



# PROTECTING US

Corralitos · Loma Prieta · Bonny Doon · Davenport · South Skyline/Las Cumbres  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE — ON THE JOB 24/7...

Rapid emergency response and effective fire protection in rural areas like ours is not easy to guarantee.

Read inside to learn more about local rapid emergency response: how it works, how we pay for it, and what the future looks like.



# ANSWERING THE CALL: YEAR-ROUND RAPID EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Local firefighting teams, made up of trained, professional volunteers and CAL FIRE firefighters, respond to emergencies in the rural areas of Santa Cruz County, including Corralitos, Davenport, Bonny Doon, Loma Prieta, and South Skyline/Las Cumbres. Minutes are precious in an emergency, and it takes thorough planning, teamwork and collaboration to assure our local 'safety net:'

- Rapid response within 15 minutes or less
- 10 fire stations throughout our area, currently open year-round
- Trained, professional responders: a minimum of two paid firefighters plus volunteers
- Emergency response vehicles that are maintained and adequately equipped with up-to-date lifesaving tools.

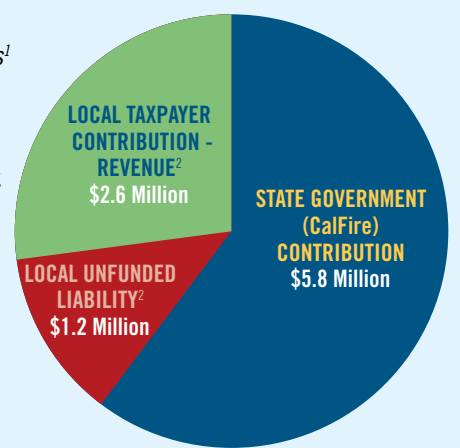
## SAFETY AND VALUE FOR LOCAL TAXPAYERS: THE STATE PAYS MORE THAN HALF THE COST OF LOCAL PROTECTION



### SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE

Cost-sharing for Emergency Response and All Operations<sup>1</sup>

The State pays 60% of the cost of providing local fire protection in our community. In other communities, the State does not provide funding and local taxpayers pay 100% of the cost.



<sup>1</sup>Year round, total cost

<sup>2</sup>Local budget supporting paid and volunteer firefighters

### SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS:\*

**STATE FUNDED:**  
29 Paid Professional Firefighters

**COUNTY/LOCAL TAXPAYER FUNDED:**  
20 Paid Professional Firefighters;  
80 Trained Volunteers

\*Non-fire season (November-May)

We rely on a cooperative relationship between Santa Cruz County, County volunteer firefighters and the State (CAL FIRE) to keep us safe. The State augments local taxpayer contributions for County Fire.

Local taxpayers bear about 40% of the cost of rapid emergency response. (see charts)

Our area is one of 15 areas across California that benefit from a special contract with CAL FIRE, guaranteeing substantial State funds to assure a high level of local protection.

We saw the benefits of this commitment firsthand, when firefighters from all over California were brought in by the State to fight our wildfires.

## BUDGET CUTS IMPACT RESPONSE TIMES: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Rising costs and increasing demands on County resources have forced some tough choices recently. Recent cutbacks include:

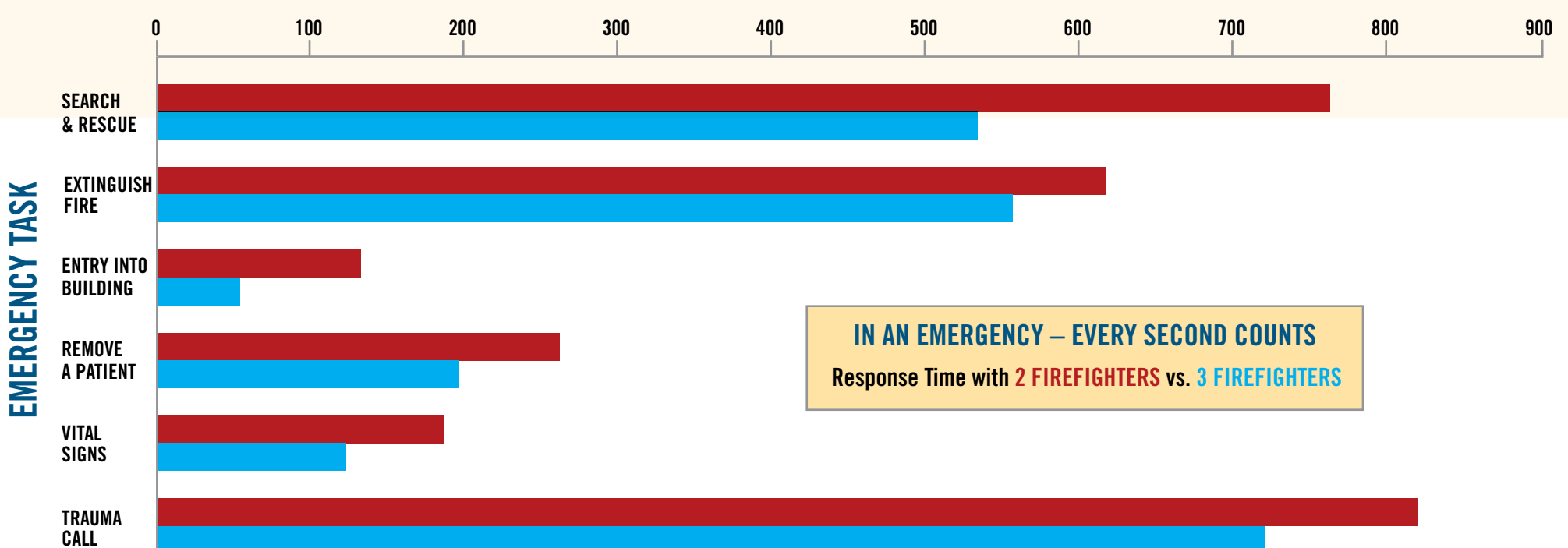
- Reducing fire engine staffing from 3 to 2 paid firefighters between November and May (see chart)
- Deferred vehicle replacement, extending expected vehicle life an additional 5-10 years, while increasing ongoing repair costs and reliability concerns.

We need to work together to limit the impacts to our year-round emergency response times. All parts of the County's local firefighting team — community members, County government and the State will need to do their part to maintain and enhance local fire protection and emergency response.



For more information, please visit [www.SantaCruzCountyFire.com](http://www.SantaCruzCountyFire.com)

### RESPONSE TIME IN SECONDS



**IN AN EMERGENCY – EVERY SECOND COUNTS**  
Response Time with 2 FIREFIGHTERS vs. 3 FIREFIGHTERS



Santa Cruz County Fire  
6059 Highway 9  
Felton, CA 95018

Visit **[SantaCruzCountyFire.com](http://SantaCruzCountyFire.com)** for more information about your local fire station and how volunteers,  
the state and Santa Cruz County work together to protect our area.

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