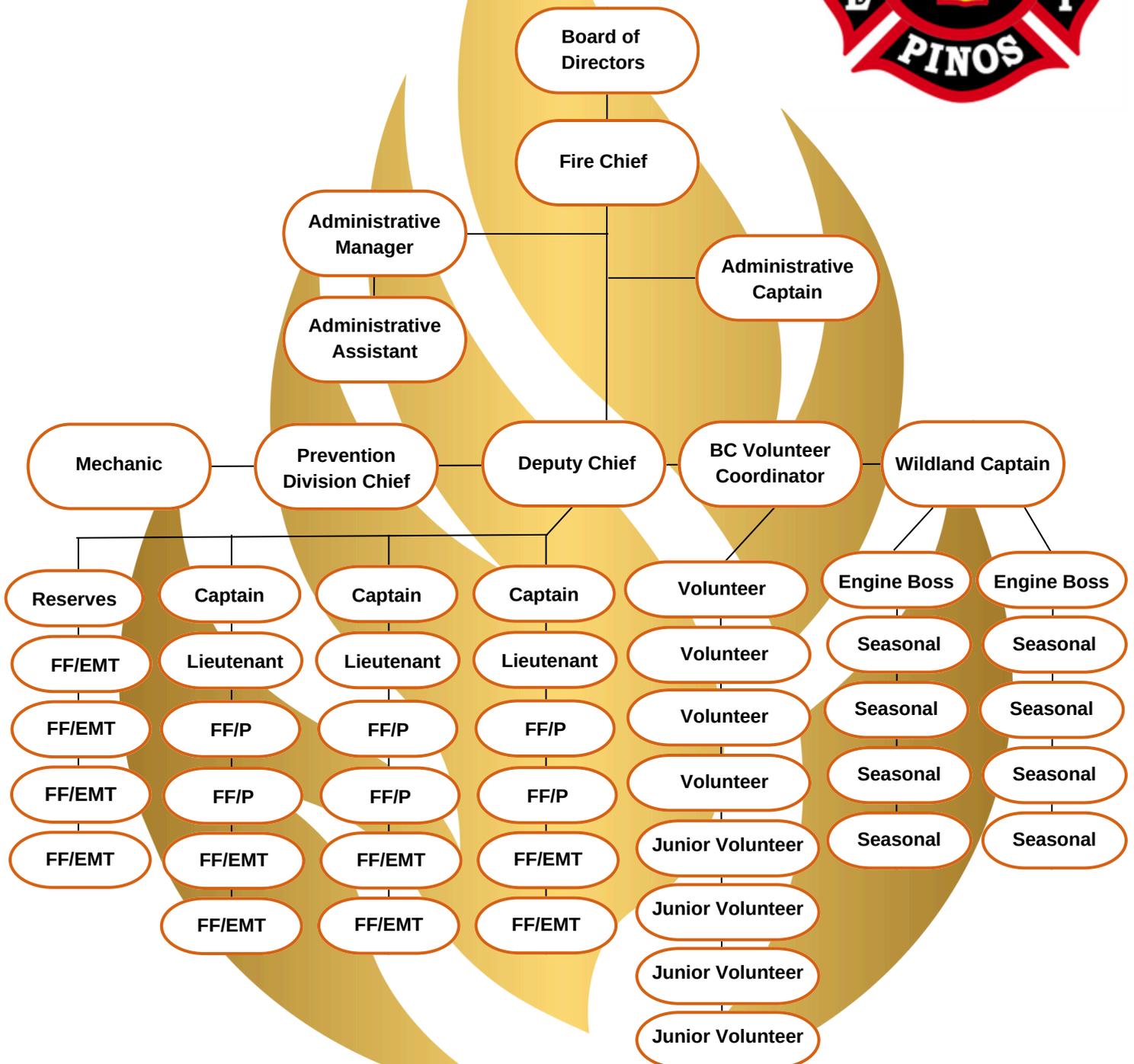
We are grateful for the continued support of our community and our board members. We look forward to the future and another year of having the privilege to serve.



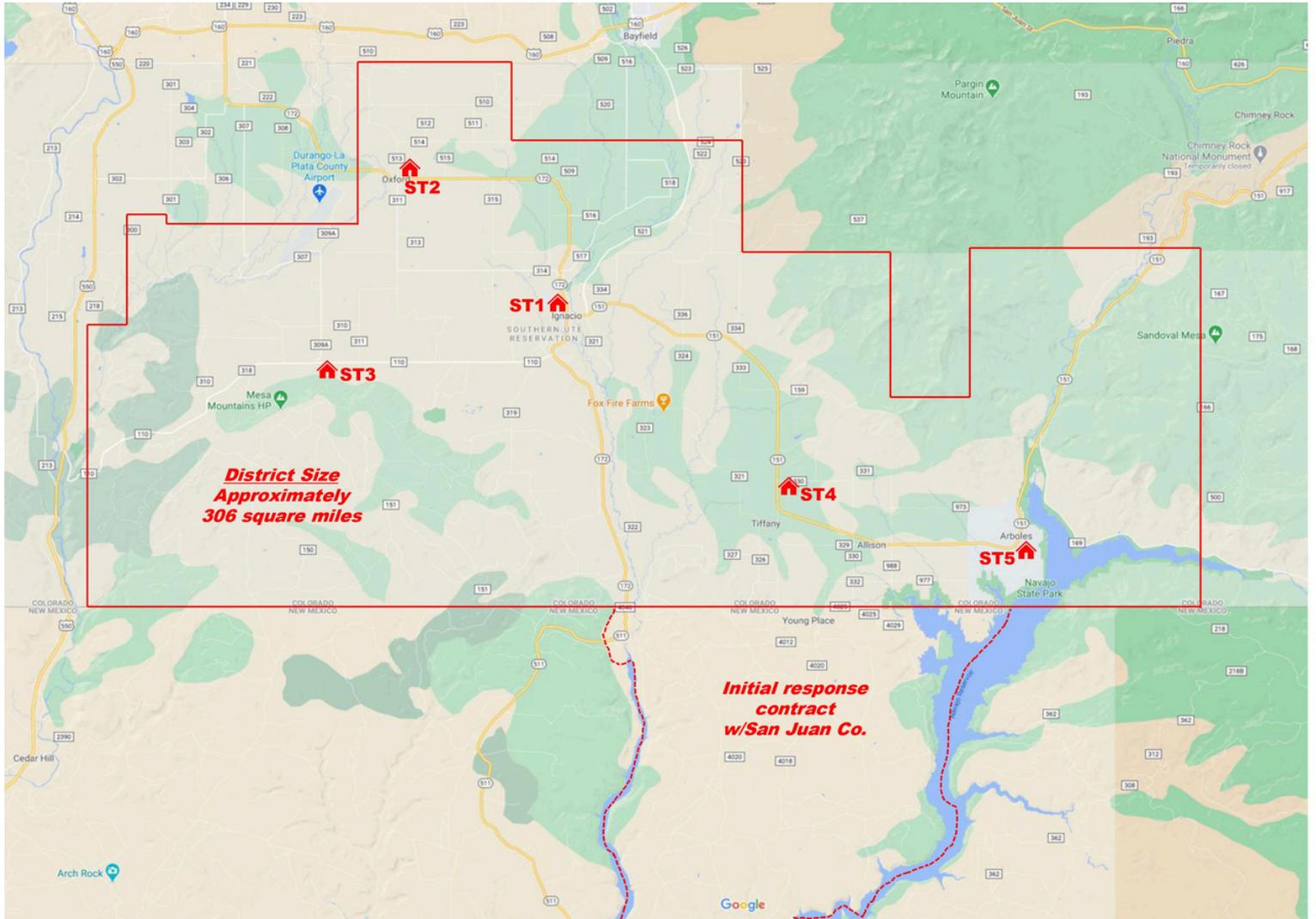
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.B. Lorenzen".

