

# ***LOCKWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT***

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Lockwood Fire Protection District (LFPD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services.

## **AGENCY OVERVIEW**

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### **Background**

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LFPD was formed on August 12, 1986, as an independent special district.<sup>1</sup> LFPD was formed to provide fire protection, fire suppression and basic life support services.

The principal act that governs the District is the Fire Protection District Law of 1987.<sup>2</sup> The principal act empowers fire districts to provide fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material response, ambulance, and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property.<sup>3</sup> Districts must apply and obtain LAFCO approval to exercise services authorized by the principal act but not already provided (i.e., latent powers) by the district at the end of 2000.<sup>4</sup>

### **Boundary**

LFPD bounds cover unincorporated territory in north-central Amador County. The bounds encompass approximately 22 square miles along the central Amador-El Dorado County line. LFPD is located east of the unincorporated Fiddletown community and north of Volcano. The district does not include those communities. The District's bounds generally follow Shake Ridge Road, extending from Quartz Mountain Road to the CAL FIRE Fire Station at Dew Drop.

LAFCO has no records of annexations or changes to the District's bounds since its formation. There is paperwork for one annexation, but not a project file. This included Amador Pines Units 2 and 5; however there is no evidence of completion of this annexation.

### **Sphere of Influence**

There are no records in LAFCO's archives describing the history of the District's SOI. The District's SOI is not described in its formation resolution and there are no subsequent LAFCO records pertaining to LFPD's sphere. In 2010, LAFCO updated LFPD's SOI to be coterminous with its first response area and the boundaries and SOI have been mapped.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Formation date is from LAFCO records.

<sup>2</sup> Health and Safety Code §§13800-13970.

<sup>3</sup> Health and Safety Code §13862.

<sup>4</sup> Government Code §56824.10.

<sup>5</sup> LAFCO Resolution 2010-07.

## Local Accountability and Governance

The principal act stipulates that a fire protection district’s board of directors must have an odd number of members, with a minimum of three and a maximum of 11.<sup>6</sup> Directors may be appointed or elected to staggered four-year terms. Boards are to internally elect directors to the positions of president and vice-president. Accordingly, a five-member Board of Directors with elected leadership governs LFPD. LFPD directors are to be elected at-large, but in practice are appointed due to lack of contested seats. Current board members are listed with positions and term expirations in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Lockwood FPD Governing Body**

<b>Lockwood Fire Protection District</b>			
<b><i>Governing Body</i></b>			
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
<i>Members</i>	Jan Hewitt	President	June 2021
	JoAnne McLachlan	Vice-President	June 2019
	Cathy KoosBreazeal	Director	June 2021
	Kelley McGee	Director	June 2019
	Lois Stevens	Director	June 2019
<i>Manner of Selection</i>	Appointments by Board; elections at large		
<i>Length of Term</i>	Four years		
<i>Meetings</i>	Date: Fourth Monday, Location: Station 151		
<i>Agenda Distribution</i>	Online, posted		
<i>Minutes Distribution</i>	Online		
<b><i>Contact</i></b>			
<i>Contact</i>	President - LFPD		
<i>Mailing Address</i>	P.O. Box 221, Volcano, CA 95689		
<i>Phone</i>	(209) 296-5122		
<i>Email/Website</i>	<a href="http://www.lockwoodfire.org">www.lockwoodfire.org</a>		

The Board has designated a public information coordinator and contact information is clearly accessible on the website. Board meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at Fire Station #151 located at 23141 Shake Ridge Rd. Meeting materials are easily accessed on the website and the website encourages the public to attend. Notice of the terms of office of Board Members and vacancies are circulated by word of mouth and posting notice. Future openings for the board will also likely be posted on the web site.

The District performs constituent outreach through periodic newsletters titled “Puff”, and “Smoke Signals”, and an informative new district website, community postings, and word-of-mouth.

<sup>6</sup> Health and Safety Code §13842.

There is recruitment information on the web for committees in which the public can participate. Outreach and fundraising activities have included “Soup Super”, “Taco De Marzo”, “Pancake Breakfast”, “Fall Concert”, and a “Christmas Tank You Dinner”.

