

ANNUAL REPORT

UPPER PINE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

2022





MISSION


The Mission of the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District is to provide exceptional service through response and mitigation of all risk/hazards in the Upper Pine River Valley and Region.

VISION

Building resilience in our communities
Engaging our neighbors in collaborative ideas

Innovative financial strategies
Delivering outcome based medical, rescue, and fire services
Empower employees to engage in district processes
Approach problems as opportunities through "Just Culture"
Supporting staff in their professional development

VALUES



Accountable
Committed
Competent
Dedicated
Duty
Family
Integrity
Professional
Respectful
Teamwork

“We will be leaders in rural EMS and fire protection serving the four corners region.”

The Upper Pine River Fire Protection District provides all-risk/hazard fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to 292 square miles of eastern La Plata County and a small portion of the western part of Archuleta County in southwest Colorado, located near the Four Corners of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. We proudly serve a permanent population of approximately 14,000 residents. The popular vacation area of Lake Vallecito increases our summer population, with seasonal residents largely from Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

Our district includes the Town of Bayfield, Gem Village, and the communities of Forest Lakes, Vallecito Lake, and Lemon Reservoir. We also cover the County Road 240 corridor from County Road 246 to above Lemon Dam to the Forest Service Boundaries. The topography includes several urban interfaces and intermixed neighborhoods. We work closely through mutual aid with the US Forest Service and surrounding fire districts to protect the community.

In 2022, we responded to 1161 calls for help. Of those calls, the majority were a request for emergency medical services. We employ 35 full-time employees with daily staffing of 8 fire and EMS personnel. Part-time members and 6 support staff also trained as EMTs or Paramedics support operations. During spring and summer, typically mitigation services are performed utilizing a 4-8 person wildland crew and part-time members in conjunction with private contractors. These services are primarily for grant-funded projects on private property and watershed areas. When feasible, assistance to ranchers and farmers with agriculture and ditch burns is provided in the Spring.

We maintain eight fire stations, three of which are staffed 24 hours in Bayfield, Forest Lakes, and Lake Vallecito. The administrative office building is located in the Town of Bayfield at 515 Sower Drive. Resident firefighters are housed in stations on CR 240 and at the Vallecito Dam. Resident firefighters respond to calls and maintain stations.

The Upper Pine River Fire Protection District is an autonomous Colorado Special District. As a non-profit, the major revenue sources are a mill levy, wildland fire deployments, and ambulance fees. Additional sources are grant awards and Federally funded wildland firefighting activities. We are governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected at large by their constituents, each serving a staggered four-year term. The Fire Chief oversees the general operations in accordance with the policy direction prescribed by the Board of Directors.

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FIRE CHIEF



The Upper Pine River Fire Protection District is pleased to provide the 2022 annual report to the community. The annual report is designed to keep the residents, seasonal homeowners, and visitors to the Pine River Valley up to date on our financial performance, operational effectiveness, and significant accomplishments. In 2022, the pandemic continued to be the center of the Fire District's medical response. In November of 2021, Mercy Regional Medical Center experienced an overload in the intensive care unit. The District quickly moved to begin providing monoclonal antibodies to patients in their homes as a medical countermeasure. Over ninety doses of monoclonal antibodies went out to patients in their homes and all but one patient avoided hospitalization. The ongoing work of vaccination and emergency response to COVID-19 patients continued throughout the year.

With the overwhelming support of the public and voter approval, the sunset clause that was part of the original mill levy increase in 2013 was removed. This brought long-term stability to the funding of the District without raising taxes. The District also received several financial gifts from private citizens in 2022, allowing us to send additional personnel to paramedic school and replace outdated defibrillators.

We did not receive a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. The District had difficulty securing a financial auditor, and the new auditors had missed the submission deadline for the program. The Upper Pine budget was prepared in accordance with previous CAFR standards and is available on our website.

We were fortunate to have only one significant wildland fire this year in Forest Lakes, known as the Little Bear Fire. While the fire started on USFS property, it threatened homes in the subdivision. A quick response kept the fire to under an acre or two. No structures were lost and no injuries were reported. This prompted more mitigation to buffer USFS lands and private property and improve the emergency egress in Forest Lakes subsidized by grant funding.

This year we also achieved a rare 43% cardiac arrest save rate. One of these successes is highlighted in the EMS section. Several patients were resuscitated and expired later at Mercy. While it is not the outcome we seek, it often provides the families the ability to assemble and be present for someone's final moments. Other significant EMS interventions occurred in 2022, including a man with a severed radial artery at the north end of Vallecito who would not have made it without a quick response and rapid application of tourniquets.

The District received re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services. Upper Pine River Fire and Red White and Blue Fire Protection District are the only fire-based EMS organizations in Colorado that are CAAS accredited. All the achievements in the 2022 Annual Report would not have been possible without a group of first responders and staff committed to the safety and well-being of our District.

Sincerely,

Bruce Evans, MPA, NRP, CFO, SPO
Fire Chief

BOARD PRESIDENT

The Pine River Valley has always been a beautiful and unique place for me. The pace is a bit slower than in most areas, but I believe that's what makes it so special. As another year passes for Upper Pine Fire, I can't help but notice that many department members are expecting or have already welcomed future generations. For me, that's a sign that this community really is one of a kind. I am excited to think that whether you're a long-time local or new to the area, it's a place you would want to raise a family. With the new generations starting, I find myself thinking of the past generations that have built the foundation for Upper Pine. We have lost a few that had dedicated their lives to this department and surrounding communities. I would like to thank them for always answering the call and thank their families for supporting them when they made sacrifices for this community.

This year marks another record-breaking year of calls for Upper Pine. As the community grows, so do the demands of the department. I can't help but brag on the crews for how driven they are to further their skills and provide a better service all around. Because of the professionalism of the crew and the quality of care they have given, the community has been very generous with donations. Many of the donations have provided opportunities for the crews to further their skills in EMS to the top level of paramedics. Upper Pine has always been focused on leveling up in training and furthering education. As the community and department grows, I am excited to see many of the crew members' careers grow as well.

Not long ago, Upper Pine was a community-based volunteer fire department. No matter how big the task was, the volunteers always showed up and got the job done. I even remember a few times when the responding unit was just a farmer's tractor until help arrived. When Upper Pine transitioned from a volunteer department to a career department, it was a major step forward. I was just a kid out of high school at the time with not much direction and couldn't believe an opportunity to become a career firefighter was an option. Over the years, Upper Pine has had many great firefighters and EMTs come and go while furthering their careers. It's only been in the last few years that Upper Pine has had some of its crew members finish their careers here. To me, that is an amazing achievement for the Upper Pine River Fire Department.

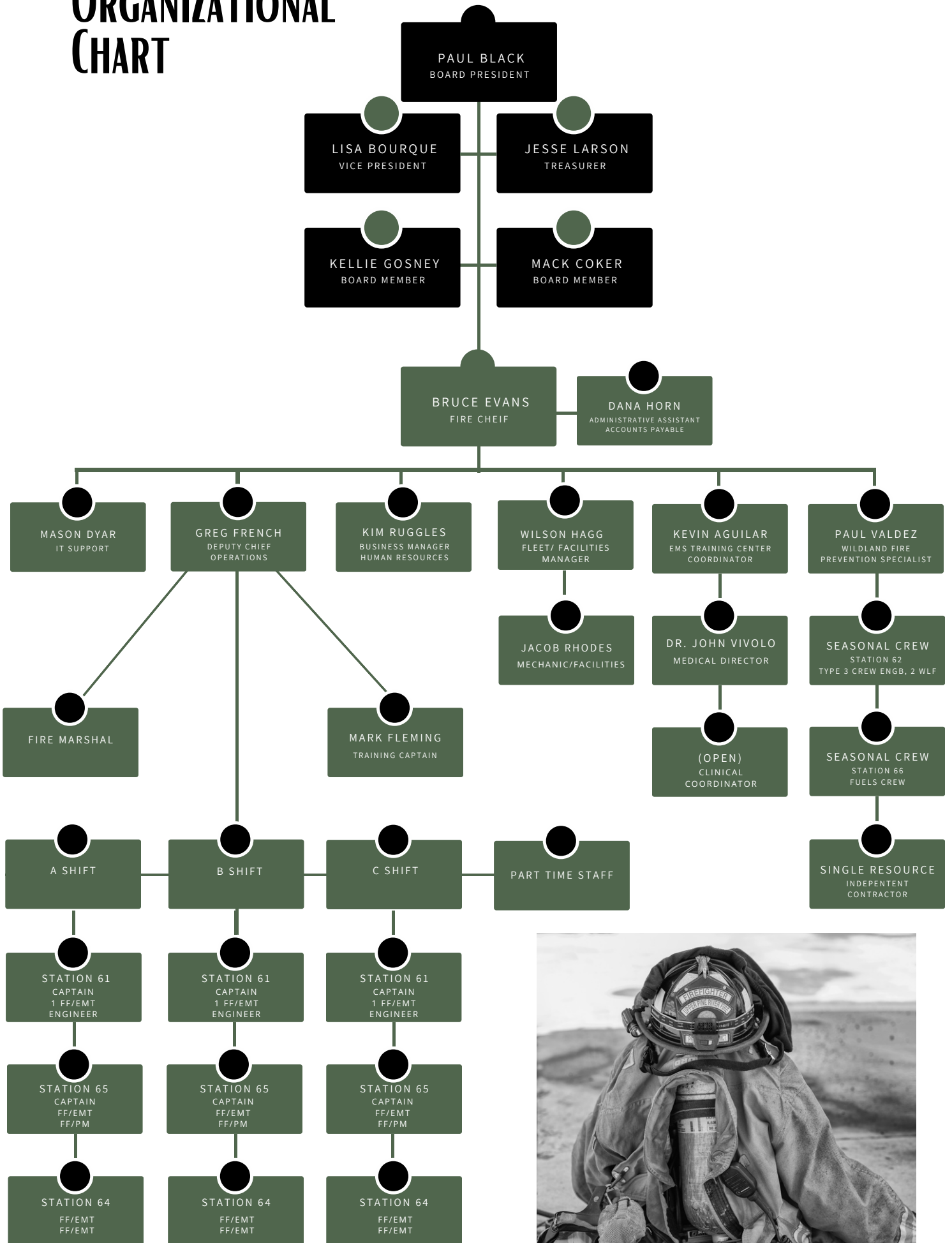
Thank you to the Firefighters and EMTs of Upper Pine River Fire and the community we live in.

