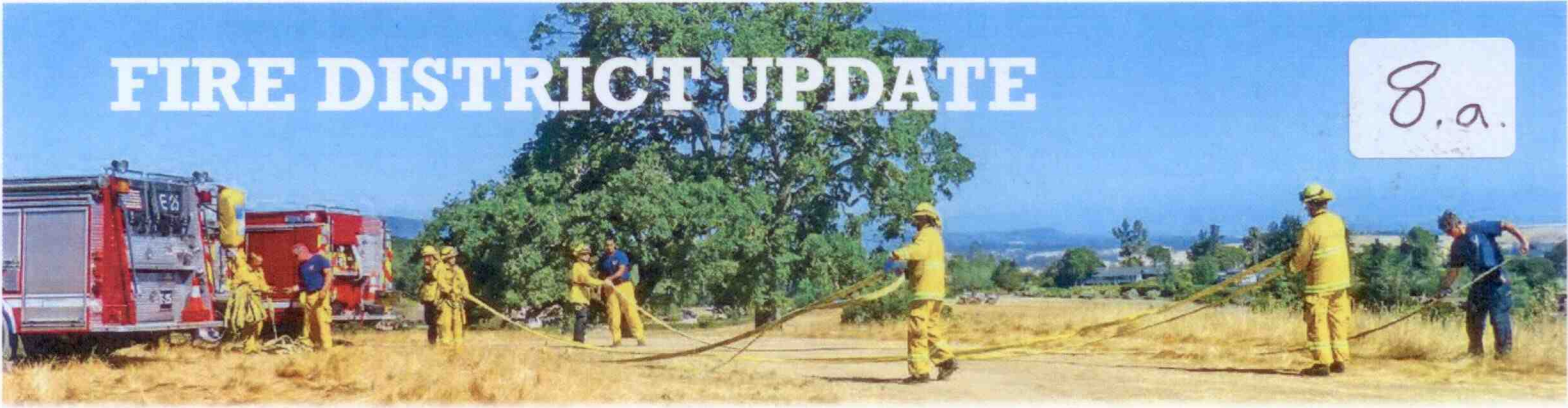


FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

J.a.



The Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) was established in October 1939 with the mission of providing fire suppression and prevention to its jurisdictional community. Through its evolution, the district has maintained this function and provided an adequate water supply for fire suppression. Through contract with the Santa Clara County Fire Department, the district provides for emergency and preventative programs ensuring the safety of Los Altos Hills and the adjacent unincorporated areas. The fire department does not just respond to emergency calls — it works throughout the year, behind the scenes, providing services to the residents all year round to help reduce risk to fire and medical emergencies.

The jurisdictional population is currently about 13,000 residents. Financing for the services is provided through allocation of the county property taxes provided by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Any unused fund balance may be used for special projects such as fire hydrant upgrades, pipeline improvements and for fuel reduction programs such as tree abatement and emergency preparedness programs.



COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

Partnering with the Santa Clara County Fire Department for the delivery of emergency response services, the district enjoys all the benefits offered by a larger organization, including a full roster of professional staff, specialized equipment and a high level of readiness for various types of emergencies. In this way, the district can remain small, agile, and responsive to the unique local needs, while at the same time providing world-class services at highest level to the community.



District Accomplishments

The LAHCFD recently published its Community Report (online version can be found at www.lahcfd.org), reporting that it is in excellent financial condition and operational readiness. Below is a summary of the District's accomplishments in FY2017-18:

- **Fire Contract Agreement:** The Agreement for fire and medical services for residents was renewed for an additional ten years. This Agreement is between LAHCFD, Los Altos, and Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District. LAHCFD, Los Altos City Council, and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors all unanimously approved the agreement. The agreement stipulates that County Fire will continue to provide fire suppression,

paramedic transport services, and community education for emergency preparedness to LAHCFD and Los Altos.

- **Fuel Management:** Dead and dying trees, brush, vegetation, and highly combustible trees are the fuel of wildfires. These conditions have increased due to the recent droughts. To address these threats, there is a high priority for fuel management programs to monitor and enforce brush abatement and to provide for a dead tree removal program. The goal is to minimize the fuel load throughout the district.
- **Fire Flow Infrastructure:** Eliminating areas with insufficient fire-fighting water flow is a top priority. The district conducted a study to assess adequacy of pipes to flow water (fire flow) and to improve and prevent damage to pipes due to seismic events. Based on results, a joint public works project is planned in FY2018-19 with Purissima Hills Water District to upgrade and improve fire flows in the part of the district they serve. Additional efforts will explore options with Cal Water Service.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** The district supports development and training for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Oversight of CERT training transitioned to Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services.
- **2015-2020 Strategic Plan Implementation of Goals:** The district continued its implementation of the strategic plan to improve its personnel administrative management including the hiring of a Jo Anne (J.) Logan as General Manager. Logan, who began on October 1, will oversee the district's day-to-day operation, provide recommendation to the Board on organization and personnel matters and manage fiscal integrity in addition to other duties.



Photos on this page show the Santa Clara County Fire Training exercise that was held on June 26. The helicopter and triage were utilized in simulation of wildland fire suppression.