Fire Chief Josh Lorenzen
JLorenzen@lospinosfire.com

Organizational Chart



Fire District Map



STATION 1: 275 Browning Ave, Ignacio

STATION 2: 8018 HWY 172, Oxford

STATION 3: 3072 CR 318, Ignacio

STATION 4: 378 CR 330, Allison

STATION 5: 308 CR 982, Arboles

Facilities

Station 1

Located in Ignacio, serves as the main business hub. The personnel on duty at this station handle fire and emergency medical services for districts #1, #2, and #3.

Additionally, they play a crucial role in prevention, inspection, and public events. Part of this station is the original building from the conception of the Fire district in 1985.

Station 2

Located in the Oxford area near the intersections of CR 513 and Hwy 172, primarily serves as the base for the wildland division. It houses seasonal wildland firefighters and the necessary equipment to handle local and national resource orders. This station is the result of a collaboration with the Oxford Grange organization, where we utilize the bays while the Grange organization use the meeting room and kitchen for their local and organizational activities.

Station 3

Located near the CR 318 and CR 309 intersections, operates as a volunteer station. It houses various apparatus and has a readily available water supply of 80,000 gallons to support the Heli tank at the center of the property. During the summer, the station property was utilized for camping by contracted BIA wildland crews and a mitigation crew.

Station 4

Located in the 300 block of CR 330 in the Tiffany area, serves as a volunteer station, and houses additional firefighting equipment. The strategic placement of this station allows crews responding from Station #1 or #5 to acquire any necessary additional apparatus, particularly a water tender, when responding to incidents.

Station 5

Located in the 500 block of CR 982, recently opened in May 2023 as a manned station. It is currently staffed by two personnel. The station is equipped with a range of firefighting apparatus. It serves as the primary response station from Tiffany to Arboles and along Hwy 151 corridor. The fire district was able to renovate the existing fire station on the property, which had been there since 2005. Initially, two individuals were relocated from Station #1 to Station #5, allowing for the initial staffing level. As the district continues to expand, this station has the capacity to accommodate up to five personnel.

Training-Maintenance Yard

Located in the 17000 block of Hwy 172 just south of Ignacio, serves multiple purposes. Keeping over 35 apparatus in a state of readiness is a full-time responsibility. Approximately 80-90% of the district's repairs can be handled by our skilled mechanic. Over the past decade, we have also assembled numerous wildland apparatus at this facility, resulting in substantial cost savings for the district. In addition to serving as a repair center, the yard provides a dedicated space for training both current and future firefighters. It offers various props and buildings that enable firefighters to enhance their skills through practice sessions, including confined space scenarios, SCBA maze drills, rescue operations, and live fire exercises. Moreover, the facility offers ample space for setting up driving courses and conducting tender operations. This versatile training facility has also been utilized by the CFFA, Red Willow production, and local law enforcement agencies for their employee training needs.

Operations Division

2024 concluded as a year of change and improvements for the district. We responded to 1,046 calls for service. About 17% of these were concurrent calls within 60 minutes of one other. Some of the key accomplishments for 2024 included:

- Ambulance deployed to Hurricane Milton Oct. 6-15th on a FEMA/GMR contract.
- Participation in the Safe School meetings
- Ignacio School District's Reunification Drill
- SUIT Hazardous Mitigation Plan
- The MCI for the La Plata County airport
- Completed and implemented the district's 5-year Strategic Plan

Facilities

The district had multiple repair issues addressed in 2024 on its stations and fleet/maintenance building. Notably, the district installed a back-up generator at the fleet/maintenance building, utilizing grant fund assistance. Additionally, the district installed an additional electrical subpanel at Station 2 in Oxford.

Fleet Services

The district continued the process of repurposing equipment and apparatus. The district sold at auction one Type I engine that was over 30 years old and a utility vehicle that was just over 20 years of age. Both apparatuses served the district well but were at the point of costing the district more in upkeep than their useful value.



- Repaired a leaking Tender/ Pumper that had been out of service for over a year. We replaced a cracked tank, and this apparatus will be back in service by 2025.
- Purchased a new utility truck to be used around the district but will also be utilized for transportation to training, both local and out of area. Additionally, this vehicle can be utilized on wildfire deployment assignments.
- Purchased a new ambulance with grant assistance through the State of Colorado. This ambulance is online and in service serving the district. The ambulance it replaced has been taken out of use as an ambulance, the box removed, and the chassis repurposed as a utility/plow truck for the district.



