



Los Altos Hills County Fire District Services Guide

Clear the way

A closer look at LAHCFD's
monthly programs helping
residents protect their homes
using defensible space



Also:

Grazing for Good

Inside the annual herbivory
vegetation treatment

Join Firewise USA®

Build Neighborhood Resiliency

Find Your Evacuation Zone

Welcome to the first
Los Altos Hills County Fire
District Services Guide!

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD or District) Services Guide presents the many programs, projects, and services initiated by the LAHCFD Board of Commissioners and implemented by 14 dedicated staff members. Since hiring its first employee in October 2018, the District has enhanced and added many new programs, including emergency management, outreach and communications, volunteers, education and risk reduction, and integrated hazardous fuel (vegetation) reduction (IHFR).

LAHCFD programs are founded on the principles of fire science, including a regional approach to wildfire and disaster risk reduction. “Wildfire knows no boundaries” — as a result, LAHCFD continues to expand to multi-year and complex projects with far-reaching impacts, both within and beyond District boundaries.

The District’s momentum in 2025 features collaboration with surrounding agencies, organizations, community, and residents in a common goal of promoting life and property safety and protection.

Please enjoy reading and learning about LAHCFD services and the organization’s dedication to the community.



J. Logan
LAHCFD General Manager

We are thrilled to connect with you through this resource that reflects the dedication, hard work, and spirit of service that define LAHCFD.

From fire safety tips to highlighting the work of our staff in hazardous fuel reduction, our goal is to keep you informed and involved in the essential work we do to keep you safe.

The support, engagement, and trust of you — our community — motivate us every day. We are proud to serve you.

Stay safe and be prepared!

— LAHCFD Outreach Team

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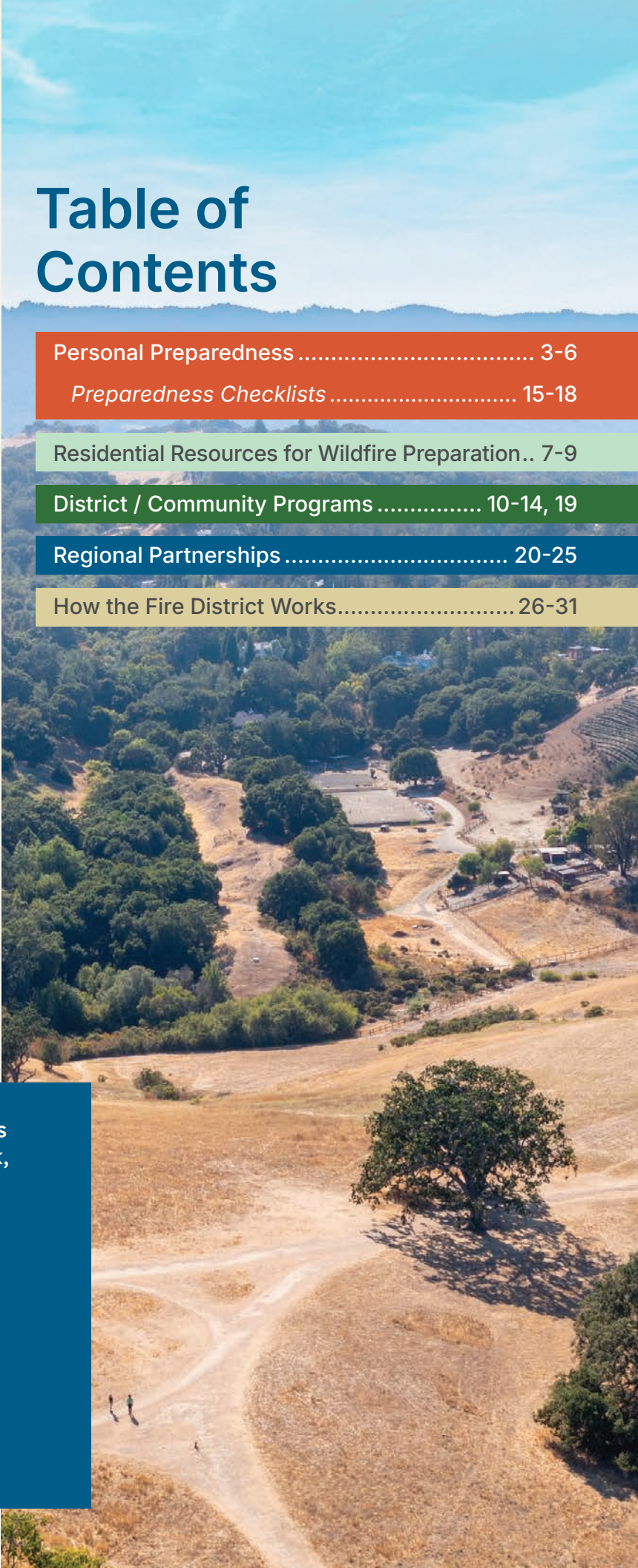
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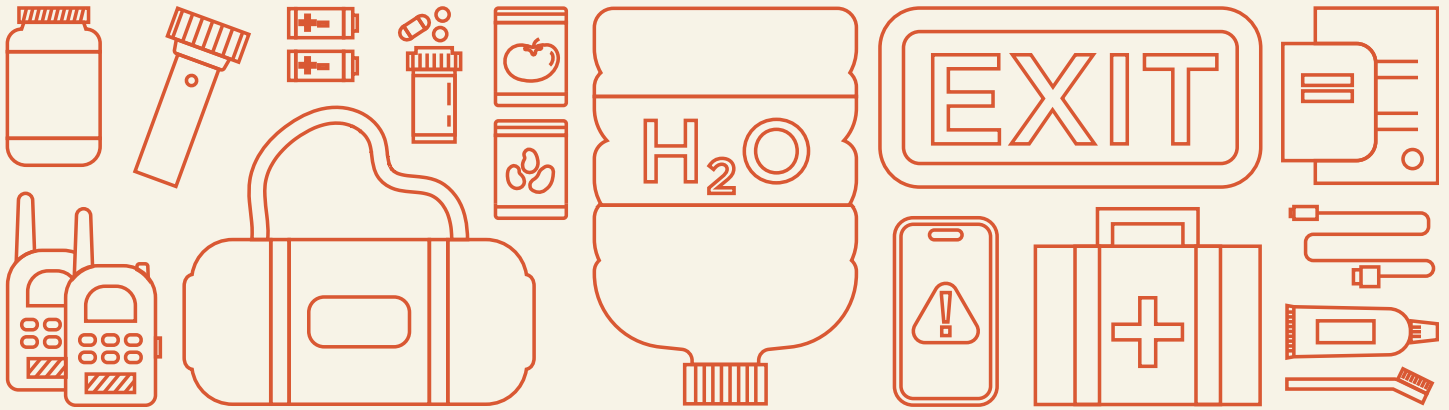
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4 Key Steps for Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness is important for keeping yourself, your family, and your community safe. Here are four simple but effective steps to ensure you're ready if disaster strikes:

1 Sign up for Alerts and Warnings

Ensure you're prepared for the next disaster by signing up for emergency notifications. AlertSCC is the County's official emergency alert and warning system. Register at alertscs.org to receive emergency warnings on mobile devices, emails, or landlines.

Nixle is the Town of Los Altos Hills' emergency notification system, providing residents with timely updates on both emergency and non-emergency situations. Register at bit.ly/nixleLAH or text your zip code to 888777.

3 Pack a Go Bag and Stay Box

Disasters often strike without warning and escalate quickly, so it's important to be ready. Prepare a **Go Bag** with essential items in case you need to leave your home in a hurry.

In some situations, it may be safer to stay where you are. For those times, pack a **Stay Box** with supplies to help you shelter in place. Plan to have enough resources to last at least 5–7 days without water or electricity.

See **page 17** for a full list of what to pack.

2 Know Two Ways Out

Identify at least two exit routes from your home and neighborhood in case of evacuation. Practice these routes with your family to ensure everyone knows how to safely and quickly leave in the event of a fire, flood, or other emergencies.

Genasys Protect (formerly Zonehaven) provides real-time evacuation information for your area. Download the mobile app and follow your zone(s) or turn on your location to be notified about danger wherever you are. More on evacuation zones on **page 20**. protect.genasys.com

4 Build a Resilient Neighborhood Network

Regularly check in with family members, friends, and neighbors — especially those who may need extra assistance, such as the elderly or individuals with disabilities. Coordinate plans to help them evacuate if needed and offer other ways to support them during an emergency. Discuss what you can contribute, such as radio communication, medical expertise, or backup power, to enhance neighborhood preparedness.

Refer to **pages 15–18** for preparedness checklists tailored for you, your family, and pets. These perforated cards are designed to be torn out and kept easily accessible in the event of an emergency or evacuation.



What is a Red Flag Warning?

A **Fire Weather Watch** means critical fire weather conditions are **possible**. Be prepared.

A **Red Flag Warning** means elevated fire danger due to warm temperatures, very low humidity, and either sustained winds or frequent gusts of more than 25 mph.

Preparedness Tips:



Maintain defensible space around homes and buildings.



Remove dry leaves and debris from gutters, decks and around foundations.



Bring combustible outdoor furniture and decorations inside, or move them off the deck and away from the house.



Make sure your Go Bag is packed.



Keep an evacuation plan updated.



During a Red Flag Warning:

- Close all house and car windows, even when you aren't inside.
- Move flammable materials, such as outdoor cushions, inside your home or garage.
- Remove dead shrubbery around your house.
- Monitor alert systems for up-to-date information regarding evacuation plans.
- Remain vigilant about your surroundings.



Avoid:

- Backyard fires or using burn barrels
- Using powered equipment that creates sparks
- Parking vehicles on dry grass
- Throwing cigarettes or matches out of a moving vehicle

Year-Round Preparedness

Preparedness is a year-round activity. LAHCFD partners with Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD) to offer year-round resident education. Review the topics for the whole year, and check our website for new classes and past presentations. To register, visit lahcfd.org/classes.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

Creating Your Family & Neighborhood Emergency Plans

- ☐ Designate family emergency contacts.
- ☐ Take a class to prepare for medical emergencies.
- ☐ Formalize your neighborhood communication strategy and exchange emergency information with neighbors.

JAN

CLASS:

Preparing for Medical Emergencies

hosted by SCCFD

INCLEMENT WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Your Guide to Inclement Weather Emergency Preparedness

- ☐ Stay informed! Sign up for emergency alerts at AlertSCC.org.
- ☐ Download the PG&E Report It app to submit concerns about vegetation, poles, and powerlines.
- ☐ Take steps to prepare for inclement weather or other emergencies: lahcfd.org/prep

FEB

CLASS:

Be Ready, Be Prepared for Inclement Weather

hosted by LAHCFD

lahcfd.org/brbp-weather

HOME HARDENING AGAINST WILDFIRES

Make Your Home Wildfire Ready

- ☐ Schedule a Hazardous Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment: lahcfd.org/hiz
- ☐ Seal gaps around windows, doors, and vents with fire-resistant material to prevent embers from entering.
- ☐ Cover attic and foundation vents with 1/8" or 1/16" mesh screen to prevent embers from entering.