Paul Black

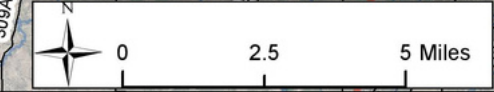
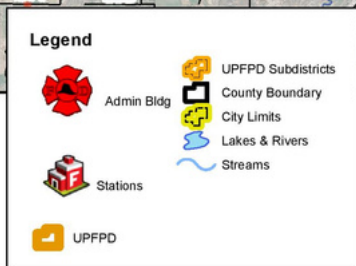
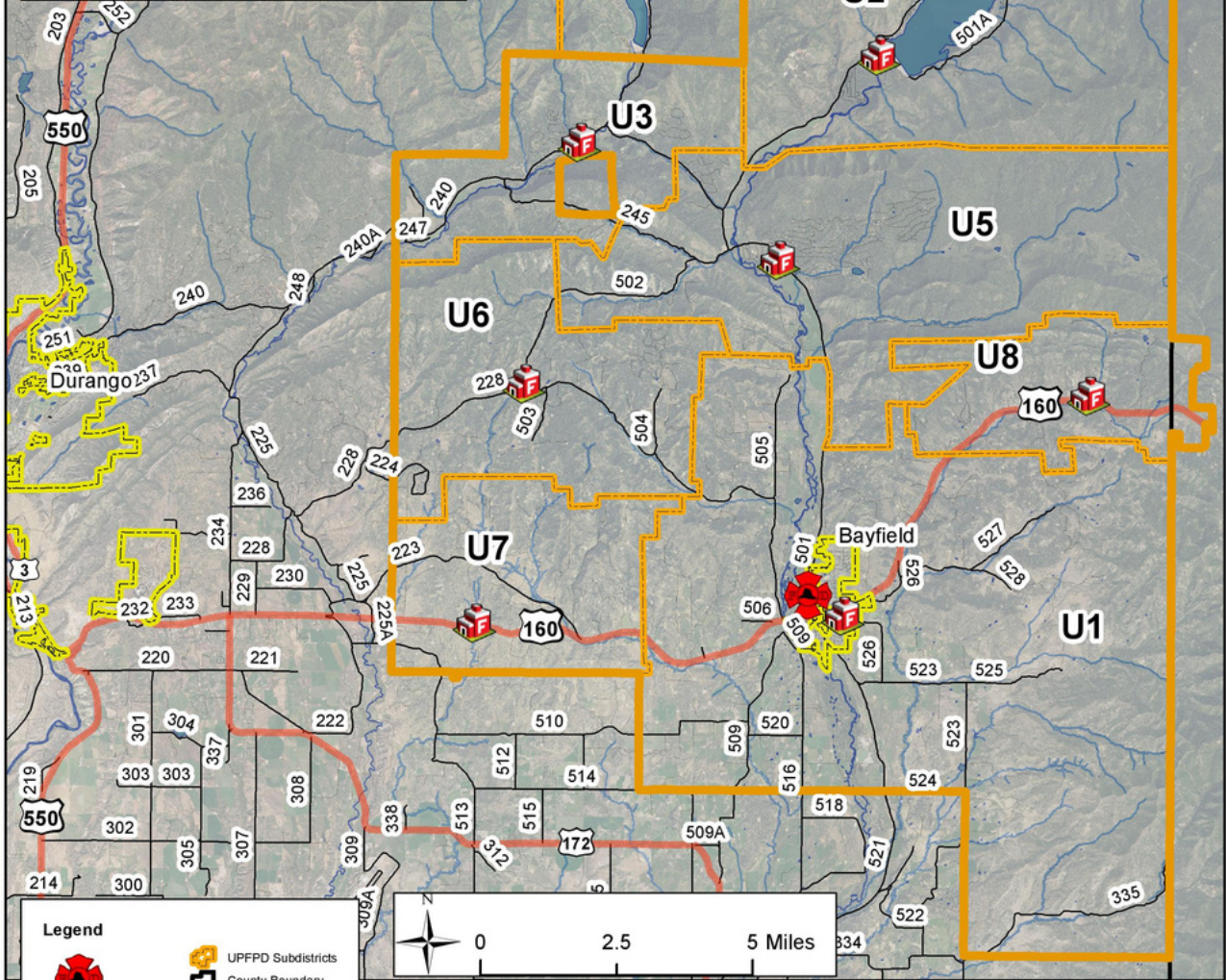
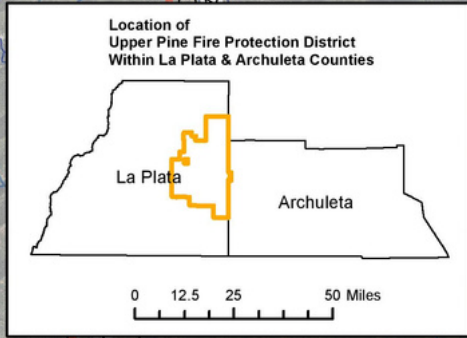
Paul Black
Board President



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



UPFPD Subdistricts and Station Locations



ADMIN: 515 Sower Dr
 STATION 1: 75 S. Clover Dr
 STATION 2: 13100 CR 501
 STATION 3: 13407 Cr 240
 STATION 4: 80 W. Vallecito Creek