TROY BRADY
Troy Brady
Mechanic

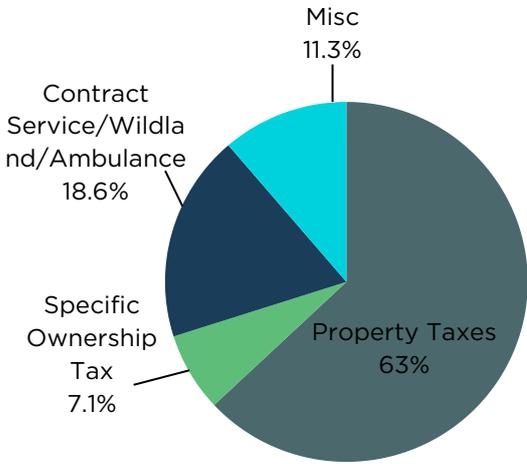


2024

REVENUE INCREASED 10%
CAPITAL OUTLAY DECREASED 36%

Financial Snapshot

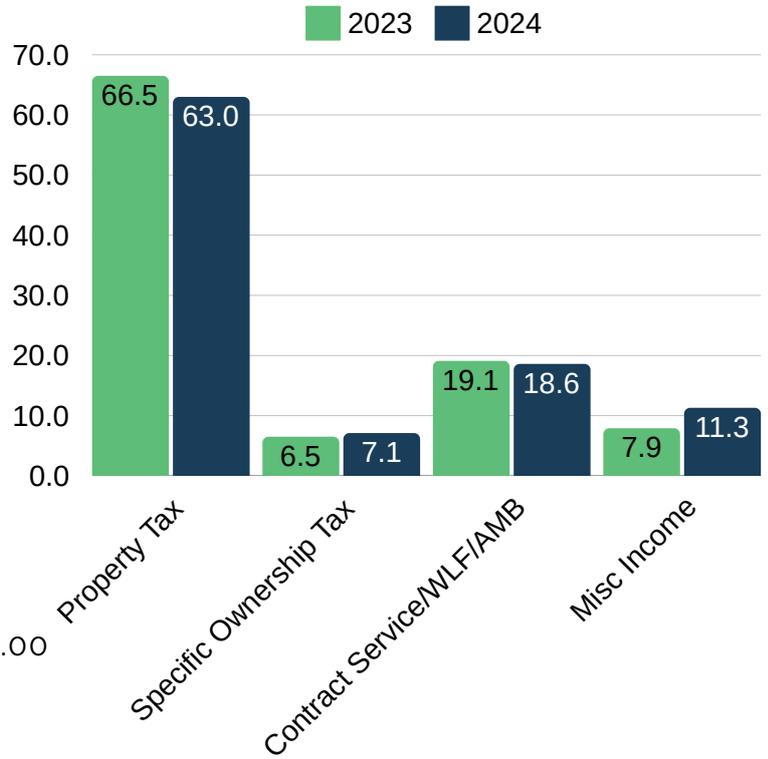
2024 Revenues



Revenues

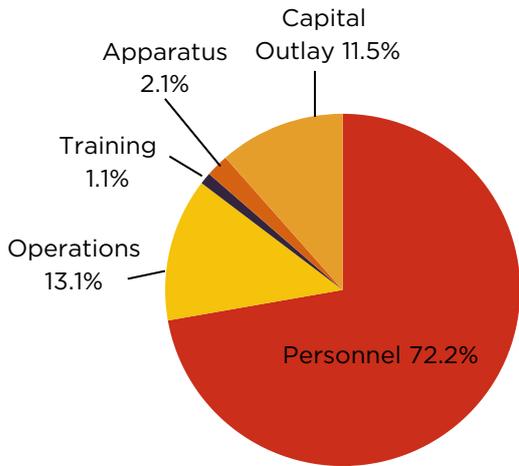
Property Tax: \$3,100,833.00
 Specific Ownership Tax: \$348,711.00
 Contract Service/Wildland/Ambulance: \$916,460.00
 Misc. Revenue: \$555,084.00
TOTAL: \$4,921,088.00

Revenue Trends



Financial reports are available on the District's website:
[HTTPS://LOSPINOSFIRE.COM/BOARD-INFO.HTML](https://LOSPINOSFIRE.COM/BOARD-INFO.HTML)

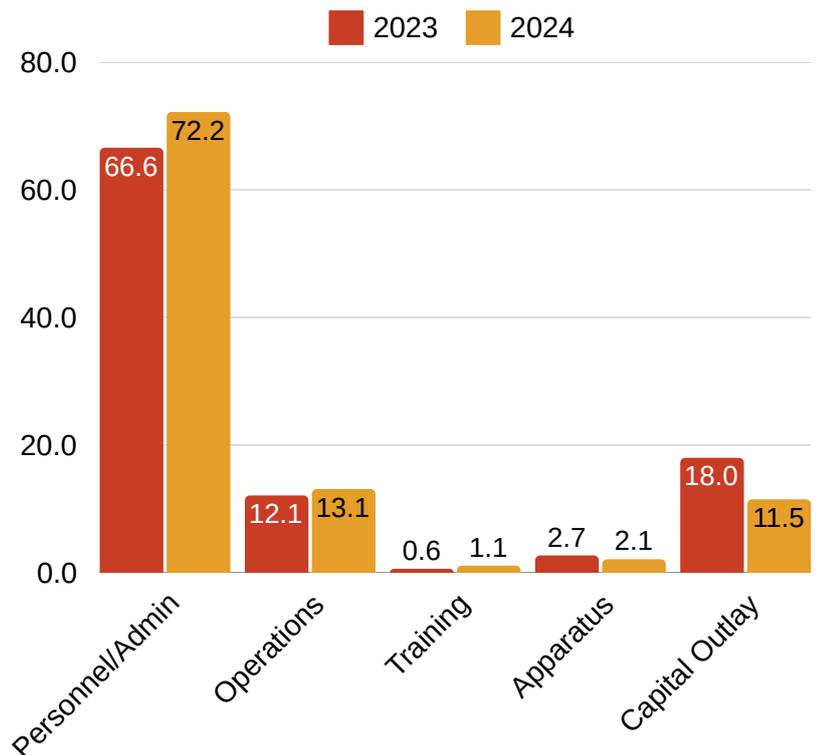
2024 Expenses



Expenses

Personnel/Administrative: \$3,051,090.00
 Operations: \$555,463.00
 Training: \$45,000.00
 Apparatus: \$88,000.00
 Capital Outlay Expense: \$484,973.00
TOTAL: \$4,224,526.00