MAR

CLASS:

Teen CERT Academy

hosted by LAHCFD

LANDSCAPING FOR WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Planting a Fire-Resistant Landscape

- ☐ Use well-watered, well-spaced, and fire-resistant plants in your landscaping.
- ☐ Consider replacing plants within the first 5 feet of your home's foundation or deck with gravel, stones, or bricks.
- ☐ Use our Defensible Space Vegetation Removal Monthly Drop Off program: lahcfd.org/greenwaste

APRIL

CLASS:

Fire-Resistant Landscaping

hosted by LAHCFD

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Protecting Your Home & Family

- ☐ Stay informed about fire weather on weather.gov or via the Watch Duty app.
- ☐ Prepare for evacuation: know 2 ways out and download Genasys Protect (formerly ZoneHaven) for evacuation alerts and information.
- ☐ Become a Firewise USA® Community: lahcfd.org/firewise

MAY

PARTICIPATE:

Community Wildfire Preparedness Day

lahcfd.org/may3

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Building a Resilient Neighborhood Network

- ☐ Connect with 3-5 nearby homes to create a support system.
- ☐ Join the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): lahcfd.org/CERT
- ☐ Discuss what you can contribute, such as radio communication, medical expertise, or backup power, to enhance neighborhood preparedness.

JUNE

CLASS:

Wildfire Preparedness Webinar

hosted by SCCFD

Year-Round Preparedness (continued)

CRIME PREVENTION & HOME FIRE SAFETY MONTH

Prioritizing Crime Prevention & Fire Safety

- ☐ Take a class on fraud and crime prevention, including common scams and ID theft.
- ☐ Verify smoke/carbon monoxide alarms are working and fire extinguishers are pressurized.
- ☐ Know your trusted community resources. Use 2-1-1 for essential services.

JULY

CLASS:

Crime Prevention and Home Fire Safety
hosted by LAHCFD

END OF SUMMER FAMILY SAFETY CHECK IN

Emergency Preparedness for Fall

- ☐ Update emergency contacts at home and school.
- ☐ Practice fire drills and evacuations with your family and teach kids how to call 911.
- ☐ Pack a small emergency kit for family members (cars or backpacks), including snacks, water, a flashlight, and a first aid kit.

AUG

TAKE ACTION:

Watch the family-friendly Disaster Dodgers video series
lahcfd.org/youth

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Being Ready for the Unexpected

- ☐ Create or update your emergency kit.
- ☐ Review and practice your emergency plan including meet up locations, communication methods, and evacuation routes.
- ☐ Help your neighbors: Stay informed, educate others, and encourage neighbors to sign up for AlertSCC.

SEPT

EVENT:

Touch a Truck
hosted by
Town of Los Altos Hills

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Earthquake Safety & Readiness

- ☐ Secure heavy furniture to the wall to prevent tipping.
- ☐ Practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.”
- ☐ Create an earthquake kit with water, non-perishable food, flashlight, first aid kit, and sturdy shoes.

OCT

TAKE ACTION:

Great ShakeOut event
shakeout.org
Oct. 16

EMERGENCY POWER & HANDLING OUTAGES

Backup Power

- ☐ Ensure you have an emergency backup power source, such as a portable generator, solar system, or backup batteries.
- ☐ Stock up on batteries for flashlights, radios, and other devices.
- ☐ Consider getting solar-powered chargers for your phones.

NOV

CLASS:

Emergency Kits and Go Bags
hosted by LAHCFD
Nov. 15

HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY & FIRE PREVENTION

Protecting Your Home with Holiday Fire Safety

- ☐ Check holiday lights for frayed wires or loose connections, and turn off those lights when you leave the house.
- ☐ Prevent home fires by maintaining clearance around space heaters, fireplaces, kitchen appliances, and other heat sources.
- ☐ Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors for proper functioning.

DEC

TAKE ACTION:

Winter safety kit for your car
lahcfd.org/car-safety

Protect Your Home Using Defensible Space

Creating defensible space around your home is one of the most effective ways to protect your property from wildfires.

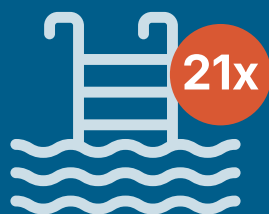
Clear hazardous brush, overgrown tree limbs, and flammable vegetation within 100 feet of your home.

For maximum protection, establish a “Safe Zone”—a completely clear area within 5 feet of all structures, free from combustible materials.

Defensible Space Brush Chipping and Debris Removal Program

This monthly program is available to all District residents. Crews will chip your cut vegetation on-site, with the option to have the chips hauled away or left on your property. Sign up online or by mail at any time. The service runs during a two- to three-week window each month.

LAHCFD provides this program in partnership with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC), a nonprofit specializing in fire safety and vegetation mitigation.



In 2024, over 1,000 households participated in the Brush Chipping program and 71,286 cubic yards of hazardous brush were chipped.

This amount of material would fill 21 Olympic-sized swimming pools.



Register for defensible space brush chipping services and make your property more fire-resilient today!

lahcfd.org/brushchipping

Defensible space

is the buffer between your structure and the surrounding area. Adequate defensible space acts as a barrier to slow or halt the progress of fire that may otherwise engulf your property. It also helps improve the safety of firefighters defending your home.