STATION 5: 6891 CR 501
 STATION 6: 8476 CR 502
 STATION 7: 35191 W Hwy 160
 STATION 8: 49342 E Hwy 160

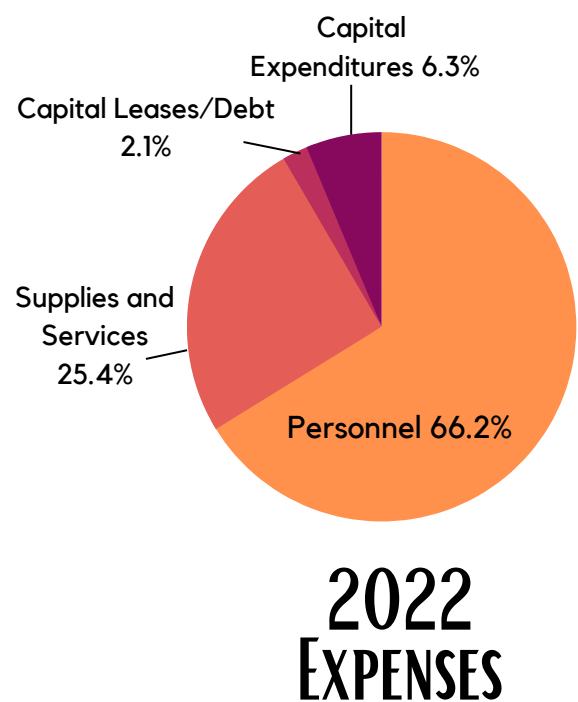
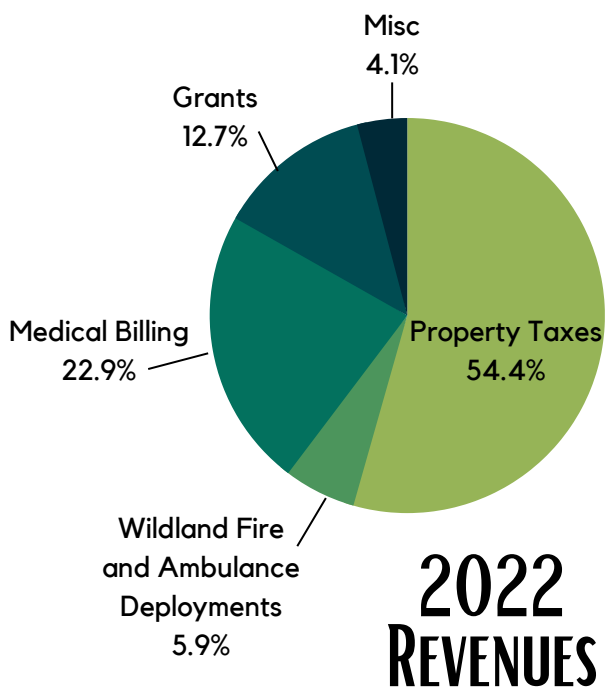
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The finance department prepares the annual budget and monthly financial statements, reconciles bank accounts, tracks expenses and invoices for interagency services, and manages cash and debt. It also prepares the annual comprehensive financial report, which includes detailed audited financial statements and statistical information about the Department. It ensures compliance with Department policy, State and Federal law, and generally accepted accounting practices.

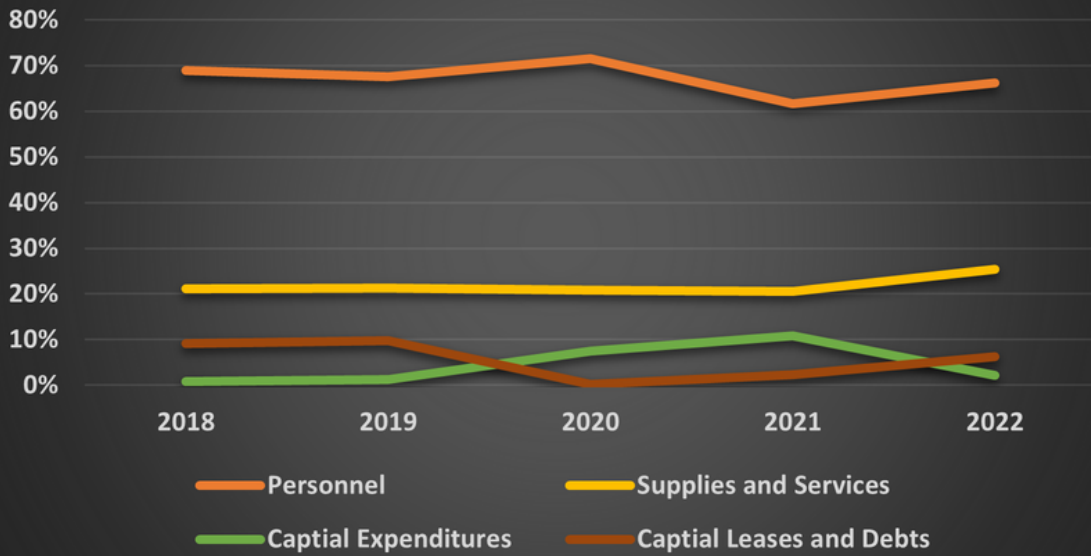
To ensure the safe and effective use of taxpayer's dollars, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District is audited annually by a team from BD & Associates, a Certified Public Accounting firm based in Henderson, Nevada. Copies of past audited comprehensive financial reports are available on the District's website:

<https://www.upperpinefpd.org/boards-finances/>

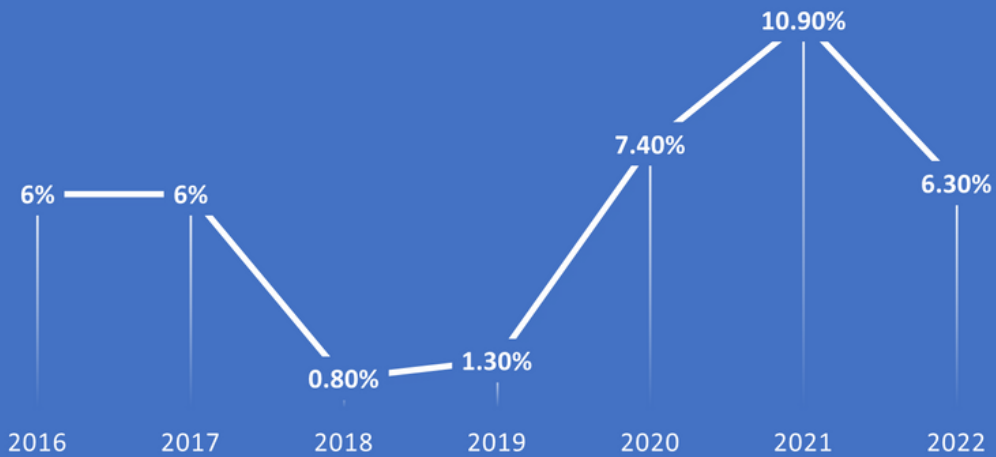
The primary source of funding for Upper Pine River FPD is the property tax levy which made up 54.4% of revenue for 2022. Revenue generated from contracting with federal agencies for manpower and equipment used to fight wildland fires and provide medical resources accounts for 5.9% of revenue. Training fees, grants, and miscellaneous income comprise the remaining amount of revenue. Total revenues in 2022 were approximately \$4.9 million. Total expenditures were approximately \$4.8 million.



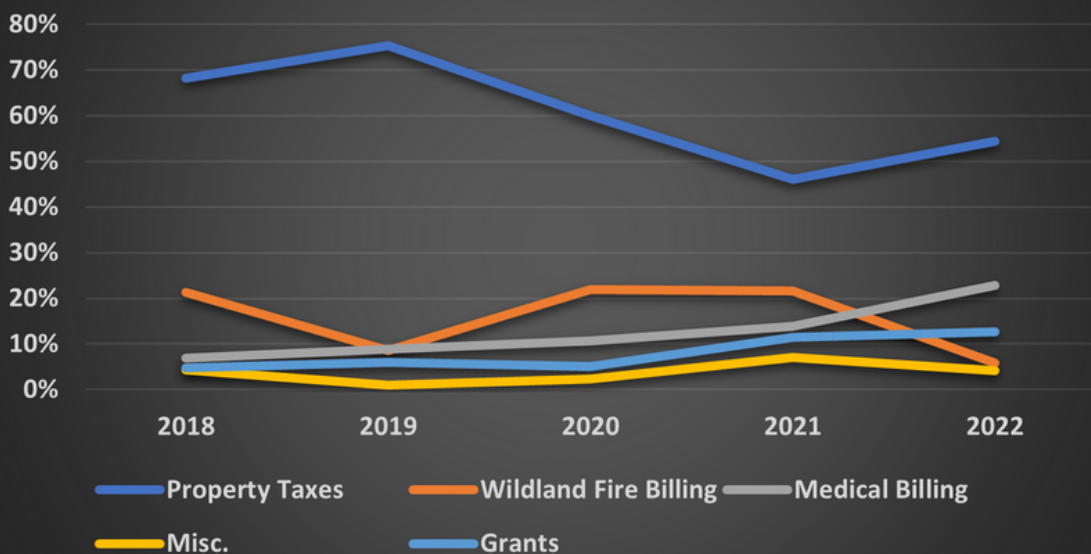
Expenditure Trends



CAPITAL EXPENDITURES 7 YEAR COMPARISON



Revenue Trends



OPERATIONS DIVISION

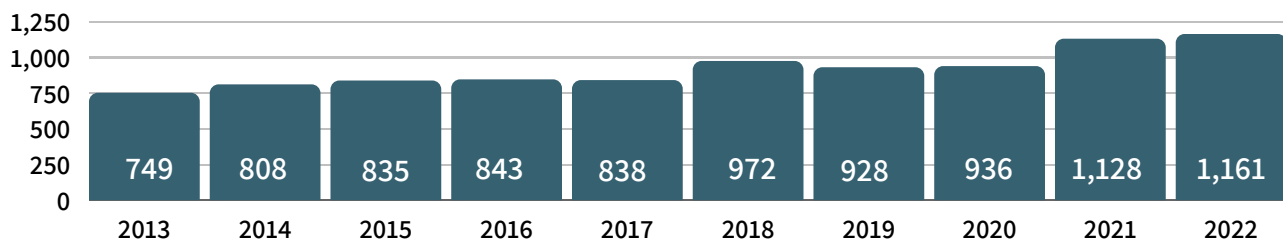
We saw another slight increase in call volume from last year. District personnel responded to 1,129 calls for service, with the majority (71%) of the calls being for emergency medical services. The District's call volume overall has increased by 55% since 2013. Our staff continues to strive for professional growth to better serve our community. One firefighter completed Paramedic training; another completed Advanced EMT training, and another one started Paramedic school. Recent paramedic education has been accomplished through a generous donation from a district family and grant funding. A training captain position in administration was determined to be a high priority by the crews, and it was filled by a suppression captain. We hired several new firefighters and promoted staff to engineer and captain positions through a competitive testing process. Our reserve hiring process is ongoing with several applicants working their way through the testing phases.

