



Maintaining Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services in Soledad

The Soledad Fire Department (SFD) is the first responder for all 911 emergency response, including emergency medical calls and fires. SFD answers over 2,000 calls for service annually.

In the event of a medical emergency like a heart attack, stroke or car accident, minutes and seconds really matter. We are fortunate to have professional firefighter/EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) protecting our community and responding to local 911 calls—especially considering our closest hospital room is a half-hour away in Salinas. Having trained first responders on site can make the difference between life and death.



Maintaining Emergency Services and Replacing Outdated Equipment

Our local fire department faces growing challenges that threaten SFD's ability to reliably serve our community. Ensuring safe, modern equipment is critical for effective 911 response. SFD has worn and outdated medical gear, breathing apparatus, protective clothing and tools used by firefighter/EMTs.

Preserving Fast Emergency Response Times

Unfortunately, right now our local fire station and fire engine relies on bare minimum staffing. SFD can only afford a single engine staffed with 2 firefighter/EMTs on call around the clock.

This creates real concerns if two significant emergencies happen at the same time in our small community and is worsened by the growing threats of wildfires, floods and other disasters in our region that could further pull resources away from local 911 calls.

Fast Local Emergency Response

In order to continue providing emergency response, our community needs a measure like the one adopted in the City of Greenfield that establishes a reliable source of local funding to maintain the availability of rapid 911 response when an emergency strikes and seconds really matter.

Our neighbors in the City of Greenfield confronted these issues by approving a local funding measure to support firefighter/EMT staffing and maintain rapid response in their community.

Without additional funding, SFD won't be able to improve service—and may struggle to maintain its current level of response as costs continue to rise.



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Potential Local Funding Measure to Ensure Fire/Medical Emergency Response

The Soledad community is studying the Greenfield local funding measure to decide whether a similar model could be a solution to protect emergency response and keep low homeowner rates here in Soledad.

The potential measure would impose a parcel tax similar to what Greenfield voters approved: levying \$226 annually for single-family residential parcels; \$169 per apartment unit; and additional rates for commercial, industrial and agricultural parcels, adjusted for inflation.

All funds raised by the City fire tax measure could only be used for Soledad firefighter/EMT staffing, vehicles and equipment, including:



Replace old or outdated medical equipment, breathing apparatuses, protective clothing and other equipment used by firefighters/EMTs



Ensure the local fire engine has important medical incident response equipment and supplies



Maintain response times to medical emergencies, car accidents, wildfires, floods and other natural disasters



Ensure our local fire department has up-to-date working equipment and resources to assist in emergency medical situations and fight wildfires



Help ensure round the clock staffing for rapid emergency 911 medical and fire response

Fiscal Accountability and Local Control

- ✓ All funds would be spent locally to provide fire protection and emergency response services
- ✓ Independent audits and oversight would ensure funds are spent as promised
- ✓ No funds can be taken by the State or used for any other purpose



What Do You Think?

Your opinion matters, please visit CityofSoledad.com/LocalFunding to learn more and take our survey. You can also email soledadfirestn@cityofsoledad.gov with specific comments or questions.