Monthly Vegetation Drop Off and Removal Program

District residents can drop off limbs, brush, and branches, which will be hauled away by GreenWaste Recovery. Residents should be prepared to offload their own materials into the drop-off containers.

Only brush and yard trimmings are accepted by this program.

See lahcfd.org/greenwaste for more details.

Program details:

Third Saturday of each month
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Foothill College, Parking Lot 1

To participate, residents must:

- Show valid photo I.D. with address or current garbage bill
- Accompany the firm hired to deliver the material on every trip

GreenWaste staff cannot unload materials from vehicles unless residents are physically unable to unload their own materials.



How Can You Improve Your Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)?

Wildfires can spread rapidly, but did you know that your home's surroundings play a major role in its risk of ignition? Research shows that a home's vulnerability depends on its condition and everything within 200 feet of its foundation — this area is known as the **Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)**. By taking proactive steps to reduce flammable materials within this zone, you can significantly increase its chances of survival.

Upgrade Your Property's Fire Resiliency

Start with an HIZ Assessment. Even small changes may improve your home's wildfire resilience. LAHCFD offers a free HIZ Assessment and Rebate Program to help residents create defensible space and harden their homes using the latest fire science.

The HIZ Assessment on-site evaluation pinpoints fire risks around your home. Additionally, through our HIZ Rebate Program, LAHCFD will match funds up to \$3,000 for eligible hazardous vegetation removal. Since residents can participate once per year, you can start now and continue removing vegetation annually.

Home Hardening

means using ignition-resistant materials on and around your home to help it withstand flying embers and radiant heat, as well as clearing your property of flammable materials.

Examples include:

- Fire-resistant materials on decks and roofs
- Changing attic and crawl space vents
- Clearing gutters



Register Here
lahcfd.org/hiz



Fire-Resistant Landscaping Tips

As wildfire seasons grow more intense, proactive landscaping is one of the best ways to safeguard your property. By following key fire-resistant practices, you can create defensible space and reduce the risk of fire damage to your home.

New Defensible Space Laws Coming in 2026

Starting in 2026, California will enforce stricter defensible space laws for homes in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas:

Zone 0

0–5 feet from your home

This area must be clear of flammable vegetation, mulch, and dead plant material. This new law is designed to prevent fires from reaching your structure.

Defensible Space

100 feet around your home

Homeowners must maintain properly spaced trees and shrubs and remove flammable vegetation to slow fire spread.



Maintain Your Landscape

Water and fertilize plants regularly and remove dry debris. During droughts, clear dead vegetation that could fuel fires.



Hydrate Strategically

A well-watered lawn can act as a natural firebreak.

Use drip irrigation to conserve water while keeping plants hydrated.



Prune and Space Wisely

Trim shrubs and trees to reduce dead material.

Maintain proper spacing:

- Shrubs: Twice their height apart
- Trees: 10 feet apart
- Tree canopies: At least 10 feet from your home



Use Fire-Resistant Features

Patios, flowerbeds, and walkways can slow fire spread. Avoid bark mulch within 5 feet of your home, as it can ignite from embers.



Choose Fire-Resistant Plants

Opt for plants with high moisture content like succulents and live oaks. Avoid highly flammable species such as eucalyptus, rosemary, and lavender.



Use the District's monthly Defensible Space Services to reduce wildfire risk (see **page 7**).





Goats for Fire Fuel Reduction

Since 2006, LAHCFD has contracted goat services for fire fuel, or vegetation, reduction in challenging areas like the Byrne Preserve. This eco-friendly method reduces vegetation, creates fire breaks, and enhances wildlife habitats, all without toxic chemicals, noisy machinery, or environmental disruption.

Goats are especially effective in hard-to-reach areas, such as steep hillsides, wetlands, and stormwater zones.

They consume 4-to-10 pounds of vegetation daily (they'll even climb trees!) and excel at clearing plants like blackberry vines, thistles, nettles, and poison oak. Compared to alternatives like tractors or herbicides, goats provide thorough vegetation control with minimal impact.

LAHCFD continues to annually treat 9 acres of the Byrne Preserve using 500 goats to reduce grasses and brush.



Dropped by Your Home Insurer?

United Policyholders (UP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides valuable information and resources while serving as a trusted advocate for insurance consumers across the United States. UP does not sell insurance or accept funding from insurance companies.

If you have received notice that your home insurance will not be renewed due to living in a high wildfire-risk area in California, we encourage you to act quickly.

Visit uphelp.org/droppedCA for more information.

Request a Presentation

Are you interested in having the District present to your neighborhood?

We offer presentations on becoming a Firewise USA community, classes about personal preparedness, and information sessions about the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We can also accommodate specific topics of interest to your group. Let us know how we can best serve your community's needs!

lahcfd.org/request



LAHCFD has no business affiliation with United Policyholders, NFPA, or Firewise USA®.

Join the Firewise USA® Movement

Wildfires don't just threaten individual homes — they put entire neighborhoods at risk. The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise USA® program empowers communities to work together to reduce wildfire danger and build a safer, more resilient future.

By participating in Firewise USA®, residents are being proactive in safeguarding their homes, strengthening neighborhood connections, and creating a fire-adapted community.

Why Join Firewise USA®?

Expert Wildfire Knowledge

Learn key strategies to protect your home using the latest fire science.

Stronger Community Connections

Work with neighbors to improve defensible space and wildfire preparedness.

Potential Insurance Discounts

Some insurance providers offer savings to residents in Firewise-recognized neighborhoods.