Expense Trends

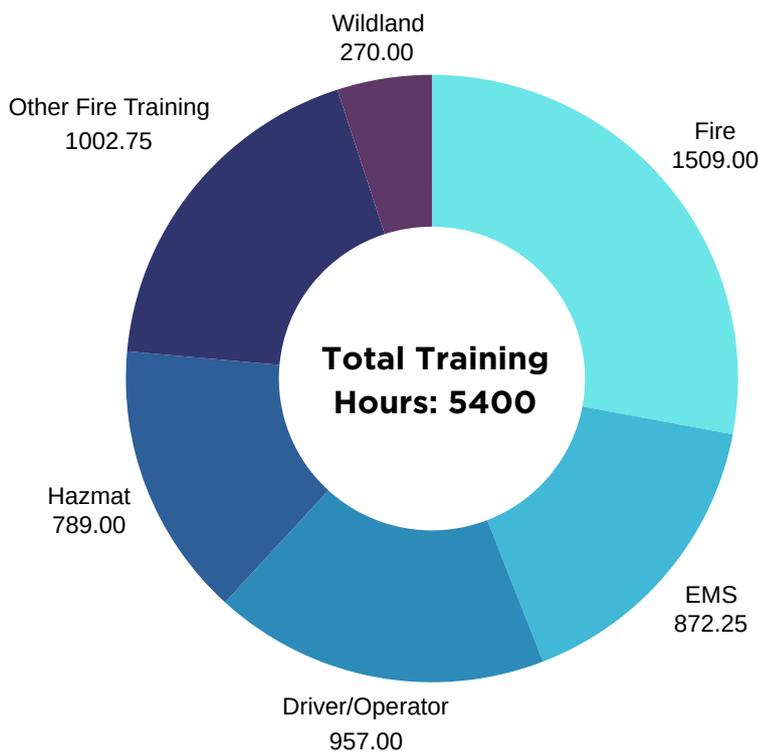


District Training

- 27 individuals attended out of the area training courses covering Wildland fire, Technology, Investigation, Leadership, and EMS.
- 18 individuals attended training courses in the local area in Wildland fire, EMS, Instructing, and Structural Firefighting.
- 5400 Hours of in-house training completed.
- One individual enrolled in Paramedic school, and another completing Advanced EMT.
- 37 renewals of State Fire Certifications.
- Area partner utilization of the training tower, flashover trailer, and pump test pit by the Colorado Firefighter Academy, San Juan County Fire, Farmington Fire, and Upper Pine Fire.



Training Hours in 2024



Medical Director



Dr. Jon Vivolo
Medical Director

Dr. Vivolo joined the district in 2021 as the EMS Medical Director, bringing expertise and leadership to our emergency medical services. In this role, he provides comprehensive EMS oversight, ensuring the highest standards of patient care. He is actively engaged in EMS Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (QA/QI) initiatives, working to enhance service delivery and outcomes. He plays a key role in training and case review, supporting the continuous professional development of our EMS providers.

Development Team

The Development Team has experienced a transformative year in 2024. The most significant shift, as many have observed, is the strategic rebranding of our Volunteer Program into what is now known as the Development Team model.

During my tenure since 2021, I've recognized two clear trends: traditional volunteerism is declining in our society, and numerous community members are actively seeking career direction. The Development Team attracts applicants primarily interested in first responder careers. While many candidates join with EMT certifications or comparable medical training, they typically lack comprehensive firefighting experience, including wildland, exterior, and interior operations. Our program provides these individuals the pathway to obtain their Colorado Firefighter 1 certification, encompassing Hazmat Awareness and Operations certifications. These qualifications, combined with their EMT B certification, fulfill the basic requirements for paid fire service positions. In exchange, Development Team members commit to a minimum of 16 monthly hours, either working alongside crew members or responding to emergency calls.

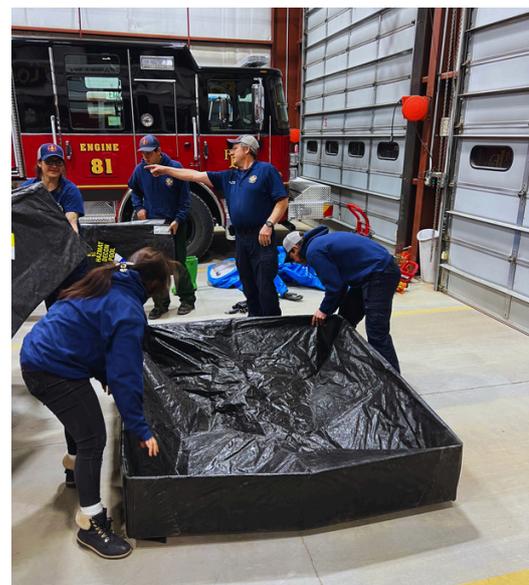
The transition from a volunteer program to a development team has yielded impressive results. We started 2024 with four members, and as we enter 2025, our team has expanded to 11 members. Throughout 2024, team members contributed 478 on-shift hours and exceeded 100 response hours. Calculating at \$18.00/HR (our department's typical starting wage), this represents \$10,404 in operational savings while providing valuable training.

Our Junior program (ages 16-18) continues to demonstrate success. A notable achievement in 2024 was one Junior member securing a full-time shift position immediately following their 18th birthday.

Overall, we've successfully adapted to the changing landscape of volunteerism by establishing an effective pipeline model that develops and produces qualified first responders dedicated to serving our communities.



Scot Davis
Scot Davis
Battalion Chief
Volunteer Coordinator



Strategic Plan

2024-2029

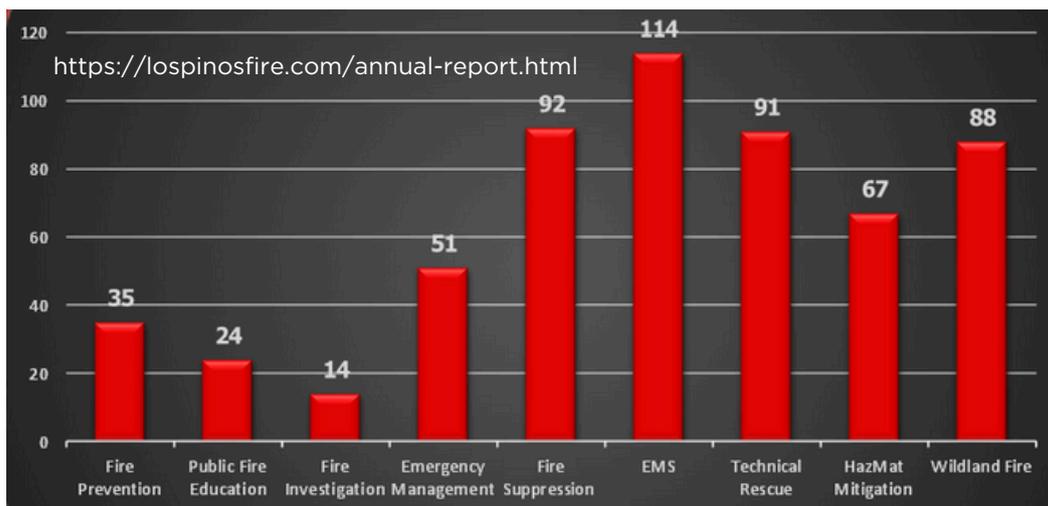
Los Pinos Fire Protection District has undergone numerous changes over the last several years. We have seen an increase in our staff to meet a rising service demand. With this, we have opened and staffed an additional station to help meet this need. Sustainability in funding has been helped with the passage of a voter approved mill levy increase. We have strengthened response agreements with our neighboring fire and EMS districts, which is beneficial for all involved when additional personnel and resources are necessary.

Additionally, we have worked with our dispatch/communications center to improve and upgrade technological aspects that have improved efficiency. These are just a few accomplishments that have been achieved to help continually ensure responder safety and contribute to financial stability. With the guidance of this strategic plan, we will continue to stay focused and strive to achieve critical initiatives that will help propel the organization forward over the next five years.