The District reported that it has had no known Brown Act violations in recent history. Lockwood FPD was not the subject of a Grand Jury report in the past 10 years, based on a review of posted documents on the Amador County Grand Jury website.

With regard to customer service, the District reported that in general complaints are limited and that communication by constituents within the District is most often inquiries or compliments as opposed to complaints. Complaints may be submitted to the President of the Board. The District reported that it received one complaint in 2017 classified as an internal personnel matter and was resolved.

Lockwood FPD’s Operations Policy Manual includes comprehensive bylaws and policies, adopted August 2016 and amended June 2018. Among other elements, this manual provides for complaints, specifies the role of the officers, and the powers and authorities of the board, chief, and staff.

The District has entered into a contract with Lexipol for an initial manual and future updates if warranted. Lockwood FPD is a member of CSDA, which provides pertinent district law changes and legislation information.

The website states “the district is dedicated to operating in a transparent manner, and posts relevant financial and operational documents to our site as they become available.” The mission statement, services and functions, the district map, compensation and the district financials are posted clearly on the website and are easily accessible. The District demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with LAFCO. The agency responded promptly to LAFCO’s requests and participated actively in the preparation of the MSR.

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## Management

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In 2018 the District entered into the “Amador Plan”, a contract with Cal Fire for fire protection, emergency response, volunteer training, personnel evaluation, and administrative assistance. The Cal Fire Chief is now assuming the District Chief’s responsibilities. District performance overall is monitored with the use of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), which logs the type of service calls received. Response times are not a focus of performance evaluation for the District because of hazardous weather and windy roads, which limit speeds. The Board, due to these limitations, sets no specific response time targets or guidelines.

The Board receives monthly reports from the Chief and interim communication as needed. Performance evaluations are not done under the Amador Plan contract. Support Staff were hired prior to the current board members’ terms. No performance evaluations have been conducted for these personnel; however, there is review of their work by the board presented as reports during board meetings.

District financial planning efforts include annual budgets, annual financial audits, and capital improvement plans. The most recent audit was completed in 2018. The District prepares a capital improvement plan with a 10-year planning horizon (although the District

reported the 2018 revision may only span five years) with emphasis on equipment replacement. Lockwood FPD's Operations Policy Manual includes comprehensive bylaws and policies, including the role of the officers, committees, the chief and staff as well as functional job descriptions and responsibilities.

Because of limited funds for operation, Lockwood did not put forth a formal CIP. That being said, should a significant grant become available, the emphasis will be: (1) an emergency generator, (2) additional water sources, and (3) replacement of an aging fire truck and water tender.

On May 15, 2019, Lockwood FPD board members will be participating for the first time in ethics training (AB1234) and training for the prevention of harassment and abusive conduct. This training is required for public officials and some staff. As each new Board member has been appointed/elected, there is an informal emphasis that the individual become acquainted with the Brown Act.

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## Service Demand and Growth

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Present land uses in district bounds are agricultural, vacant and suburban-residential (i.e., five-acre lots on average), and include some timber preserve zones. The timber preserve zone is located in the northernmost part of the District.<sup>7</sup> The only small business in the District is Big Trees Market. The Amador County General Plan designates Agriculture General and Agriculture Transition for the entire area. The District does not include any General Plan-designated Town Center, Special Planning Area, or Regional Service Center.

The District serves approximately 1,243 parcels and a total of 870 housing units, of which approximately 770 are occupied. Unoccupied homes are primarily vacation homes that are occupied sporadically.<sup>8</sup> According to the District, there are approximately 1,100 residents within district bounds.<sup>9</sup> The District's population density is 50 per square mile, compared to the countywide density of 64.

Service demand has not increased due to development or population growth in recent years; there are no large communities within bounds. No known developments are planned or proposed in the area. The District is not a land use authority, and does not hold primary responsibility for implementing growth strategies.

### Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCO is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities as part of this service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. A disadvantaged unincorporated community is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters, or as determined by commission policy, where the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median.<sup>10</sup> Any MSR conducted by LAFCO for a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and

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<sup>7</sup> Amador County, *General Plan Existing (2007) Land Use Classifications Map*, 2007.

<sup>8</sup> Parcel and housing based on 2018 District Audit. Occupancy and Residents estimated by District from voter registration

<sup>9</sup> LFPD Website, updated January 2019.

<sup>10</sup> Government Code §56033.5.

industrial waste, or structural fire protection, shall identify any DUCs within and contiguous to the sphere of influence of that city or special district, and describe the present and probable needs and deficiencies for the provision of those public facilities and services within such DUC.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a mapping tool to assist in determining which communities meet the disadvantaged communities median household income definition.<sup>11</sup> DWR identified nine disadvantaged communities within Amador County, three of which are cities and are therefore not considered unincorporated.<sup>12</sup> None of the DWR-identified disadvantaged communities are within or adjacent to LFPD.

LAFCO policy 7.3, adopted February 16, 2017, further defines disadvantaged communities as those consisting of 15 dwelling units at a density not less than one unit per acre. It is not known whether there are any disadvantaged communities as defined by this criteria within or adjacent to the Lockwood boundaries.

LAFCO policy 7.7, adopted February 16, 2017, further defines a Legacy Community as a geographically isolated community that meets DUC criteria and is at least 50 years old. There are no identified legacy communities in, or adjacent to, the Lockwood FPD area.

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## Financing

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The District operates on a minimal budget from sources detailed below. The District reported being able to provide an adequate service level through a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE. Although the District has limited funding for the purchase of future apparatus and additional personal protective equipment, it anticipates the continued use of community donations and Measure M funding, and successful grant requests to accommodate these purchases. Until stable funding in the estimated amount of \$800,000 is identified, the District cannot directly hire and equip fulltime career firefighters.<sup>13</sup>

The District financial report is listed on the State Controller's website, posted by the County Auditor-Controller. Lockwood FPD's Operations Policy Manual includes comprehensive financial policies and procedures, adopted August 2016 and amended June 2018.

Amador County holds the District's cash and investments within the County's external investment pool. District cash maintained by the County Treasury was \$620,420; the County Treasury's balance was \$620,420. The County sponsors an investment pool that is managed by the County Treasurer. Cash and investments for most County activities are included in the investment pool. All District monies held by the Amador County Treasurer receive quarterly allocations of County investment income based on the District's share of cash in relation to the total invested cash by the County.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Based on census data, the median household income in the State of California in 2010 was \$57,708, 80 percent of which is \$46,166.

<sup>12</sup> DWR maps and GIS files are derived from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and are compiled for the five-year period 2006-2010.

<sup>13</sup> Interview with Andrea Jones, President, LFPD Board of Directors, January 17, 2008, and current board position.

<sup>14</sup> Lockwood FPD Financial Statements with independent Auditor's Report for FY Ended June 30, 2018.

The District also maintains a separate business checking bank account and ATM card with El Dorado Savings Bank. The authorized signers for expenditures are the Board President and the Treasurer. The Treasurer maintains the bank balance at \$4,000. The Operations Policy Manual provides procedures and policies for this account, used exclusively for immediate expenses as determined by the Fire Chief. The Treasurer submits a payment authorization to the County to replenish the balance in the account as needed.

The District tracks its finances through four governmental funds: (1) the general fund, the primary operating fund, (2) impact and mitigation fees through special revenue funds, (3) acquisition or construction of major capital facilities or equipment through its capital improvement fund, such as funds from grants and assessments applied to capital improvements, and (4) Measure M incentive funds to reimburse volunteer firefighters \$110/day on duty at the District's firehouses, as well as for training.

Fire protection districts are authorized to collect revenue from special taxes, property assessments for fire services or capital improvements, and fees for service.<sup>15</sup> Total revenues in FY 18 were \$256,574. Revenue sources are Measure M funds (61percent), special taxes (28 percent), other (9 percent), and interest (2 percent).