Easy Access to LAHCFD Services

Register for programs like:

- Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessments & Rebates
- Monthly Brush Chipping and Debris Removal
- Monthly Vegetation Removal Drop-Off Services
- Educational Workshops on Wildfire Resiliency

Be Part of the Movement

As of February 2025, seven neighborhoods in the District have already earned Firewise USA® recognition, with more on the way. This momentum reflects a growing commitment to wildfire preparedness and community resilience.

Act Today

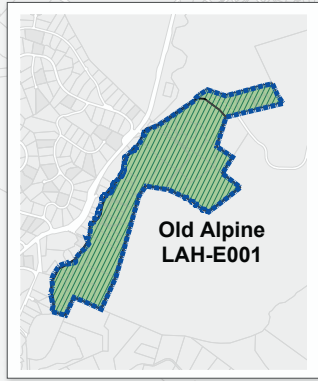
A safer neighborhood starts with you. Join or start a Firewise USA® neighborhood to help identify risks, prioritize mitigation efforts, and work together to lower wildfire danger in your community.



Visit lahcfd.org/firewise for general information about the Firewise USA® program, or email firewiseinfo@lahcfd.org to connect with LAHCFD or someone in your neighborhood.

See **page 12** for a map of Firewise USA® communities.





Legend

- Fire District Boundary
- Town Limits

Firewise USA® Status see page 11

- Recognized
- Pending
- Potential
- Not Eligible

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) see page 13

- CERT Member



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Support your family and community after a disaster

When disaster strikes, emergency responders can be overwhelmed by hundreds of calls. That's where the Los Altos Hills Community Emergency Response Team (LAH CERT) steps in — a group of trained community volunteers ready to assist when it matters most.

What You'll Learn as a CERT Volunteer:

- Fire Safety
- Light Search & Rescue
- Disaster Medical Techniques
- Disaster Psychology
- Incident Command Systems
- Disaster Preparedness

More than an Emergency Response

Beyond disaster situations, LAH CERT members play a vital role in community preparedness, hosting in-person and online training sessions, workshops, and outreach events to educate residents on disaster readiness.

Safety First — Always

CERT members will never be asked to enter dangerous situations. The program prioritizes personal safety above all else, encouraging volunteers to:

- Secure their own safety and family first.
- Assess and report damage when it's safe to do so.



Be Ready. Get Involved!

Join LAH CERT and Los Altos to become a valuable part of a prepared and resilient community. The Santa Clara County Fire Department provides the Los Altos Hills CERT training academies each year.

Visit sccfd.org/CERT for class dates.



The CERT program is organized and supported by:



Teen CERT

Support your school and community after a disaster

Are you ready to make a difference? The Teen Community Emergency Response Team (Teen CERT) program is your chance to gain lifesaving skills, earn volunteer hours, and become a leader in your community, at no cost to you. Open to teens ages 13-18.

You'll Learn How to:

- Help your family and community during emergencies.
- Use a fire extinguisher.
- Stop a bleeding wound and assist injured individuals.

Earn Community Service and Volunteer Credit

Upon completing the program, you'll receive credit for community service and volunteer hours.

Sign up lahcfd.org/TeenCERT. Questions? Please contact teencert@lahcfd.org

CERT is a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Emergency response is coordinated at County, State, and Federal levels, as necessary.



Clearing the Path to Safety Through Road Hardening

The District's Road Hardening, or Evacuation Route Program is designed to improve safety by removing flammable vegetation and roadside debris along key roadways, making them more accessible during emergencies and reducing wildfire risk. This process, known as road hardening, enhances evacuation routes and facilitates smoother travel for both emergency responders and the public.

Program Goals

- **Clear Evacuation Routes:** Ensure that roads remain passable during wildfires or disasters.
- **Improved Visibility:** Enhance travel safety for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.
- **Reduce Fire Spread:** Limit the spread of wildfire along roadways and decrease the risk of roadside ignition.

Once a project is completed, the route is regularly monitored for the regrowth of hazardous vegetation or flashy fuels and maintained as needed to ensure long-term safety.

Regional Partnerships

The District works with Santa Clara County Fire Department, Caltrans, County Roads and Airports, the Town of Los Altos Hills, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, and others to identify and prioritize high-risk areas. These partnerships allow for comprehensive, tailored vegetation management plans that address the unique needs of each route.

What Does a Safe Evacuation Route Look Like?

The District aims to create evacuation routes that are both fire-safe and visually appealing, maintaining the natural beauty of Los Altos Hills while enhancing safety. Strategic pruning improves visibility at intersections and along streets while preserving the shade canopy, thoughtfully balancing fire mitigation with the area's aesthetics, ensuring safer, more accessible evacuation routes.



The Cone Zone: Staying Safe in Roadside Work Areas

Evacuation route projects require traffic control measures, which are managed by a certified team. The District posts advance signage about upcoming projects. Cone Zones are marked by signs, cones, barriers, and work vehicles to protect both workers and drivers. **Please do not drive, walk, ride, or cycle inside the cone zone or approach personnel.**

The District appreciates your support and patience as we work to improve safety for everyone.



Find maps, photos, and details about evacuation route projects at lahcfd.org/projects

Frequently Asked Questions

Watch our video responses at lahcfd.org/faqs





Evacuation Checklist

This perforated card is designed to be torn out and kept easily accessible in the event of an emergency or evacuation.