Community-Prioritized Programs

Understanding how the community prioritizes the agency's programs and services allows the Los Pinos Fire Protection District to ensure its focus on resource allocation alignments. The response results are listed below:

"I have lived here 22 years and have very specialized needs; not once has a person been rude or dismissive."-
Community comment

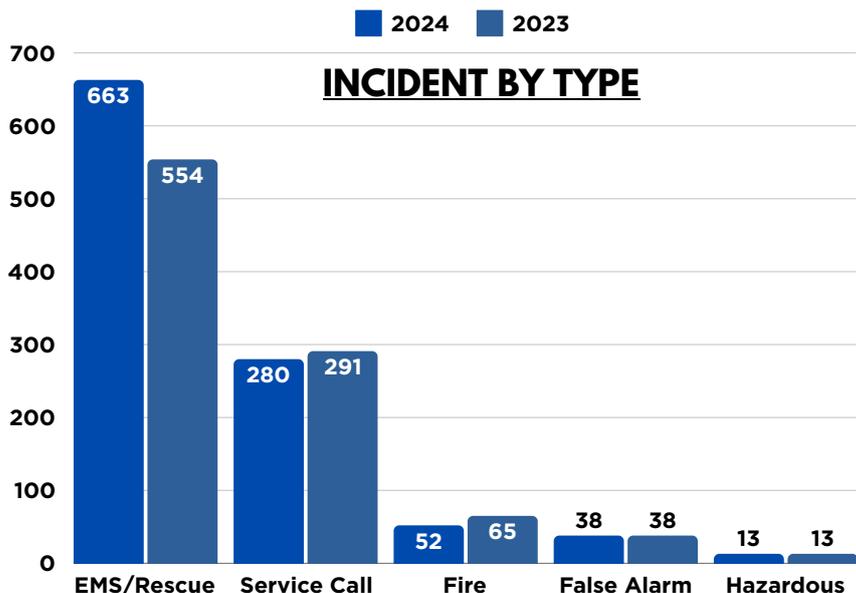


What our community had to say...

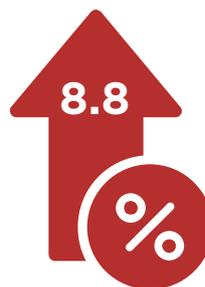
The District is highly regarded for its strong community engagement and commitment to responsiveness, ensuring stakeholders feel heard and supported. Many praise the friendly and approachable staff, describing them as trustworthy, knowledgeable, and professional in both emergency response and community collaboration. Their quick response times and effective communication, including phone calls and text alerts, reinforce their dedication to public safety. Additionally, their well-maintained equipment and facilities contribute to their reliability. Predominantly, the district is seen as a valued community partner, actively involved and consistently working to meet the unique needs of those they serve. Overall, the feedback paints a picture of a reliable, community-focused, and professional organization that values communication and engagement. Comments highlighted strong community engagement, responsiveness, professionalism, and trustworthiness of the district. These included:

- **Community Involvement & Engagement** - we actively participate in community activities, collaborates with stakeholders, and maintains strong relationships.
- **Responsiveness & Availability** - Quick response times, effective emergency response, and attentiveness to concerns.
- **Professionalism & Knowledge** - Staff are described as knowledgeable, competent, and well-equipped.
- **Trust & Approachability** - People feel we are friendly, approachable, and committed to fair and unbiased service.
- **Strong Equipment & Facilities** - Updated emergency response tools and well-maintained facilities.

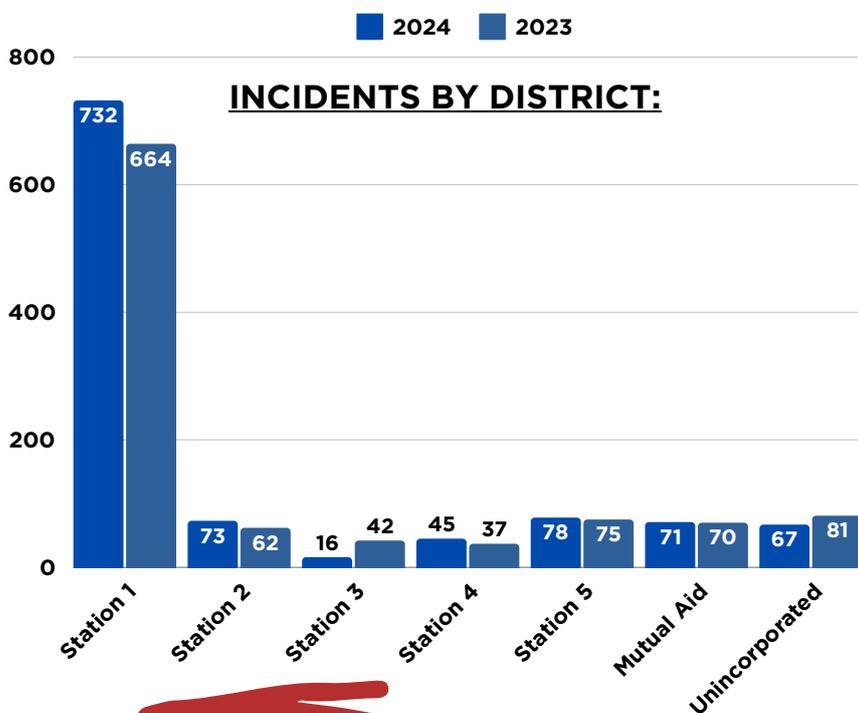
Incident Data 2024



**LOS PINOS FPD
RESPONDED TO
1,046 CALLS**



**CALL
VOLUMES
UP**

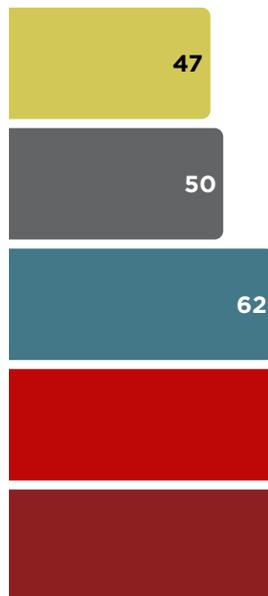


**EMS/RESCUE CALLS
INCREASED 19.6%**

**1-2 P.M. had the
highest call volume.**

**Wednesdays had the
most calls during the
week.**

**Trauma (falls) and motor
vehicle crashes had the
highest increases in call
volumes last year.**



EMS CALL VOLUME UPSURGED IN:

ALTERED MENTAL STATUS-47%

NEURO/STROKE- 50%

ABDOMINAL PAIN- 62%

TRAUMA (FALLS)- 125%

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES-83%



Wildland Report

The 2024 Los Pinos Wildland Division operated with a dedicated team comprising a full-time wildland coordinator, one full-time engine boss, and eight seasonal wildland firefighters. Throughout the 2024 fire season, our personnel responded promptly to incidents at the local, regional, and national levels.