Special taxes were collected on 1,243 parcels, occupied and vacant. Rates were \$70 for improved parcels and \$40 for unimproved parcels, for a total of \$75,936. LFPD voters approved the assessment in 2002, when 71 percent approved Measure D. Half of the assessment revenue is currently used for capital improvements.

New developments have the option of paying a \$900 mitigation fee to be used for water supplies or installing a 2,500-gallon water tank for firefighting use.<sup>16</sup> No mitigation fee revenue was collected in FY 2018. New primary residences pay a maximum of \$600 in development impact fees (or \$0.30 per square foot). Impact fee revenue in FY 2018 totaled \$1,305.

The District's expenditures were \$219,505, excluding depreciation, in FY 2018. Primary expenditures were salaries (59 percent), capital equipment (17 percent), supplies (15 percent), and insurance (6 percent).

The District had \$44,800 in long-term debt as of June 30, 2018. The debt is a capital lease obligation for building improvements. The debt is scheduled to be paid off in 2022.

The District maintains reserve cash funds. There was an unrestricted cash balance of \$134,822 at the end of FY 2018, based on the audit report.

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<sup>15</sup> Health and Safety Code §13911-19.

<sup>16</sup> LFPD, *Fee Schedule*, 2003.

## FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

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### Nature and Extent

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LFPD provides fire protection, fire suppression and basic life support. For calls involving emergency medical services, LFPD provides basic life support (BLS) until American Legion Ambulance Service arrives to perform advanced life support and ambulance transport.

The District also provides community burn assistance and inspects commercial sites within LFPD bounds for AFPD.<sup>17</sup> Although CHP carries primary responsibility for traffic enforcement services, the District reported that it also provides this service when necessary.

The District's boundaries overlap completely with the CAL FIRE State Response Area throughout its bounds, except for a few parcels of Federal Response Area. By law, CAL FIRE provides primary wildland fire response and LFPD, through its contract with CAL FIRE, provides primary structure fire response.<sup>18</sup>

Most service calls are received during evenings and weekends. Response is provided 24/7 by both volunteer and CAL FIRE personnel.

### Personnel

Four volunteer firefighters comprise the District's current sworn personnel. The District reported that it cannot hire fulltime firefighters due to financing constraints. Grants, donations and community fundraising may be used to offset equipment and training costs. However, with the passing of Measure M by a vote of the citizens of Amador County, the county fire departments now receive a formulated incentive of money, which has been agreed upon by all county fire departments. This monthly infusion of funds by the County Finance Department assists in paying a limited number of LFPD fire and EMT personnel a \$110/duty day reimbursement. This reimbursement is rotated among the personnel who are present for eight hours or more on any given day. The District's average number of volunteer personnel on an emergency is two. However, with the addition of CAL FIRE there is an additional two or more fulltime personnel as part of the district response.

The three support personnel include a secretary, treasurer, and a website manager. Positions are partially volunteer, but nominal compensation is available for some positions. The secretary receives a \$110 monthly incentive, the treasurer receives \$20/hr, and the website manager receives a \$300 monthly incentive.

LFPD, at the direction of the CAL FIRE Chief, provides new volunteers with the education and training needed to safely and effectively respond to emergencies. Personnel are required to attend weekly training events geared toward volunteer firefighters with the goal of becoming state-certified Firefighter 1s. In addition to weekly training events, LFPD sends volunteer firefighters to outside formal training classes throughout the area, including the CAL FIRE Training Center in Ione. Medical training is provided through locally recognized providers. Of the four LFPD volunteer firefighters, three are certified driver operators.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Pursuant to Health and Safety Code §13811.

No volunteer firefighter turnover occurred in 2018. Volunteer firefighter recruitment strategies include outreach via the District's newsletter and website, as well as word-of-mouth. Recruiting volunteers is, and has been, a significant problem for the district.

### Regional Collaboration

As with all fire providers in the County, LFPD is a part of AFPA. A countywide mutual aid agreement benefits LFPD in the northeastern portion of its bounds, where CAL FIRE responds also.<sup>19</sup> The District has a mutual aid agreement with AFD as well as CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service.