Outside

- ☐ Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- ☐ Turn off propane tanks.
- ☐ Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- ☐ Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- ☐ Don't leave sprinklers on or water running, they can affect critical water pressure.
- ☐ Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- ☐ Put your Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle.
- ☐ Back your car into the driveway with the vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- ☐ Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- ☐ Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- ☐ Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened.
- ☐ Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.

Inside

- ☐ Shut all windows and doors.
- ☐ Remove flammable window shades and curtains and close metal shutters.
- ☐ Remove lightweight curtains.
- ☐ Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- ☐ Shut off gas at the meter; turn off pilot lights.
- ☐ Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- ☐ Shut off the central heating/air conditioning.

Animals

- ☐ Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- ☐ Prepare farm animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.

Source: Santa Clara County Fire Department

www.sccfd.org/rsg/go

What to Wear

Wear protective clothing:

- Long sleeves and long pants (heavy cotton or wool)
- Avoid synthetic fabrics (they can melt and burn)

Shield your face and head:

- Full-coverage goggles
- Natural fiber wide-brimmed hat (to block embers)
- Dry cotton bandana, wool scarf, or N95 respirator for smoke protection
- Tie back long hair

Protect feet and hands:

- Heavy-soled boots
- Leather gloves

Bring essential lighting:

- Headlamp
- Flashlight (even during the day)



Know Your Zone

Genasys Protect (formerly Zonehaven) provides real-time evacuation information for your area.



Mobile users

Download the mobile app and follow your zone(s) or turn on your location to be notified about danger wherever you are. protect.genasys.com/download



Desktop computer

By navigating to protect.genasys.com, you can view a map of area evacuations and search for specific addresses to determine if they are affected by an order, warning, or other advisement.

California Standard Statewide Evacuation Terminology

Evacuation Order:

Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.

Evacuation Warning:

Potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.

Shelter in Place:

Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.

Source: CalOES
calalerts.org/evacuations.html

Sign up for Alerts at AlertSCC.org

AlertSCC is an opt-in Santa Clara County specific alerting system. If you don't sign up, you won't receive these critical emergency alerts.

Go Bags vs. Emergency Kits

Be prepared whether you need to leave immediately or shelter at home for multiple days.



Evacuation “Go Bag”

Mobile supplies for last minute evacuation

- ☐ Copies of important documents
- ☐ Cash in small bills, including change
- ☐ NOAA Weather Radio
- ☐ Flashlight / headlamp
- ☐ Water (cartons)
- ☐ Medication (at least 3-day supply)
- ☐ Non-perishable food
- ☐ Change of clothes and sturdy shoes
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Cell phone charger, battery pack
- ☐ Personal hygiene items
- ☐ N95 respirator masks
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Childcare supplies
- ☐ Pet supplies

Home Emergency Supply Kit / “Stay Box”

Supplies to shelter at home for 5-7 days

- ☐ Water (1 gallon/person/day)
- ☐ Non-perishable food
- ☐ Disposable tableware
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Batteries
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in waterproof container
- ☐ Sanitation supplies
- ☐ Wrench to turn off utilities
- ☐ Pet supplies



Disaster Preparedness for Pets

Your pets are part of your family too, and you should include them in your emergency plan.

Make a plan

- Identify pet-friendly shelters and hotels before disaster strikes.
- Set up a buddy system with neighbors or friends for pet care and evacuation.
- Microchip, ensure vaccinations are current, and keep I.D. tags current.
- Save emergency numbers for shelters and animal control in case you get separated.

Build an Emergency Kit for your pet with 5-7 days of supplies

- ☐ Food and water
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ ID and registration
- ☐ Travel carrier or crate
- ☐ Sanitation supplies
- ☐ Toys and treats
- ☐ Photo to help with identification

Trusted Sources for Information During an Emergency



Critical Alerts

To ensure you're prepared for the next disaster, sign up for AlertSCC and Nixle notifications.

Santa Clara County Emergency Alerts

AlertSCC is the County's official emergency alert and warning system. Register at alertscc.org to receive emergency warnings on mobile devices, emails, or landlines.

Los Altos Hills Alerts

Nixle is the Town of Los Altos Hills' emergency notification system, providing residents with timely updates on both emergency and non-emergency situations. Register at bit.ly/nixleLAH or text your zip code to 888777.

Local Government

Emergency: Dial 9-1-1

Town of Los Altos Hills

losaltoshills.ca.gov

Office of Emergency Management

- County of Santa Clara

oem.santaclaracounty.gov/home

Santa Clara County Fire Department

sccfd.org

Los Altos Hills County Fire District

lahcfd.org

Useful Apps

Use this guide to sign up for alerts and reliable information before, during, and after emergencies.

Know your zone

Genasys Protect (formerly Zonehaven) provides real-time evacuation information for your area. Download the mobile app or find your zone at protect.genasys.com.

Do you smell smoke?

Watch Duty alerts you of nearby wildfires and firefighting efforts in real-time. Download the mobile app or view the map at app.watchduty.org.

Is the power out?

Get outage status, report an outage, or view the outage map at pgealerts.alerts.pge.com.

Do you hear sirens?

PulsePoint sends notifications about local incidents and emergency responders. pulsepoint.org/download

Download our printable guide with trusted sources for emergency information at lahcfd.org/alerts.



2025 Evacuation Route Schedule

The following 2025 Evacuation Route projects are aimed at enhancing fire safety and ensuring clear, accessible evacuation routes for the community. This year’s schedule encompasses more than 36 miles of strategic treatments, including maintenance and new projects to protect key routes throughout the District.