Wildland Assignments

The Wildland Division of Los Pinos Fire continued with a support role with both the US Forest Service Columbine Ranger District and Southern Ute BIA.

While on assignment with the Forest Service we provided equipment and personnel for the annual prescribed fire burns. The crew and equipment were utilized in preparation of RX burns east of Bayfield, Colorado.

Sending out engines, overhead, and crews is a great way to add depth in experience and to bring in revenue back to the district. Along with the local severity assignments with the BIA and Forest Service, when conditions were favorable in our region we were able to send crews out of our area. Our crews went to fires in California, Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota and New Mexico. With a total of 180 days on fire assignments.



Training

The Wildland Division of Los Pinos Fire continually participates in training activities with the rest of the department. All of our crew members are encouraged to have tasks books open for their next qualification, and we look for opportunities for our crew members to complete those tasks as much as possible.

Community Burns

The Wildland Division of Los Pinos Fire provides an engine crew (when available) that performs agricultural burns in our district. The engine crew also assists with slash pile burns for those that feel uncomfortable burning piles. In 2024 the crew accomplished 121 acres burned.

Wildfires can escalate quickly.

Wildfire growth can be terrifyingly sudden and deadly. Prepare ahead of time so you'll be ready.



Clear brush away from your home to create defensible space



Use fire-resistant landscaping



Know your potential evacuation routes



Have an emergency supply kit ready to go



weather.gov



64,000 Wildfires

Average number of wildfires per year

6.8 Million

Average acres burned per year by wildfires

Everyday Wildfire Prevention



Most wildfires are caused by humans — many everyday things can create sparks. Keep ignition sources far away from dry vegetation, wood, and other fuel.



Have a clear 10 foot radius around campfires, burning brush, etc. Never leave fires unattended, and always properly extinguish.



Use grills/smokers on gravel or paved surfaces.



Never toss lit cigarettes on the ground. Put ashes in a metal container with a tight lid.



Keep water stored near campfires, fire pits, grills, smokers, burning brush, etc.



Maintain vehicle brakes & tires, and secure tow chains to avoid dragging. Don't drive on dry grass or brush.



Water your lawn & keep grass cut. Mow lawn early in the morning and when it's not windy or excessively dry.

Always follow burn bans & regulations.

Be aware of weather conditions. Low humidity, heat, drought and winds are conducive to fires.

weather.gov



RECOGNITION AWARDS

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:

BRIAN QUINTANA

OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

CPT. RYAN MULAY

PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR:

JAMES O'CONNOR

EMT OF THE YEAR:

TYLER ST. CYR

DEVELOPMENT TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR:

JOSH FANNING

STORK PINS AWARDED FOR FIELD

DELIVERY OF A BABY GIRL:

JAMES O'CONNOR, TORREY SCHAEFER, & DEVIN MEEKS



Personnel

Full-time Hires



Brian Umbarger
FF/AEMT



Alissa Mendez
FF/EMT



Nick Estrada
FF/EMT



Landry Brake
FF/Paramedic

Part-time Hires



Jackson Charrette
EMT



Callie Decker
EMT



Hadley Cross
Paramedic



Keaton Ingram
EMT

2024 Development Team



BEKAH KEIL
EMT



SAM SNYDER
EMT



Tom Bertus
EMT

Meet Our Board Members



Board President
Chelsea Hamilton



Vice President
Preston Rea



Board Secretary
Tom Arthur



Board Member
James Brown



Treasurer
Don Woodmansee

Fire Marshal Report

A new Fire Investigator Technician was added to the division to assist with fire investigations. We are looking forward to having additional support personnel for fire investigation in 2025.

We assisted in 38 community and standby events, parades, health and career fairs, Tribal fair, Sundance, and Bear Dance to name a few.

- 22 commercial business Life Safety and Fire Inspections
- 6 mobile food establishment inspections
- 5 residential wood stove inspections
- 4 new commercial project application reviews



Brad Egger

Brad Egger, IAAI-CFI, FO1, EMT-I
Division Chief/Fire Marshal



STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

BANNED



All personal uses of fireworks are prohibited.



Any fire not within a permanently constructed fire pit, ring or grate on public or private land.



Smoking outdoors in an area that is **not cleared** of all combustible materials.



Fires contained within portable devices (chimneys, charcoal grills and tiki torches with no shut-off valve) on **undeveloped lands.**



No explosive targets or incendiary (tracer) rounds. These are never allowed in federal lands.



Using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark-arresting device.



Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame in an area that is **not cleared** of at least 10 feet in diameter and not in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.

ALLOWED



Professional fireworks displays.



Fires contained within liquid fueled or gas fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices on PUBLIC or PRIVATE land.



Shooting or discharging firearms on PRIVATE land or at a PUBLIC shooting range.



Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter and in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.



Fires contained with permanently constructed fire pit, ring or grate on PRIVATE land or within a fee-charged PUBLIC recreational site, such as campgrounds.



Smoking within an enclosed vehicle, building, developed recreation site or in an area that is cleared of all combustible materials.

Using internal or external combustion engines WITH a spark-arresting device.

Hands-Only CPR

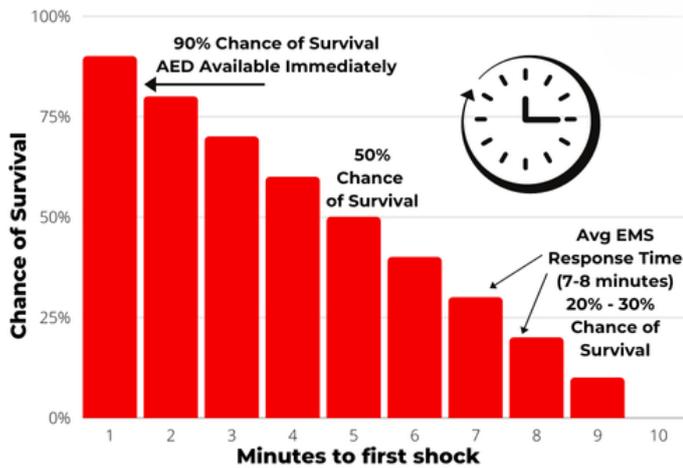


Don't drop the beat!
Know it. Feel it. Push it. Keep it.



CPR week is June 1-7 | #CPRwithHeart

Every Minute Counts!