Filling open positions allowed us to maintain daily minimum staffing of three in Bayfield at station 1, three in Forest lakes at station 5, and two at the north end of Vallecito at station 4. Resident firefighters have helped staff station 3 on Florida Road and station 6 at the intersection of County Roads 502 and 228. Resident firefighters provide coverage in outlying areas of the district in exchange for living rent-free in the stations and checking the equipment. With the combination of resident firefighters and staffed stations, we can maintain response time goals in conjunction with the recommendation from the National Fire Protection Association for rural suburban, and remote districts.

Our response time goals are designed to meet the District's Standards of Cover, the National Fire Protection Associations 1710/1720 Standard and the American Heart Association's response guidelines for Stroke, Cardiac Arrest and Acute Myocardial Infarctions(Heart Attacks).

- Suburban Zones with 500-1000 people/sq. mi. call for 10 staff to assemble a fire attack in 8 minutes, 80% of the time. (DISTRICTS 1, 4, 5)
- Rural Zones with <500 people/sq. mi. call for 6 staff to assemble a fire attack in 11 minutes, 80% of the time. (DISTRICTS 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9)

Call Volumes



We continue to work toward the replacement of Fire Station 1 on Clover Drive. The station is almost half a century old and was never intended for 24/7 continuous occupancy by fire crews. We have selected an architectural firm and they are working on a new station design that meets or exceeds current firefighter health and safety standards. In addition to being a modern fire station, the new station 1 will house the District Paramedic Program and a small museum filled with historical items from the District's past members. The new station should serve Bayfield's anticipated growth for the next half-century.

The replacement of our emergency equipment fleet continues to be a high priority. Supply chain issues and labor shortages have affected chassis and parts availability in a negative way. Build times for new vehicles have increased to over 600 days, not guaranteed. Due to these factors, we placed an order for a new Pierce Enforcer type 1 engine during the year and it is on the drawing board. The expected delivery of our replacement water tender and type 3 engine has all been pushed back to 2023. Funds from previous years wildland deployments, grant funding, and short-term leases (3 years) will help reduce budget impacts. We will continue to plan for apparatus replacement to maintain emergency preparedness and provide vehicles that maximize firefighter safety.



Grant funded air packs and masks

During 2022, we were the recipient of a state grant that provided much-needed new equipment for our line personnel. We received ten new sets of wildland gear including packs, fire shelters, helmets, Nomex shirts, and pants. On the structure side, we received twenty sets of gear including boots, turnout jackets and pants, helmets, and air packs with masks and two bottles each. The new gear allowed us to retire eleven sets of structure gear that were expiring soon. We will keep the retired gear to use in non-fire training scenarios.



Flooding during severe storm weather in the town of Bayfield



Firefighter/EMT Mosher and Firefighter/Paramedic Buegler

We had several notable calls during the year, including severe flooding in the town of Bayfield after several inches of rain fell in a short period of time. Our crews worked to prevent stormwater from flooding several homes in one neighborhood by diverting and pumping water away from low areas near homes. Another call was a structure fire during a November snowstorm in Forest Lakes. The fire escaped the firebox and spread quickly through the wall framing and up into the ceiling. Our crews made a quick entry into the room of origin, extinguished the fire, and stopped it from extending into other areas of the house. The family reported that several pets were missing, and our firefighters safely removed two cats from the house, wet but uninjured.

Planning for our future staffing needs, we will be offering an Exterior Level Firefighter course during spring 2023. The graduates from the class will have their EMT (previous), wildland certifications, a 40-hour firefighting certificate, and emergency vehicle operator training. We will put these people to work as reserve or deployment firefighters and provide them with valuable emergency response experience to supplement their education.

We will continue to offer professional development and certification to our staff. Through the training division, we are sending firefighters out to local, state, and national conferences such as FDIC and National Fire Academy. These firefighters return to the District and provide training to other firefighters on topics and techniques learned. All to improve our service to our community.

EMS DIVISION

The majority of responses by Upper Pine River Fire is the delivery of emergency medical services. The Board revised the District's charter to include the provision of emergency medical services and technical rescue. Chief Evans completed the second year of his two-year term as the President of the National Association of EMTs, an international organization supporting EMS practitioners. Key leaders at Upper Pine are involved in a variety of EMS and Health Care initiatives. Our Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC), Steve Bradford, continues to be part of a joint study on pediatric care with Children's Colorado and Yale School of Medicine. This year we took the extra step to designate a BLS PECC. Logan Mosher, who came to Upper Pine from the Children's Hospital Transport Team, is now focused on enhancing our EMTs' pediatric care.

Upper Pine River Fire entered a management contract with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to manage the Health Care Coalition. Paramedic Joel Claus took the opportunity to expand his decades of EMS response as the coalition director. Funded by CDHPE, the health coalition serves as the glue between healthcare providers, organizations, and non-profits to increase readiness and response to public health emergencies. This includes taking a lot of inventories of capabilities and making regional plans for the worst-case scenario. Upper Pine has been a member of the coalition for over five years.

We continue to develop the emergency medical service skills of Upper Pine's employees. In 2022, Kaleb Heck, a local graduate from Bayfield High School, completed his paramedic field internship at a much busier fire station at Castlerock Fire Rescue. After an additional three months with an Upper Pine Fire senior paramedic, Kaleb is on his own as a firefighter/paramedic based at Station 1 in Bayfield.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Bishop Family, firefighter/EMT Aaron Cogburn was also sent to paramedic school at San Juan College. He will graduate and go into his field internship in May of 2023. Thanks to another generous grant from the Rocky Mountain Health Care Foundation to advance women and people of color in the healthcare field, firefighter/EMT Camille Lauer will start paramedic school in 2023, and firefighter/EMT Amanda Haukeness was sent to nursing school in the Fall of 2022.

Grants from the State of Colorado funded IV warmers, a new modern gurney, and advanced video laryngoscopes that enhance the safety and success of paramedics in placing an advanced airway in a critical patient.

Despite National shortages of ambulance chassis Upper Pine was able to secure a chassis in November 2022 to remount an ambulance. Remounting saves thousands of dollars in vehicle expenses and three of our ambulances compartments are designed to be remounted.

Look for an exciting program, ET3, in 2023 at Upper Pine, where we bring telemedicine into the community and special programming as part of a Medicare innovation program.



Firefighter/EMT Aaron Cogburn



Firefighter/Paramedic Kaleb Heck



Joel Claus and Chief Evans at Alzheimer's Walk

EMT Classes of 2022

Upper Pine River EMS Education Branch successfully completed 4 EMT classes throughout the year. Upon completion of the course, students are able to pass the NREMT Cognitive Exam and become fully certified EMTs. UPRFPD utilized CREATE Grant and SAMHSA Grant monies in order to fund our education programs and to keep costs low for students.



Extrication training

Community Education

Our department has also begun teaching a new NAEMT curriculum designed specifically for community members called First on the Scene. We have instructed 20 community members so far in Emergency Recognition and 911 engagement, and basic first-aid and hands-only CPR. Interest in the community is high for this training, and we intend to continue our outreach and engagement into the new year. We also now have 7 American Heart Association BLS/CPR Instructors in house.



Patient Scenario with community volunteer

One of our proudest accomplishments this year was to start a bright young man on his path towards a rewarding career in medicine. Ethan Bustamante turned 16 during the Summer EMT Class and went on to complete his certification as an EMT in the State of New Mexico (Colorado has an 18+ age requirement for EMTs). He is our youngest graduate to date.



Ethan Bustamante

From a Durango Herald Article:

"Ethan Bustamante has plans. Many teenagers his age do, but 16-year-old Ethan knows exactly what he has to do to make those plans a reality, and he's been looking toward a career in the medical field for years. Over the summer, Ethan took an Emergency Medical Technician course through the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District to enhance his academic profile and appeal to potential universities and their medical schools. "Taking the course was all his idea," said his father, firefighter Richard Bustamante, who works in Durango but commutes from Aztec. "That's what he wanted to do this last summer."