Month	Project Name	Route Type	Length of Treatment
April (Completed)	Page Mill Road	Maintenance	6.5 miles
June (Completed)	Moody – El Monte (Including Clover Leaf to I-280)	Maintenance	12.1 miles
August (Completed)	Elena – Taaffe	Initial Treatment	5.5 miles
September/October	Mora – Summerhill	Maintenance	7.34 miles
November	Robleda – Burke	Maintenance	4.86 miles

Commitment to Community Safety

Residents are encouraged to stay informed about these projects and watch for updates via mail. Residents along the project route can participate by granting the District Right of Entry. The District will provide regular updates and notifications as project dates approach.

Navigating the Right of Entry (ROE) Process

If your property borders an evacuation route project, you may be eligible to extend safety treatments onto your land by submitting a Right of Entry (ROE) form. This allows the District to assess and, if needed, trim vegetation beyond the standard 50-foot roadside treatment zone — enhancing both the evacuation route and your property’s defensible space.

The ROE process provides flexibility — residents specify the level of vegetation treatment and approve the work before it occurs on their property. By participating, you help strengthen community wildfire resilience and improve overall evacuation safety.

How the Process Works

- Before each project, property owners receive an informational packet by mail, including a ROE form.


- District staff conduct on-site visits to discuss project details, answer questions, and review treatment options. If no one is home, staff will leave a doorhanger with project details.


- Residents can contact the District to discuss treatment options, learn more about the project, or ask questions.

KNOW YOUR ZONE

In the event of a wildfire or an emergency situation, law enforcement and fire agencies issue evacuation warnings or evacuation orders for impacted areas. In order to understand whether your area is under an evacuation warning or order, you need to know your Zone. Authorities use Zones in media releases and on social media to notify residents which areas are under an evacuation warning or order. Find your Zone now at protect.genasys.com

See pages 15-16 for more information about evacuating.