HOUSE NUMBERS SAVE LIVES

Check your house and mailbox and make sure your numbers are:

- 3 inches tall or larger, block numbers - not script or text
- VISIBLE FROM THE STREET and with proper lighting
- As close to your front door as possible
- On a contrasting background
- On BOTH sides of your mailbox
- Unobstructed by trees or light Fixtures



More than 436,000 Americans die from cardiac arrest annually



Heartsaver®
Adult CPR AED



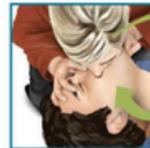
Tap and shout

Yell for help. Send someone to phone 911 and get an AED



Look for no breathing or only gasping

Push hard and fast. Give 30 compressions



Open the airway and give 2 breaths

Repeat sets of 30 compressions and 2 breaths



When the AED arrives, turn it ON and follow the prompts

Help first responders when every second counts!

Ready, Set, Go!



Defensible space can be created by removing vegetation that is next to or near property at risk. In addition, the impact on assets can be reduced by using mitigated fuel breaks, strategic grazing and landscaping plans with non-combustible materials and fire-resistant plants.

Special attention should be given to wind-driven embers that are carried ahead of the fire front. These embers have the potential to be carried both short (100-200 ft) and long distances (1 mile or more) depending on current weather conditions. Embers that land in orchards, on roofs, and in feed or fuel storage facilities can start destructive fires.



Take action! Create your personal defensible space with the help of the RSG! Program National Action Guide. Contact your local fire department or visit wildlandfireRSG.org.

Orchards and Groves

Fruit trees are susceptible to damage from wildland fires in two ways: radiant heat from the adjacent fire can scorch orchards or fires can completely burn the trees. A wildland fire driven by wind can rapidly overcome an orchard, destroying both fruit and trees in the process.

Activating irrigation systems can be extremely effective in preventing a fire from spreading into a grove. For best results, the systems should be activated well ahead of the arrival of the fire to ensure leaf litter is thoroughly soaked. High winds may cause power companies to shut off power in certain areas, so it is critical to soak the leaf litter while there is still power to the pumps. Consider alternative methods of irrigation if electricity is not an option.

The best method to prevent an advancing wildland fire from reaching an orchard or grove is to create mitigated areas around the orchard by removing undesired trees and brush from the areas you want to protect. This allows firefighters to use fire suppression tactics to keep the fire from reaching the property.

To prepare orchards and groves, farmers and ranchers should:

- Remove leaf litter around tree trunks in areas you are trying to protect.
- Create defensible spaces around crops and outbuildings.
- Open the gates you can, remove locks and be prepared to have maps available for firefighters.
- Apply irrigation water for as long as possible.



Woodpiles around orchards serve as a landing zone for wind-driven embers and can worsen the fire.

Livestock and Rangeland Operations

It is often impossible for many ranchers to evacuate their livestock due to the number of animals they have on their property. As a result, ranchers should consider establishing relatively safe havens for their animals through rotational grazing. Intensive-managed grazing near ranch houses, barns or equipment areas can provide defensible space for those assets and create an area where livestock can be better protected from the main body of the fire.

If time allows and you are able to, evacuate as many livestock as possible. Do not turn livestock loose. Work with local first responders to determine how to best manage your remaining livestock if unable to evacuate them all.

Row Crops

Damage from wildland fire is typically minor in row crops. But, because many row crop farms are in close proximity to natural vegetation, farm workers, outbuildings and equipment could be in danger. Farmers should take defensible space precautions around the farm house and other structures throughout the property.



To prepare for a wildland fire, farmers and ranchers should:

- Know fire history and typical fire behavior of the area.
- Create a livestock relocation/evacuation plan.
- Create defensible space around all structures.
- Clear vegetation around fuel tanks and equipment.
- Create an evacuation plan for all workers.
- Open the gates you can, remove locks and be prepared to have maps available for firefighters.
- Clearly mark roads, water tanks, ponds, and other water supplies available for firefighting efforts. Include maps with latitude/longitude information if available.
- Provide a copy of your planning information to your local fire department.

Wildland fire can threaten your property. By creating defensible space, you can reduce your chances of damage.

To prepare for a wildland fire, livestock operators should:

- Ensure proper registration and branding of livestock.
- Move livestock to previously grazed areas to help protect them against an advancing wildland fire by acting as a mitigated area.
- Open and unlock gates so livestock can be moved as necessary.
- Establish and maintain firebreaks around pastures.
- Evacuate as many animals as possible, as time allows.
- Close all doors, windows, large openings in barns and other structures.
- Shut off propane tanks.

To prepare row crops, farmers and ranchers should:

- Store farm supplies in areas that will not be exposed to embers or flame fronts.
- Create a safe zone clear of vegetation for equipment and crops.
- Properly mark all storage areas used for chemicals.
- Identify all water sources that may be helpful towards firefighting efforts; pumps, wells, ponds, stock tanks, etc.

Ready, Set, Go!

Wildland Fire Preparedness for Farmers & Ranchers



It is not a question of if, but **when** the next major wildland fire will occur. As wildland fires continue to intensify, it is important to remember the specific considerations facing farmers and ranchers. Wildland fire is becoming a year-round reality. Many of the areas at greatest risk could be your ranch or farm property.

Agricultural properties that border non-urban areas often have unique challenges, making them more difficult to protect from a wildland fire.

This Ready, Set, Go! Program Farmers & Ranchers brochure is designed to help you better understand wildland fire mitigation efforts to best protect your household, livestock, and livelihood.

Defensible Space:

Increases your safety and reduces risk of fire damage to your property

Defensible space is the area around your home in which vegetation, debris, and other combustible fuels have been removed to slow the spread of fire to and from the home. The areas where human development meet or mix with natural vegetation is called the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Creating defensible space in these areas can reduce the risk of fire damage to structures and allow space for firefighting operations.

Homeowners should consider landscaping plans that include non-combustible materials or fire-resistant plants and conduct regular maintenance to create and maintain defensible space around their home and outbuildings. Special consideration should be given to wind-driven embers which can travel up to a mile or more ahead of the flame front. Consider areas where embers can land by looking over your home and outbuildings for cracks, openings, vents, and other areas where an ember could enter the space.

Farm and ranch properties may require very large areas of defensible space due to the surrounding vegetation and topography that may be part of your property. Agricultural assets such as feed, packing boxes, mulch, and fuel supplies are particularly susceptible to flames and wind-driven embers. Livestock and equipment are also at risk. As a result, you must carefully assess your property, paying particular attention to the frequency of wildland fire and the risks around the property to determine how much defensible space is needed and what must be done during a wildland fire event. Coordinate with your local fire department for a risk assessment review of your property.