Instructor FF Kevin Aguilar and EMT Class Summer 2022

COVID-19

YEAR 3 OF THE PANDEMIC



COVID-19 continued to plague the United States and the world in 2022. Upper Pine River Fire remains an active provider of both primary vaccines and providing boosters, as denoted by the CDC recommendations. The number of 911 responses for sick people with COVID-related respiratory diseases declined significantly as natural immunity and vaccinated people increased in the Fire District. In conjunction with the Pine River Library, the Fire District shifted our clinics away from the Fire Administration building to the library. Every Wednesday, Upper Pine administered vaccines at our clinic hosted by the library. We were also under contract with San Juan Basin Health to vaccinate all of the residents with boosters at every nursing home and assisted living facility in Archuleta and LaPlata counties. In addition, over a dozen clinics were conducted from the base of the Purple Cliffs to the Mana soup kitchen.



Firefighter/EMT Olivia Adamy



Firefighter/EMT Spencer Sorensen

In November of 2021, the fourth or fifth wave of COVID began to finally stress the ICU at Mercy Regional Medical Center. In an effort to help decompress the ICU, we received emergency authorization under a crisis standard of care from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the State EMS Office to begin administering Monoclonal Antibodies in the home for COVID positive people with underlying health conditions.



Over 80 doses of monoclonal antibodies were given in 2022 directly to people in their homes. Fortunately, only one patient required hospitalization and was not required to be placed on a ventilator. In November of 2022, the dominant variate was no longer responding to the monoclonals. We were able to discontinue the program almost a year after the first monoclonal was administered on December 5, 2021.

Total vaccines administered:

475 Vaccines in 2022

489 Boosters in 2022

4,986 Locally to date

Total monoclonal antibodies administered:

80 in 2022

138 to date



Firefighter/EMT Kevin Aguilar



Capt. Jason Jeep and Paramedic Jon Haner



GMR NATIONAL AMBULANCE STRIKE TEAM

Upper Pine River Fire is part of FEMA's National Ambulance Strike Team managed by Global Medical Response (GMR). FEMA can send ambulances all over the United States for National emergencies and counts on sending units from around the country that are in unaffected areas to those suffering from the devastating impacts of a natural or manmade disaster. A hurricane assignment provides medical care in some of the most austere environments.

On September 27, 2022, Upper Pine sent an ALS (advanced life support) ambulance to Florida as Category 4 Hurricane Ian made landfall near Fort Meyers, FL. The Upper Pine crew was initially deployed North of Gainesville and then moved into Fort Meyers to handle primary 911 calls backing up the Lee County EMS system.

Paramedic Jon Haner and Captain Jason Jeep worked the 12-hour night shift for ten days in Lee County before returning to SW Colorado. FEMA pays the Fire District for the crew and vehicle during the deployment and travel expenses to and from the deployment area.

LISA FILALI

French Internship

Lisa Filali was the Fire District's 9th intern from the University of Bordeaux. Each spring, the Fire District host a student from the Fire or Safety Program at the University of Bordeaux. The student stays at Upper Pine River Fire Station 5 and is immersed in the American Fire Service while completing a project for the district. With an increase in wildfires in France, Lisa's assignment was to facilitate a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for an area of the fire district not covered by such a document. The Pine

River CWPP was completed and ready for signatures by Lisa, encompassing the area between CR 501 and CR 502 from the Bayfield Town limits north to Ludwig Drive. This included assessing some heirloom ranches and meeting with property owners in the Pine River valley. In the meantime, she was running calls and training with Upper Pine crews. Lisa volunteered to wear the Sparky the Fire Dog costume for public education events at BEEP. She attended numerous rodeos at the LaPlata County Fairgrounds in her spare time.

TOP 22 CALLS FOR 2022

Most frequent types of calls ran out of the record-breaking 1,161 calls made in 2022

1. EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury: 695
2. Dispatched and canceled en route: 60
3. Motor vehicle accident with no injuries: 50
4. Motor vehicle accident with injuries: 33
5. No incident found on arrival at dispatch address: 27
6. Gas leak (natural gas or LPG): 22
7. Smoke scare, the odor of smoke: 22
8. Forest, woods, grass, or wildland fire: 18
9. Assist invalid: 14
10. Authorized controlled burning: 14
11. Unauthorized burning: 13
12. Public service: 11
13. Assist police or government agency: 11
14. Powerline down: 9
15. Building fire: 7
16. Carbon monoxide incident: 6
17. Rubbish, trash, dumpster, or landfill fire: 5
18. Passenger vehicle fire: 5
19. Animal rescue: 5
20. Chimney or flue fire: 4
21. Chemical spill: 3
22. Searching for a lost person: 1



Cardiac Arrest Survival Rates (CARES)

Upper Pine River Fire exceeds the State of Colorado Cardiac Arrest Survival Rates. The Utstein Criteria is the National Standard that measures the survival rates, interventions, and outcomes for people who experience cardiac arrest. The CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) program is managed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Upper Pine participants in this program and offers CPR classes and notifications systems to help get bystanders involved prior to an ambulance or first response unit's arrival.

Utstein Survival Report

All Agencies

Date of Arrest: From 01/01/2021 Through 12/31/2021

Non-Traumatic Etiology Survival Rates

Overall:	12.2% (3742)
Bystander Wit'd:	19.1% (1431)
Unwitnessed:	6.5% (1928)
Utstein ¹ :	35.2% (392)
Utstein Bystander ² :	38.3% (227)

Bystander Intervention Rates ³

CPR:	41.1% (3053)
Public AED Use:	13.4% (581)

Utstein Survival Report

Upper Pine Fire Protection District

Date of Arrest: 01/01/22-12/31/22

Non-Traumatic Etiology Survival Rates

Overall:	42.9% (7)
Bystander Wit'd:	66.7% (3)
Unwitnessed:	25.0% (4)
Utstein ¹ :	100.0% (1)
Utstein Bystander ² :	100.0% (1)

Bystander Intervention Rates ³

CPR:	57.1% (7)
Public AED Use:	0.0% (1)

WILDLAND REPORT

Paul Valdez
Wildland Fire Prevention

The 2022 wildfire season was mild in our region relative to previous seasons. Robust monsoon rains provided much-needed moisture in our region's vegetation. Mid-season Upper Pine, USFS, and a Helitac crew from Mesa Verde responded to a brush fire just East of Forest Lakes. The 2.5-acre fire spread at a low to moderate rate and was likely started by a lightning strike. Homes on Little Bear Drive in Forest Lakes were just under ½ mile from the fire. No structures were affected.

Wildfire Assignments

2022 PBC CO DFPC Support, CO
Bear Dance, CO
Calf Canyon, NM
Cox Canyon, CO
Little Bear, CO
Marshall, CO
Six Shooter Canyon, CO
SJF Support 2022, CO
Ute Pass Command, CO

Community Good Will

Burns

The slower fire season allowed crews to pick up the tempo assisting our local residents in burning and chipping their slash piles and agricultural burns. Crews accrued almost 600 hours burning and chipping on private property including grant-funded projects.

Kudos to Marilyn McCord and the hard-working volunteers of Vallecito for organizing and managing the Vallecito Slash Depot. Marilyn said that they did not turn anyone away. They accepted all who wanted to offload their woody slash and pine needles which according to Marilyn amounted to about 820 cubic yards of material. The Pine River Irrigation District (PRID) burned some of the slash in their Air Curtain Burner (ACB) designed to minimize smoke emissions. Upper Pine utilized our chipper to chip around 75 cubic yards of woody material which was then picked up by Table to Farm Compost (tabletofarmcompost.com) for soil enhancement. The remaining slash was burned by Upper Pine.



Photos taken during the Calf Canyon Fire in New Mexico



Grant Funded Projects

The Heartwood Mitigation project was completed in 2022. Defensible space around structures, potential values at risk, and emergency access and egress routes were all hand thinned. Crews chipped what was accessible and burned what wasn't. About 40 acres were completed in Heartwood.

Upper Pine secured a small project grant in late 2022 that funded a fuels reduction project East of the Forest Lakes Subdivision. The project focused on a forested area that bordered residential property boundaries and an emergency escape route road for the subdivision. The area was logged utilizing a feller buncher, skidder, 2054 John Deer Processor, and a self-loading log truck. The fuel type was primarily ponderosa pine, which about 30% of the material we treated had been impacted by beetles and other diseases which affected forest health. The intent of the project was to reduce fuels and fire intensity from crown runs and aggressive fire behavior before encountering residential homes on the east side of the subdivision. The support from Forest Lakes residents was overwhelmingly positive and appreciated.

