



Templeton Fire & Emergency Services

Fact Sheet

Our Growing Fire and Emergency Services Dilemma

The Challenge

Our Templeton community is at risk when a medical emergency, fire, natural disaster or other emergency strikes.

Templeton Fire and Emergency Services a division of the Templeton Community Services District (TCSD), has one fire station that serves our community of 8,000 residents. Due to limited property tax funding from the County, that Templeton station is only staffed from 8 AM to 5 PM daily. Nights are currently covered voluntarily by firefighters when available. This leads to longer response times and occasionally our emergency service crew is unable to respond to after-hour 911 calls.

Templeton Fire and Emergency Services experienced a 75% increase in service calls since 2010. Sixty percent (60%) of all calls for service are for emergency medical incidents. This includes responding to victims of heart attacks, stroke, traumatic injury, car accidents, youth sport injuries and other medical emergencies.

The American Heart Association states that brain deterioration starts between four and six minutes after a person stops breathing. The average 911 response time for Templeton Fire and Emergency Services is 6 minutes. Even a one-minute delay in response time increases mortality rates. Due to the lack of adequate property tax funding, there are times when Templeton emergency responders (firefighters) are not available to respond to your 911 calls for help.

Current staffing levels at Templeton Fire and Emergency Services are not adequate to properly protect you, your family and your property. Additional funding is required to staff our fire station 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TCSD is conducting a thorough financial study to determine how much additional funding is needed to keep our only fire station open. Decisions will be made soon.

Why Keep Templeton Fire and Emergency Services?

For more than 120 years, Templeton Fire and Emergency Services has been a proud and important part of our community. If TCSD is forced to close your Fire Department and Templeton's ONLY fire station, it is uncertain as to whether or not operations would be provided by Cal Fire. What is certain is that our community would lose local control of this vital life-saving service.

Loss of a North County Resource:

If Templeton Fire and Emergency Services was forced to dissolve, the loss would be felt by Templeton Residents and the entire North County. No one agency can safely mitigate large incidents such as freeway accidents, structure or wildland fires alone. Templeton receives assistance from Atascadero, Paso Robles and Cal Fire for large emergency incidents. Templeton provides assistance to our neighboring communities as well. The loss of Templeton Fire and Emergency Services would eliminate a valuable resource to an already understaffed North County.

Cal Fire is a valuable partner, but already stretched thin. If our fire service is handed over to Cal Fire, Templeton would most likely be served by County Fire Engine 30, located in Paso Robles. Engine 30's primary response area is over 60 square miles and one of the busiest Engines in SLO County. It is possible that simultaneous incidents could occur which would create longer 911 response times for a fire or medical emergency in Templeton.

Identified Solutions Include:

In order to protect lives and property, improve response times and provide fire and emergency response coverage 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, Templeton Fire and Emergency Services has been aggressively working towards a solution that would provide a sustainable and reliable fire and emergency service delivery model.

1: In 2017, the TCSD Board of Directors voted to create a Community Facility District (CFD) for new residential and commercial development to ensure that new development pays their fair share of the increase in demand for emergency services. This anticipated future funding, unfortunately, will not address the Fire Department's current funding shortfalls.

2: The District asked the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors for a remedy in the form of an increased share of our property tax allocation. Templeton Fire Department's only source of funding comes from property taxes. Our current property tax allocation from the County was established in 1976 and is about 8.4%. So, of all the property taxes paid by TCSD property owners, only 8.4 cents of every dollar you pay to the county comes back to the District. After numerous meetings with the TCSD Officials over the past several years, the Board of Supervisors denied our specific request to increase our property tax share.

3: A remaining sustainable and reliable option available to the District is to seek community support for a local parcel tax. This allows your local Fire Department to provide lifesaving fire and medical emergency services on a 24 hour, 7 days per week basis.

Funds from the proposed measure would be used to:

- **Provide** essential local fire protection and emergency medical services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- **Reduce** fire and 911 emergency response times
- **Recruit and retain** qualified firefighters

Community input is welcome!

As we evaluate Templeton Fire and Emergency Services needs, we want to make sure that we include our community. We welcome input from you in our study process. It is our responsibility to keep you informed and to do everything possible to ensure adequate fire protection and quick access to life-saving emergency medical care. Please share your opinions by emailing Chief Bill White at chief@templetoncsd.org.

For more information, visit our website at: www.templetoncsd.org or call us at: (805) 434-4911