Unmanaged vegetation between and around homes, farms, or livestock structures increases the risk of wildland fire spreading. Pre-fire planning, fuel management and sufficient fuel breaks allow firefighters the space they need to fight wildland fires.



Contact your local fire department today!



Learn how you can make a difference and protect yourself and community!
Visit wildlandfireRSG.org to learn more about simple actions you can take to prepare!

My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Ready Before a fire occurs

Prepare yourself and your household

- Create a Wildland Fire Action Plan, visit wildlandfireRSG.org.
- Know multiple evacuation routes.
- Keep emergency supply kits on property and in personal vehicles.

Prepare your property

- Ensure your address is clearly marked and visible from the street.
- Establish and maintain mitigated firebreaks around your pastures and structures.
- Assess your property for ignition sources.
- Create defensible space around all structures.
- Clearly mark water tanks, ponds, and other water supplies available for firefighting use.
- Reinforce bridges to ensure that fire engines or other fire suppression equipment are supported. Post bridge load limits and bridge heights.

Prepare your livestock

- Create a livestock relocation/evacuation plan.
- Ensure proper registration and branding of livestock.
- Establish a contingency plan for feeding livestock if grazing land is destroyed.

Set As the fire approaches

- Monitor local radio or television stations for weather updates.
- Load vehicles with emergency supplies and valuables.
- Alert your household and workers of any changes in the situation.
- Turn on irrigation.
- Open gates to give access to firefighters.
- Relocate livestock.
- Close all doors and windows and turn on all lights in homes, barns, and other structures.
- Shut off propane tanks.
- Ensure all water source connections and locations are identified and operational.
- Move heavy equipment into non vegetated areas such as crop fields or mowed pastures.

Go! Act early

- Leave early enough to avoid being caught in the fire.
- Do not go back to open gates or evacuate animals.

Remember: During a wildland fire, responding resources may not be from the immediate area or have local knowledge. Clearly marked addresses, water supplies, and bridge load limits save valuable time.

If you are trapped or unable to evacuate:

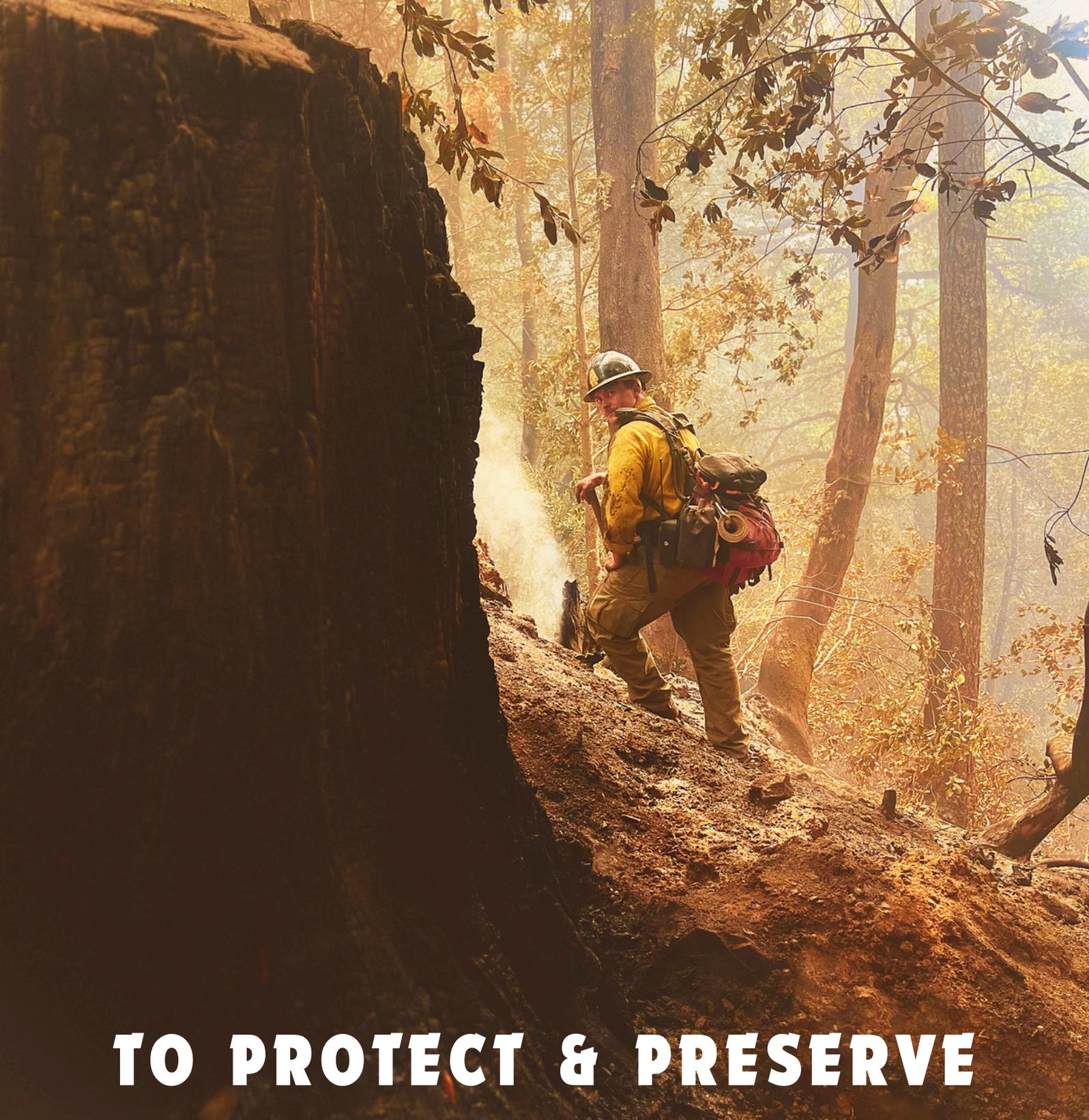
- Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Wear long sleeves and pants made of natural fibers, such as cotton. Boots, gloves, hats, goggles, and bandanas are also helpful against smoke and embers.
- Stay hydrated.
- Patrol your property for fires, if it is safe to do so.
- Take refuge inside a structure, away from outside walls.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.

Remember: The best thing you can do is evacuate early and let firefighters do their jobs. If you choose to stay, understand that severe fire behavior could prevent firefighters from rescuing you or other members of your household.

This IAFC Wildland Fire Program is funded through a DHS/FEMA/AFG/FP&S grant awarded FY2018 and in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Contact your local fire department to learn more about how you can reduce wildland fire risk and to get your own copy of the RSG! Program National Action Guide.

Visit wildlandfireRSG.org today!



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IGNACIO, COLORADO

P: 970.563.9501

WWW.LOSPINOSFIRE.COM