Forest Lakes emergency escape route improvement grant paid for about 400 cubic yards of gravel to improve one of three escape route roads. The Forest Lakes Metro District utilized its heavy equipment for road improvement which included widening, adding pullouts, and spreading new gravel.



Above: Calf Canyon Fire Below: Ute Pass Fire



600 hours burning & chipping

820 cubic yards of woody slash & pine needles burned

40 acres mitigated

75 cubic yards of material chipped

400 cubic yards of gravel



RETROSPECTIVE

- 12/31/21 to 1/7/22 Marshall Fire Deployment
- 2/9 Bayfield to Mayfield disaster relief shipped out
- 2/23 House Fire on CR 523
- 2/28 Small House Fire
- 3/11 Retired Board member and volunteer Bob Niggli passes
- 4/11 Arrival of French intern Lisa Filalai
- 4/13 EMT class performs scenario at the Billy Goat Saloon
- 4/15 Phyllis Ludwig and the Auxiliary presented Upper Pine with an appreciation lunch and donation
- 5/12 Calf Fire Deployment
- 5/13 Ute Pass Fire in Durango support for type 3 team
- 5/19 Swearing in of new board members Jesse Larson and Kellie Gosney
- 5/20 Paul Valdez Masonic Firefighter of the Year 2022
- 5/22 ALS Provider of the Year FF/Paramedic Jon Haner, EMT of the Year Mason Dyar, Medical Director's Award FF/EMT Kevin Aguilar & FF/EMT Jeremy Morris
- 5/1/ to 6/1 Peanut Butter Drive raising 235 lbs worth
- 6/22 2019 Crash Survivor returns to thank crews
- 6/26 Major house flooding due to storms
- 7/22 Little Bear Fire handled by USFS
- 8/13 Crew places in Demolition Derby
- 8/23 Lightning strike in Vallecito
- 9/3 Bayfield Marshal Joe McIntyre retires
- 9/27 AMR Strike Team deploys to Hurricane Ian
- 9/28 Bayfield Heritage Day Parade and Matlack BBQ
- 10/2 Upper Pine Fire EMT class graduates youngest EMT, Ethan Bustamante, at 16
- 10/24 Vaccine boosters to all of Four Corners nursing homes
- 11/03 House Fire in Forest Lakes
- 11/09 Voters pass elimination of sunset clause for the mill levy 75/25
- 12/14 Hero dog alerts people to shed fire on Derby in Sundance subdivision
- 12/21 Fire Captain of the Year Mark Fleming, Firefighters of the Year Jake Brandon and Bryce Jenkin



HONORING MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING 5 YEARS OF SERVICE



Captain Vito Ciccarelli

I am 26, a family man to a beautiful woman, and our amazing young daughter. I started at UPRFPD about five years ago after time spent working Fire and EMS on the front range. Since I was about six years old, I knew I had always wanted to be a fireman, and I never gave up on that dream. Once the opportunity came for me to join an academy at Warren Tech Red Rocks, I put all my other career aspirations behind me. After I finished the trade school program, I was given a chance to work at Golden Fire Rescue as an underage volunteer disguised as a high school intern. My time was spent under the supervision of Chief John Bales, who was instrumental in helping develop my character. He allowed me to be hands-on in 911 response long before any other department would allow it. With some family history in La Plata county, I moved here at age 17 to finish my EMT and pursue full-time employment in the fire service. From my first job as a grocery store courtesy clerk to my last pre-fire service job working in automotive, nothing has been more rewarding than to serve in the capacity of an emergency response public servant. I believe in treating our patients and the public with the highest level of professionalism and quality service when the call drops. I believe that the people who serve this district on the line and in supporting roles do precisely that and prepare tirelessly to meet those needs.



**Firefighter Paramedic
Stuart Beurgler**

Born & raised in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Stuart Beurgler started his career at the Rogers Fire Department in Arkansas in 2011. While vacationing in SW Colorado for the first time in 2013, he moved to Durango a few years later to pursue his accounting degree at Fort Lewis College. Stuart was hired full-time at Upper Pine in 2017. As a firefighter/paramedic, Stuart has instructed EMS classes, ordered the District's medical supplies, and been the liaison to the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival Database with the State of Colorado tracking the District's cardiac arrest. He just finished his State of Colorado Fire Officer 1 certificate.



**Firefighter Paramedic
Jon Haner**

ALS Provider of the Year 2022

I have been with Upper Pine for five years, having retired after a 25-year career on the Wolf Creek Ski Patrol. I am a graduate of Cornell University and currently live in Pagosa Springs. In addition to my duties as a paramedic, I have taken on a role as one of our EMT class instructors and have enjoyed working with students. However, my true passion is to be out in the field, including AMR deployments to aid those in a crisis; but truth be told, I prefer to bask in the glory of a baseball field whenever possible.

AWARDS

Recognizing our own



Fire Captain of the Year Mark Fleming

Captain Fleming has been the leader ensuring the peer support services for Upper Pine are enhanced. He has taken on the role of Training Captain this year and has made tremendous strides in the level of training provided to our crews. Captain Fleming comes from a fire department family, with his father serving as a long-time captain at Poudre Fire Authority. Off duty, Mark received the 3A Colorado State High School Dive Coach of the year in 2017 & 2019. He was also an earlier winner of the Masonic Award for Firefighter of the year in 2017 as well as UPRFPD Firefighter of the Year 2017, and Fire Captain of the Year 2020.



Firefighter of the Year Firefighter/EMT Bryce Jenkin

I've been married for nearly fourteen years and have an eleven-year-old son. After serving six years in the Army and being medically retired, I found myself in need of new skills and a new career. I decided to go back to college and earned my B.S. in Homeland Security. In my Junior year of school, I was offered an internship with the Department of Homeland Security, and that position brought me to Durango. My internship was converted to full-time employment. After a short stint with the agency, I decided it was time to do something more physical, meaningful, and beneficial to the community while continuing to provide a good example for my son. During my time with DHS and while pursuing my Master's degree online, I enrolled myself in the fire academy and began working toward another career change. I interviewed with UPRFPD, was hired as a reservist, and was converted to full-time status shortly thereafter.



Firefighter of the Year Firefighter/EMT Jake Brandon

I started my career in fire and EMS in the fall of 2020 with Upper Pine's EMT program. After completing my national registry exam, I was hired on as a seasonal wildland firefighter. I spent one season in this position mostly on severity assignments and several local incidents. Although I enjoy the wildland aspect of firefighting, I expressed interest in a structure firefighting position as well. I had some good people invest in me, many of them being current personnel, captains, and chiefs. West Metro Fire and Rescue was contacted and I was enrolled in their 21-02 fire academy where I obtained my fire certifications. Upon graduation from the academy, I started working as a full-time firefighter/emt for Upper Pine River Fire Protection District. I enjoy the dynamic nature of firefighting and consider myself blessed to be working in this career field. It's an honor to be able to provide a service to the people of this community. I'll forever be thankful for this opportunity, the lessons learned along the way, and the moments still to come.



EMT of the Year EMT Mason Dyar

Mason graduated from AIMS Fire Academy in Greeley, Colorado, and holds a current EMT Basic cert in the State of Colorado through Upper Pine's EMT training program. Mason has experience in Wildland Firefighting and as an EMS provider. He spent a number of years providing care to special needs populations before returning to the Bayfield area and becoming an employee at Upper Pine River Fire as an Information Systems Specialist, Drone Program Lead, and Covid-19 Vaccine Program Manager. Being of public service, serving special needs populations, and contributing to his community have always been meaningful and fulfilling work for Mason.

EMS Week 2022

Each year Upper Pine River Fire celebrates EMS Week and recognizes outstanding accomplishments by the District and its EMS providers. The 47th annual EMS Week was held May 15-21, 2022, ending with a celebration at the special events tent at LaPlatt's Pond hosted by Paul and Krii Black.



Medical Director's Award

Our medical director presents the Medical Director Award to a crew demonstrating clinical excellence each year. That award went to Firefighter/EMT Kevin Aguilar, Firefighter/EMT Jeremy Morris, and Paramedic Jon Haner this year. On November 15, 2021, Medic 64 responded to the 1600 block of County Road 500 at the far north end of Lake Vallecito for a report of a man bleeding. Upon arrival, firefighters Aguilar and Morris, both former Marines, found Jeff on the ground with a severed radial artery from a home mishap. They immediately applied a tourniquet and quickly loaded him in the ambulance for emergent transport to Mercy Regional Medical Center.



Jeff Whitmer and FF/EMT Kevin Aguilar

At this time, one tourniquet did not stop the bleeding, and a second tourniquet was used, a procedure recommended in Tactical Combat Casualty Care, and halted additional blood loss. The ambulance rendezvoused with paramedic Haner en route to Mercy, and the patient was stabilized at the emergency room and flown to Colorado Springs for a vascular surgical repair. He made a complete recovery from what would have been a fatal injury, especially in a rural setting.