The District collaborates with CAL FIRE and AFD in regional training events. The District is a member of Amador Fire Safe Council. Fire safety and general District information presentations are undertaken as needed. No other activities are noted by the District.

### Dispatch and Communications

All 911 calls made from land lines in Amador County are automatically routed to the Amador County Sheriff's communication center in Jackson (the Public Safety Answering Point, PSAP). Cell phone 911 calls are answered by the California Highway Patrol in Stockton, and then are routed to the Sheriff. Fire and EMS calls are routed from the PSAP to CAL FIRE's Camino Interagency Command Center, which in turn dispatches a CAL FIRE unit as well as the appropriate local jurisdiction responder. LFPD is dispatched to all calls within its boundaries, as well as its mutual aid areas.

All fire providers in Amador County, including LFPD, communicate through the same radio systems. Due to shared radio frequencies, LFPD is able to communicate with other providers.

When multiple service providers respond to an incident, the first unit to arrive on scene is responsible for incident command. The first responder notifies other providers whether and when sufficient personnel have arrived on scene. For incidents such as vehicle accidents, law enforcement becomes responsible for incident coordination once it arrives on scene through universal command protocols; prior to law enforcement arriving on scene, the first responding fire provider remains responsible for incident command. All hazardous material incidents are overseen by CHP.

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## Location

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The District provides service within its bounds and in the immediately surrounding first response area. Through a mutual aid agreement with AFD, the District provides services outside of its bounds generally from Louise Drive to Quartz Mountain, and from Ponderosa Drive to Brockman Mill, in addition to Amador Pines and from Dew Drop to SR 88.

CAL FIRE, on behalf of LFPD, may respond more quickly in the northern part of the service area, due to fire station proximity, except instances of road closure due to road structure failure.

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<sup>19</sup> Interview with Andrea Jones, President, LFPD Board of Directors, January 17, 2008; reconfirmed 2019

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## Infrastructure

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The District operates two fire stations, both of which are located on Shake Ridge Road. Station 151 was built in 2001 and is reported as being in good condition.<sup>20</sup> Station 152 was built in 2006 and is in excellent condition.

Water reserves include four tanks totaling 20,000 gallons at Station 1. There is a hydrant at Station 2 that accesses a 150,000-gallon tank in the Mella subdivision. There are also hydrants in Mella, which are linked to the same well. Mella also has an older 20,000-gallon reserve water tank. Privately owned, but publicly accessible, water sources include a total of 97,000 gallons. The District's one water tender has a 4,000-gallon capacity, and each engine has approximately 750-gallon capacity.

District apparatus and capability is listed on the website as follows:

Fire Station #151: Squad 6546, Engine 6520 Type III 750 gallons, GPM 1002; Water Tender 6540 4,000 gallons, GPM1250; on site - four 5,000 gallon water tanks

Fire Station #152: Utility 6547 (4wd 1/2 ton pick-up); Engine 6530 Type I, 750 gallons, GPM1250; on site - one fire hydrant.; within 1/8 mile, access to La Mel Heights subdivision 130,000 gallon water tank

CALFIRE DEW DROP Station: Fire Engine - 500 gallons with additional 500 gallons per minute pump

The website also notes that many property owners have chosen to provide a separate 500 gallon stand-alone water source for fire prevention/suppression use. Lockwood staff is currently mapping these additional sources. The District's plans include: (1) a large generator for district wide emergency use during power outages, (2) additional water sources, and (3) replacement of older equipment as funds become available. The District reports additional need for street numbers to be posted on properties, and worked with the Veteran's association for ordering numbers until that program is completed. Another need is for maps showing which street numbers are associated with each parcel in the service area, as well as the private water sources. Financing restricts some infrastructure and equipment needs for LFPD.

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## Service Adequacy

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There are two general indicators of service adequacy for municipal fire providers: ISO rating and response times. The Insurance Service Office (ISO), an advisory organization, classifies fire service in communities from 1 to 10, indicating the general adequacy of coverage. Communities with the best systems for water distribution, fire department facilities, equipment and personnel, and fire alarms and communications receive a rating of 1.

