



## Why support TFPD's proposed Mill levy?

# STAFFING



The Telluride Fire Protection District is currently a combination department which includes full time paid staff and an essential roster of dedicated volunteers.

The Districts current response model has full time crews in the Town of Telluride, (Station 1) Town of Mountain Village, (Station 2) and Placerville (Station 3). Station 1 also has a seasonal part time advanced life support (ALS) provider during peak seasons. Volunteers respond to larger incidents at station 1 and 2 once paid staff has determined the need for more personnel. Station 3 is still primarily an all volunteer response backed up by paid staff from station 1 or 2.

When a 911 call comes in, whether it be a fire alarm, an ill person, a car accident, or the smell of gas; the crews decide the appropriate response apparatus. This may include a fire engine, an ambulance, or both. Crews are dressed and leaving the station within 1-2 minutes at any time, day or night. Crews may require assistance from the other full time staff or volunteers from all stations. This depends on the severity of the call. The most critical and time sensitive calls include car accidents, traumatic injury on the ski resort, cardiac arrest, or fire. Responders are equipped for all situations and regularly train to improve skills, knowledge, and response times.

If the mill levy passes, the district would secure finances to sustain the budget for three person crews at station 1 and 2, and add another full time responder to each. Additionally, a full crew could be added at station 3. This ensures appropriate staffing when multiple calls happen at once or we have to take an inter-facility transport (IFT) to Montrose, Durango, or Grand Junction. IFT's accounted for 218 calls in 2022, which pulls a minimum of 2 personnel out of district that are no longer available for 911 response. 102 IFT's have already occurred in 2023. Securing additional staffing will increase safety for our first responders. National fire standards recommend 4 person crews to respond on a fire engine, which our district can not currently provide while meeting time standards. Securing four person crews will meet federal standards and provide better service to our community, while increasing the safety of our first responders.

The district was fortunate enough to receive a SAFER Grant. This funded the 3rd responder position at stations 1 and 2 and will expire in 2025. If the mill levy does not pass, serious budget changes will need to be made. Funding may not be available to sustain the already understaffed 3 person crews. This could mean fewer responders to perform CPR, extricate a person out of a crunched vehicle, or fight a structure fire. Our community may no longer receive the high level of care we can currently provide.