Randy Longfellow and family, FF/EMT Jake Brandon, Fire Chief Bruce Evans, Deputy Chief Greg French

In addition to celebrating the trauma care provided to this patient, Upper Pine River Fire Crews were joined by Randy Longfellow and his family. On April 11th at 9:30 a.m. Upper Pine River Fire received a call for a "Man Short of Breath" at the Grocery Store at Bayfield. Shortly after the dispatch, the call was upgraded to CPR in progress. Crews arrived to find a man in ventricular fibrillation and worked feverishly to restore his heartbeat with various advanced life support procedures. A pulse was restored at the scene, and he was transported to Mercy and immediately taken to the cardiac catheterization lab. Randy was awake and talking the following evening, completely recovering and going home to his family. We were honored to have his family at our EMS Week BBQ to celebrate his recovery.

Lifesaver Awards

To receive the Lifesaver Commendation, a firefighter/EMT must be principally involved in saving the life of another person and whose personal actions were directly responsible for the lifesaving act. We had a record-breaking 13 members receive the award this year. Those receiving this award were: FF/P Steve Bradford, FF/EMT Chris Panawa, Capt. Vito Ciccarelli, FF/EMT Jake Brandon, FF/EMT Camille Lauer, FF/EMT Bryce Jenkin, Capt. Mark Graham, FF/EMT Ben Jones, Capt. Jason Jeep, FF/EMT Kaleb Heck, Capt. Andy Miller, FF/P Stuart Beurgler, and EMT Mason Dyar.



FF/P Bradford, FF/EMT Panawa, Capt. Ciccarelli, FF/EMT Brandon, FF/EMT Lauer

Masonic Lodge Firefighter of the Year

Paul Valdez

Paul Valdez was selected as the Masonic Lodge Firefighter of the Year. Paul came to Upper Pine River in November of 2007 from Fort Lewis College, where he majored in Business. Paul serves as our wildland fire prevention coordinator and meets often with homeowners. He has been instrumental in hardening communities against wildfire. Paul has managed many of the wildland fire grants and mitigation projects. He works tirelessly to connect the Fire District to its residents. A frequent visitor to homeowner association meetings and a common denominator in the extra initiatives our district does in the wildland fire arena.



GENEROSITY

Donation Appreciation

This year we received an astounding amount of generosity from the community in donations. We wanted to show our appreciation to those who supported our cause and enhanced the efforts we put forth in providing a well-rounded fire and EMS service.



Fire Chief Bruce Evans with Ladies Auxiliary members Anne Schrier and Phyllis Ludwig being presented artwork by Phyllis' granddaughter Kyle Baker



Annual Matlack BBQ Fundraiser

ALTA FOUNDATION/ THE BISHOPS
ARLENE ERICKSON & DAVID MATHIS
BAYFIELD FARMS
BOB NIGGLI ESTATE
BRIT ELLERMAN
CRAB APPLE RANCH
FREDERICK BEAUBIEN
GREYSTONE CONSTRUCTION, LLC
JAMES & BONNIE MATLACK
JAN BROWN
JEREME & KIM BARNETT
KARL & TERRI ROBERTS
KATHERINE & JOHN DEZENDORF
KENNA BALKENBUSH
LEE J MCCUTCHEN
LESLIE LAUTH
MIKE AND CHARRISA HANNIGAN
PHYLLIS LUDWIG
PINE RIVER VALLEY ROTARY CLUB
ROGER MORALES
SHEILA GUMERMAN
STEVE & KAREN NOBEL
THE UPPER PINE RIVER FIRE AUXILIARY

Thank You





WAYNE WALTERS

Board Retirement

Wayne Walters came to SW Colorado over 23 years ago, where he and Jeri, his wife of 39 years, started Uni-Staff Services. He began as a volunteer EMT and firefighter at Upper Pine in 2006 and then joined the Upper Pine River Fire Board in 2014, resigning in 2022 to start his retirement. Wayne was also an active member of the Medical Reserve Corps of SW Colorado from 2007 to 2016. During this time, he participated in numerous FEMA courses and received several certifications. Wayne is an Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). He was voted “Volunteer of the Year” in January 2014 by the Colorado Department of Homeland Security. While with Upper Pine, he was a member of the National Association of EMTs, a Nationally Registered EMT, a member of the SW Regional Trauma Advisory Board, and the Southwest All-Hazards Advisory Council. Recently Wayne and Jeri moved to sunny and warm Florida to enjoy a much-deserved retirement.



BOB NIGGLI

In Memorial

Bob Niggli was a longtime volunteer firefighter and transitioned to an Upper Pine River Fire Board member. In the early days of Upper Pine River Fire wood was donated from the Gerber Mill on 502, and Bob and Carl Brown milled a lot of the additional lumber needed for old fire stations 2, 4, 5, and 3. Bob loved to drive the old Vallecito fire truck in the Bayfield 4th of July parade. Bob was a tinkerer, and often you would find crews stopping by to see what he was doing in his garage on CR 501. Bob was one of the originals when Upper Pine was formed in 1974 and retired out of the volunteer ranks as a Fire Captain. Bob served on the board from 2006 to 2012. He was also elected as the treasurer. After Bob's passing, he donated a considerable part of his estate to the fire district. These funds have sponsored members of Upper Pine to attend various trainings as well as rehabilitate Bob's much loved parade truck, which we will be dedicating in his honor.



KELLIE GOSNEY

New Board Member

Kellie comes from a 7th-generation La Plata County family. For over 30 years, she has served in various leadership positions locally, representing our community across the state and serving as La Plata County Commissioner from 2006-2012.

She has raised 4 children here and has 9 grandchildren with more on the way. She is enjoying extensive travel with her husband, Don, with family time remaining their top priority.

Kellie is proud to be the newest Upper Pine Fire District Board of Directors member. She is passionate about this community and what this fire district does to support and impact the people. She is looking forward to being part of that positive influence.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT

Upper Pine River Fire contracts with an outside customer service sampling firm to assess the district, the 911 center, and our billing contractors' performance. Those scores are tallied and benchmarked against comparable size organizations and over 200 other EMS services. The results are provided monthly, quarterly and summarized in an end of year report.

Upper Pine River Fire Protection District
January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022



Executive Summary

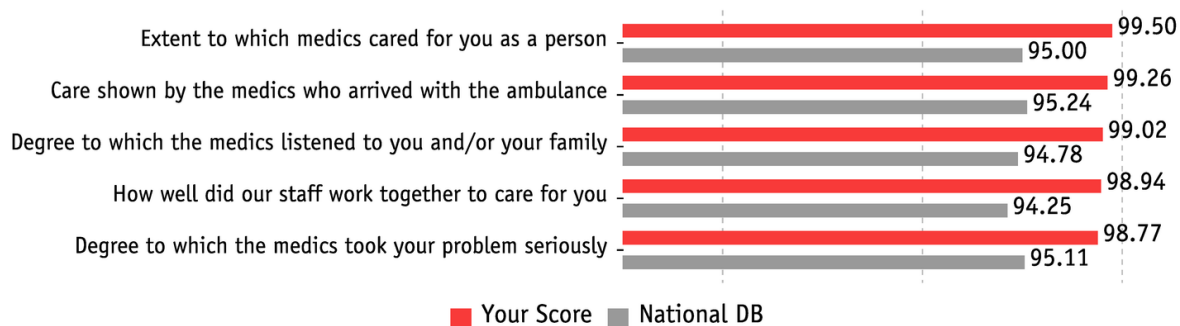
Your overall score for the time period selected is **97.61**. This is a difference of **0.75** from your previous period's score of **96.86**.

Your overall Top Box score, which represents the percentage of the highest possible rating Very Good, is **91.60%**.

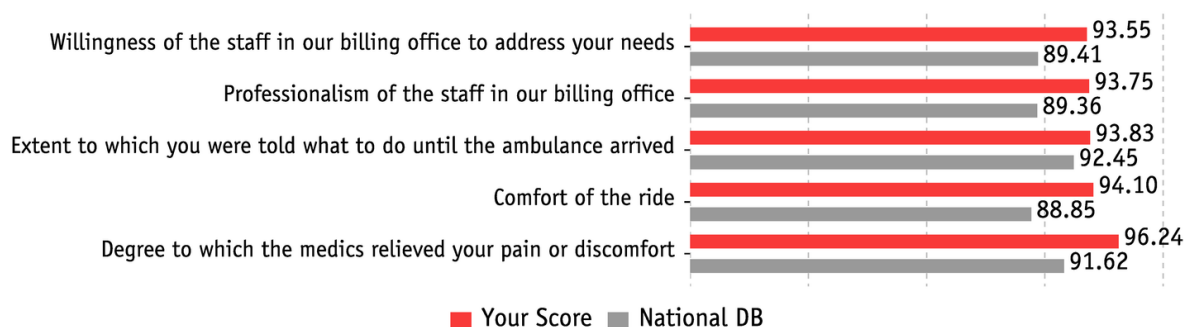
In addition, your rolling 12- month score of **96.74** is a difference of **3.93** from the national database score of **92.81**.