The ISO rating for Lockwood Fire is stated as 8b/6. All parcels are rated 8b with the exception of La Mel Heights subdivision, which has eight fire hydrants on a public water system, which improves their rating to 6. Historically, the Lockwood Fire Protection District

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<sup>20</sup> LFPD, *Capital Improvement Plan*, FY 04.

was rated as ISO Class 9-10. According to the Operations Policy Manual, the District more recently qualified for an ISO Dwelling Class 8 for structures within five road miles of either Station 151 or Station 152. A letter from ISO confirming this classification was received on May 28, 2003. At the AFD Board Meeting April 14, 2019, AFD Chief White reported that there was to be a meeting that afternoon with the ISO agency.

Emergency response time standards vary by level of urbanization of an area; the more urban an area, the faster a response is required. The response time guideline established by the California EMS Agency is five minutes in urban areas, 15 minutes in suburban or rural areas, and as quickly as possible in wilderness areas. The District is classified as wilderness. LFPD's 90th percentile response time was 16.55 minutes. Its average response time is now 14.5 minutes.

The District reported service challenges including narrow, winding roads, road failure, a prevalence of locked gates, snow, blocked roads, unimproved roads, financing constraints, and a lack of street numbering on properties served and/or maps showing which street number is associated with each parcel in the service area.

**Figure 2: Lockwood FPD Fire Profile**

<b>Fire Service</b>				
<b>Service Configuration</b>		<b>Service Demand</b>		
Fire Suppression	Contract with CAL Fire	Statistical Base Year	2018	
EMS	Contract with CAL Fire	Total Service Calls	183	
Ambulance Transport	American Legion, Regional	% EMS	64%	
Hazardous Materials	Calveras and San Joaquin County <sup>1</sup>	% Fire/Hazardous Materials	5%	
Air Rescue & Ambulance Helicopter	CHP, Private	% Vehicle Accidents	9%	
Fire Suppression Helicopter	CAL FIRE	% Other	34%	
Public Safety Answering Point	Sheriff	% Mutual Aid Calls	30%	
Fire/EMS Dispatch	CAL FIRE	Calls per 1,000 people	109	
<b>Service Adequacy</b>		<b>Resources</b>		
ISO Rating 2003	6/8b	Fire Stations in District	2	
Average Response Time (min)	14.5	Fire Stations Serving District	2	
90th Percentile Response Time (min)	26.97	Sq. Miles per Station <sup>2</sup>	11.5	
Response Time Base Year	2018	Total Staff including CAL Fire personnel <sup>3</sup>	6	
<b>Training</b>		Total Daytime Firefighters (paid)	2	
LFPD sends volunteer firefighters to outside formal training classes in the area, including the CAL FIRE Training Center in Ione, with a minimum goal of becoming certified driver operators. Medical training is provided through locally-recognized providers.		Total Call Firefighters (paid & volunteer)	6	
		Total Sworn Staff per Station <sup>4</sup>	2	
		Total Sworn Staff per 1,000	4	
		<b>Service Challenges</b>		Staffing Base Year
Challenges for the District include finding sufficient and stabilized financing, volunteer staffing, and board member turnover. Roads are sometimes narrow, unpaved and there is a lack of street numbering in the area.		Fire Flow Water Reserves <sup>5</sup>	287,000 gal	
		<b>Facilities</b>		
Station	Location	Condition	Staff per Shift	Apparatus
Station 151	23141 Shakeridge Rd., Volcano, CA	Good	Staffed 2-3 days, daytime only	Type 3 Engine, Water tender (4,000 gal.)
Station 152	19315 Shakeridge Rd.,	Excellent	Staffed 2-3 days, daytime only	Type 1 Engine, command vehicle
<b>Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies</b>				
The District's capital improvement plans includes 1) a large generator for district wide emergency use during power outages, 2) additional water sources, and 3) replacement of aging equipment dependent upon grant funding.				
<b>Facility Sharing</b>				
<b>Current Practices:</b> District facilities are available for approved community functions, elections, County Board election meetings and emergency resources. The District personnel participate in regional training hosted by CAL FIRE and AAFP, fire marshal classes, classes at CAL FIRE Academy and EMT certification offered by Mountain Valley EMSA.				
The District plans to open stations as emergency shelters as needed.				
<b>Mutual &amp; Automatic Aid Agreements</b>				
There is a mutual aid agreement between AAFP, CAL Fire, the City of Ione, the City of Jackson, JVFPD, LFPD and SCFPD. There is also an automatic aid agreement with AAFP.				
Notes:				
(1) CAL FIRE has an MOU with Calaveras County and a secondary MOU with San Joaquin County for Hazmat services.				
(2) Primary service area (square miles) per station.				
(3) Total staff includes sworn and non-sworn personnel.				
(4) Based on ratio of sworn fulltime and call staff to the number of stations. Actual staffing levels of each station vary.				
(5) Reserves include public and private water sources.				

## SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS AND FINDINGS

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### Growth and population projections

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- ❖ Service demand has not increased due to development or population growth. No developments are planned or proposed in the area.

### The Location and Characteristics of Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Agency's SOI

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- ❖ There are no disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or adjacent to the District's service area based upon mapping information provided by the State of California Department of Water Resources. Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs and deficiencies
- ❖ It is not feasible to know with certainty whether there are any disadvantaged communities as defined by LAFCO policy criteria within or adjacent to the Lockwood boundaries. Under mutual aid agreements all residents within and around the District receive fire protection and emergency service at the same level of service.
- ❖ There are no identified legacy communities in, or adjacent to, the Lockwood FPD area.

### Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs and deficiencies

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- ❖ The District presently has the capacity to serve the area with its existing facilities. As there is no significant growth planned or proposed within the District's bounds in the near future, the current facilities will accommodate service needs in the short-term.
- ❖ The District provides adequate services given constrained and unstable financing.
- ❖ LFPD's response time is nearing the California EMS rural guideline time; although the entire District is classified as wilderness.
- ❖ The District identified needs including an emergency generator, additional water sources, and replacement of an aging fire truck and water tender.

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## Financial ability of agencies to provide services

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- ❖ The District operates on a minimal budget, which includes Measure M funds, and reported being able to provide an adequate service level by contracting with CAL FIRE utilizing the “Amador Plan” cost sharing agreement. Additional funds are necessary to attract additional volunteer firefighters and purchase major apparatus needed in the future.
- ❖ The District should consider updating its assessment and ensuring the assessment adjusts with inflation to recover costs.
- ❖ The District relies on contracted CAL FIRE personnel and volunteers for services it provides. While this is currently an effective arrangement, the long-term availability of able volunteers, which is often unpredictable, may affect the sustainability of service provision unless there is a continuing contract with CAL FIRE.
- ❖ LFPD effectively supports services provided by other government agencies through contracts, agreements and cooperative efforts. Contracting with CAL FIRE may further improve the financial ability of LFPD and other participant fire service providers to offer the highest feasible level of services at the lowest possible cost to citizens.

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## Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities

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- ❖ LFPD collaborates with other fire providers in the County, providing and receiving automatic and mutual aid and through the AFPA.
- ❖ The District makes its station available for various community events, and would like to operate as an emergency shelter for the area as well.
- ❖ Consolidation/reorganization or further functional consolidation with other fire service providers will likely offer increased opportunities for shared resources, including facilities and vehicles, as well as pooled finances to hire full-time staff.

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## Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

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- ❖ The District demonstrates a high degree of public participation in special events, although public interest in the governing body could be improved as indicated by a lack of contested elections.
- ❖ The District appears to operate in an open manner that facilitates the public’s ability to learn about and participate in District affairs.
- ❖ There is a close working relationship among the fire providers in Amador County. The similarity of challenges faced by each agency and potential cost savings offered by consolidation or reorganization suggests that fire agencies

will need to review opportunities for reorganization in some form, including functional consolidation.