When compared to all organizations in the national database, your score of **96.74** is ranked **3rd** and **3rd** for comparably sized organizations.

5 Highest Scores



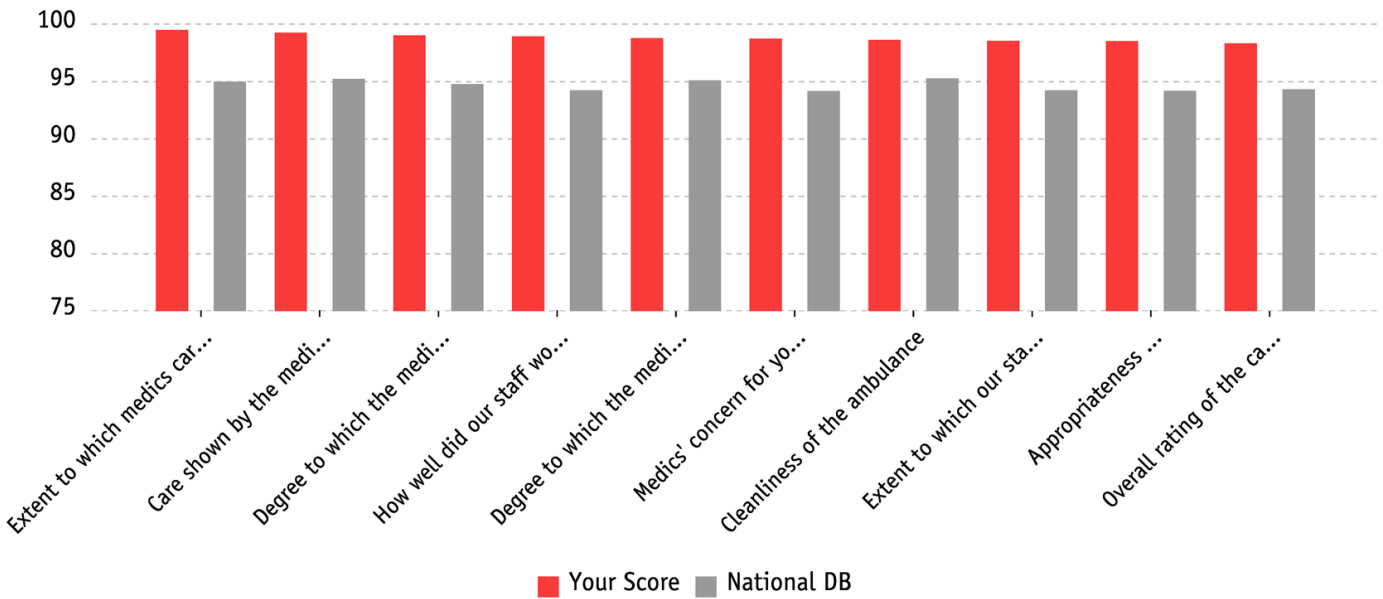
5 Lowest Scores





Greatest Scores Above Benchmarks by Question

Highest Above Benchmark	Current	(+/-)	National DB
Extent to which medics cared for you as a person	99.50	4.50	95.00
Care shown by the medics who arrived with the ambulance	99.26	4.02	95.24
Degree to which the medics listened to you and/or your family	99.02	4.24	94.78
How well did our staff work together to care for you	98.94	4.69	94.25
Degree to which the medics took your problem seriously	98.77	3.66	95.11
Medics' concern for your privacy	98.74	4.56	94.18
Cleanliness of the ambulance	98.63	3.34	95.29
Extent to which our staff eased your entry into the medical facility	98.53	4.27	94.26
Appropriateness of Emergency Medical Transportation treatment	98.51	4.30	94.21
Overall rating of the care provided by our Emergency Medical Transportation service	98.31	3.99	94.32





Benchmark Comparison

	Your Company	Total DB	Similar Sized	CAAS	Colorado	All Fire Departments
Helpfulness of the person you called for ambulance service	96.94	93.97	94.01	93.88	93.56	95.60
Concern shown by the person you called for ambulance service	96.68	93.76	93.86	93.66	92.23	95.27
Extent to which you were told what to do until the ambulance	93.83	92.45	92.36	92.34	89.34	94.29
Extent to which the ambulance arrived in a timely manner	97.68	93.07	93.36	92.87	94.14	96.20
Cleanliness of the ambulance	98.63	95.29	95.71	95.11	95.13	97.07
Comfort of the ride	94.10	88.85	89.07	88.54	88.44	92.27
Skill of the person driving the ambulance	97.73	94.63	94.94	94.49	93.24	96.44
Care shown by the medics who arrived with the ambulance	99.26	95.24	95.61	95.08	94.34	96.89
Degree to which the medics took your problem seriously	98.77	95.11	95.43	95.00	93.69	96.82
Degree to which the medics listened to you and/or your family	99.02	94.78	94.92	94.70	93.02	96.43
Skill of the medics	97.75	95.25	95.60	95.08	93.04	96.73
Extent to which the medics kept you informed about your	97.16	93.57	93.93	93.35	91.60	95.63
Extent to which medics included you in the treatment decisions	97.73	93.36	93.87	93.09	91.69	95.56
Degree to which the medics relieved your pain or discomfort	96.24	91.62	91.87	91.27	87.65	93.96
Medics' concern for your privacy	98.74	94.18	94.43	93.98	92.85	95.92
Extent to which medics cared for you as a person	99.50	95.00	95.26	94.84	93.86	96.70
Professionalism of the staff in our billing office	93.75	89.36	89.34	89.23	84.47	92.08
Willingness of the staff in our billing office to address your	93.55	89.41	89.49	89.27	84.28	92.12
How well did our staff work together to care for you	98.94	94.25	94.68	94.10	92.42	96.24
Extent to which our staff eased your entry into the medical	98.53	94.26	94.62	94.22	92.26	96.16
Appropriateness of Emergency Medical Transportation treatment	98.51	94.21	94.69	94.08	92.02	96.33
Extent to which the services received were worth the fees	97.35	89.35	90.28	89.14	85.64	92.57
Overall rating of the care provided by our Emergency Medical	98.31	94.32	94.70	94.20	91.89	96.32
Likelihood of recommending this ambulance service to others	98.31	93.99	94.59	93.77	90.58	96.14
Overall Score	97.61	93.30	93.61	93.14	91.31	95.41

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.

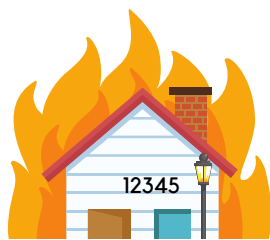


Fires contained with permanently constructed fire pit, ring or grate on PRIVATE land or within a fee-charged PUBLIC recreational site, such as campgrounds.



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.



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**



Help first responders when every second counts!

WILD FIRE MITIGATION ASSESSMENT

ON-GOING MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Create a 3-5 ft. non-combustible “vegetation free” perimeter around all structures.
- Store firewood piles, scrap lumber and other flammable debris at least 30 ft. from all structures.
- Always keep wildland grass cut to a max height of 6 in. within 30 ft. of all structures.
- Be sure gutters and rooflines are always clear of pine needles and leaves.
- Make sure the top and underside of decks and porches are always clear of pine needles and other flammable debris.
- Screen all attic, roof, soffit and foundation vents with 1/8 in. metal screening.

TREE TRIMMING & SPACING TIPS

- Zone 1** (within 30ft. of structures): Ideally remove all tall trees from this zone. If a select prize tree remains make sure no branches overhang the roof or are within 10 ft. of the chimney.
- Zone 2** (30-100 ft. or more of structures): Selectively thin trees so small clumps of 2-3 trees remain with large 20 to 30 ft. openings between clumps.
- If your home is located on steep slopes increase the size of Zone 1 and 2 on downhill side.
- Low limb most remaining conifers in Zones 1 and 2 so lowest limbs are 6-10 ft. from the ground or 1/3 the height of the tree, whichever is less.
- Remove most ladder fuels in Zone 1 and 2 from underneath remaining trees.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE IS WHAT WE DO



UPPERPINEFPD.ORG



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[#UPPRFPD](https://twitter.com/UPPRFPD)

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