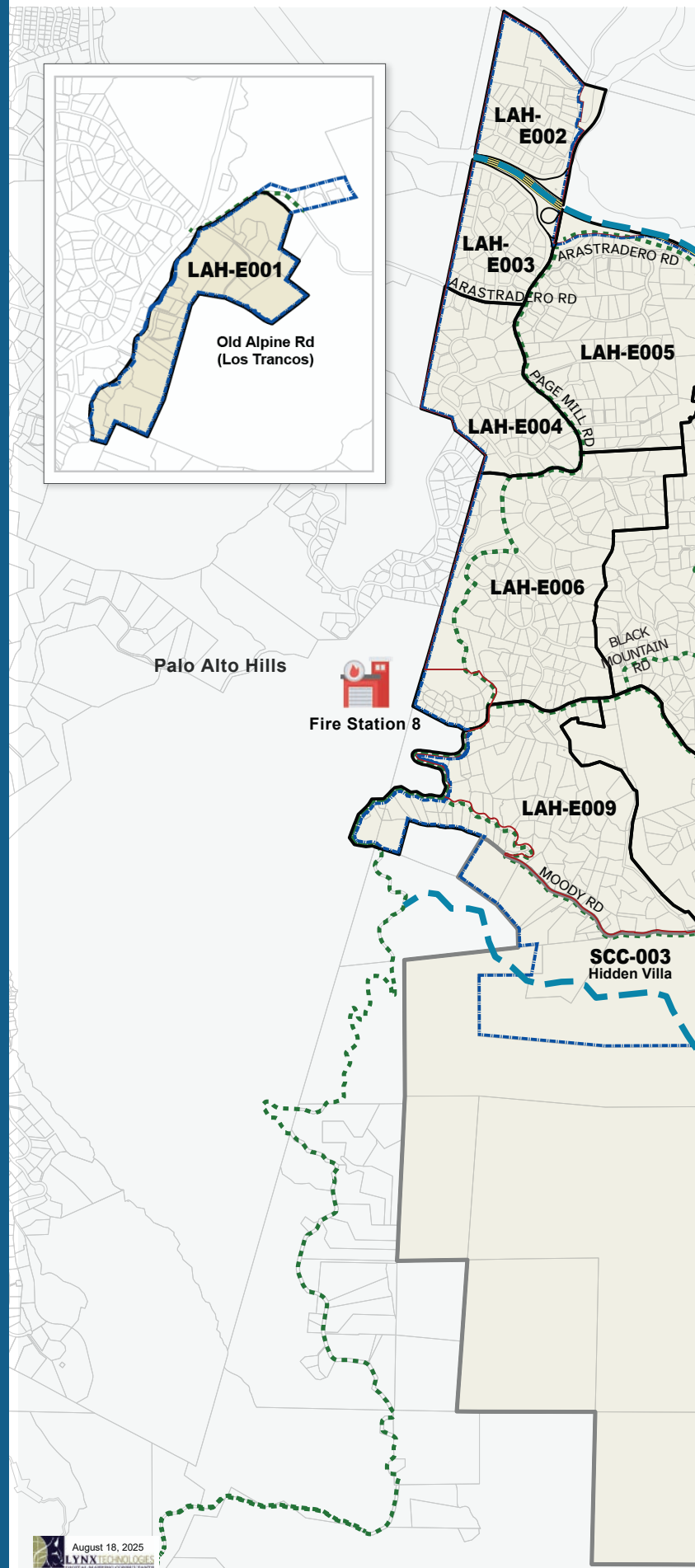


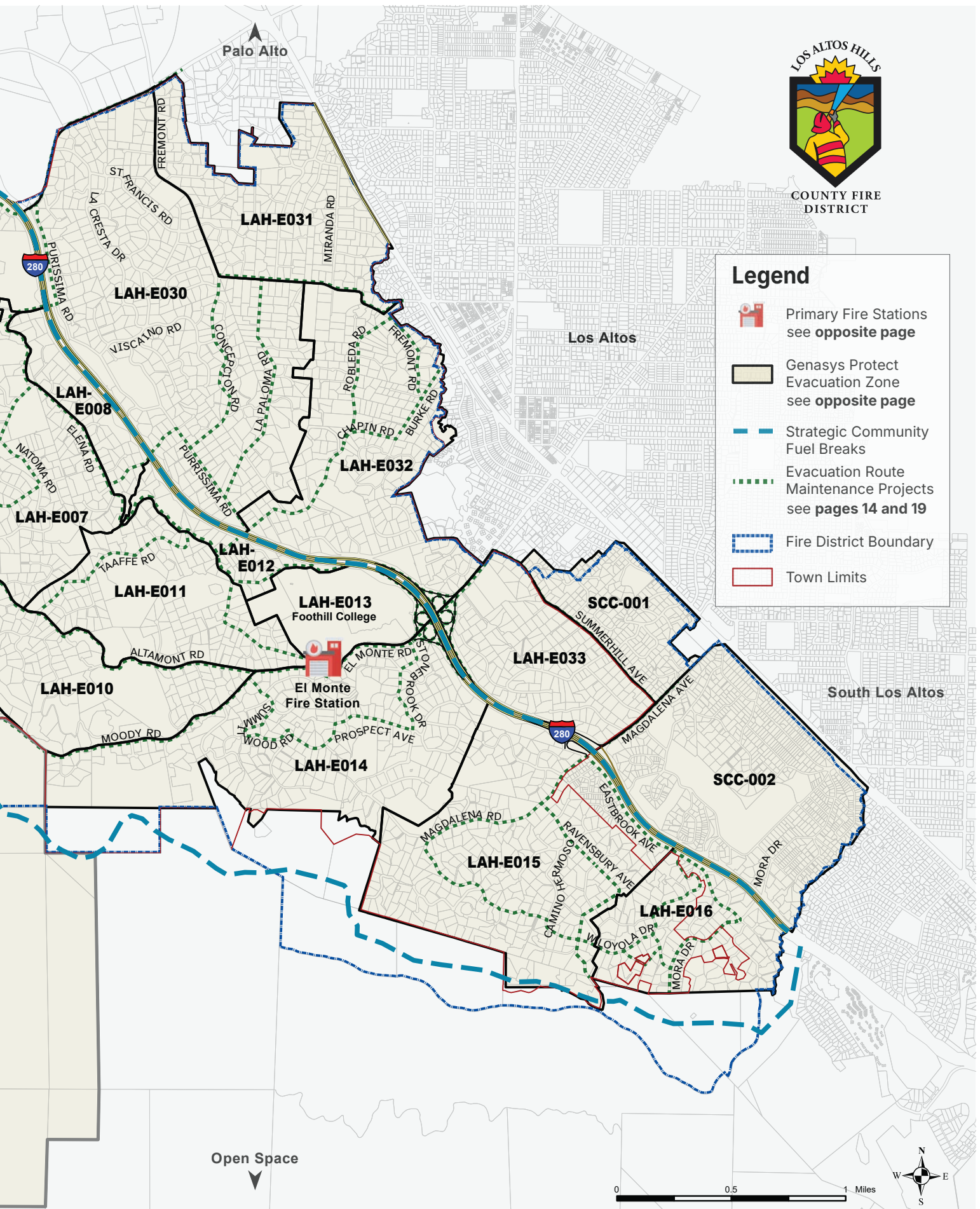
El Monte Fire Station

In 1996, the District built the El Monte Fire Station (Station 74), located on the Foothill College Campus. The District leases it to Santa Clara County Fire Department, which uses it for fire suppression and emergency medical services to District residents, the community, and via mutual aid.

Fire Station 8

LAHCFD funds the staffing of Fire Station 8, located in the City of Palo Alto, which provides protection to the areas of Los Altos Hills around Foothill Park and the surrounding communities during the high fire season, from mid-June to the end of October. The staffing of Fire Station 8 is in partnership with the Santa Clara County Fire Department and the City of Palo Alto Fire Department.





A Partnership to Protect the Community

As noted in the image, Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) focuses on wildfire and disaster preparedness, education, and risk reduction. Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD) is a first responder agency that provides firefighting, fire suppression and emergency medical services when disasters occur.

LAHCFD and SCCFD collaborate closely to create a unified partnership to protect the community with programs to prevent and protect from fires and to build community preparation in the event of an emergency, wildfire or disaster.



LOS ALTOS HILLS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

Protection, Prevention &
Building Resiliency

Focus Areas:

Fire Hydrants, Valves & Laterals

Community Wildfire Protection
Plan (CWPP) - Annex 4

Vegetation Management

- Brush Chipping & Removal
- Monthly Debris Drop Off
- Annual Goat Grazing
 - Weed Abatement

Evacuation Routes

Fuel Break

Disaster Coordination

Community Education & Risk Reduction

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)
Assessments & Rebates
*in partnership with Santa
Clara County FireSafe Council*

Community Program Support

- Firewise USA
- Community Emergency
Response Team (CERT)
 - Teen CERT

Emergency Preparedness Classes

EXIT





SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical
Services & International Accreditation**

Focus Areas:

Structure & Wildland Firefighting

Special Operations Program

- Hazardous Materials (HazMat)
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

Emergency Management

Fire Prevention

- Fire Marshal
- Fire Investigation
- Building Codes

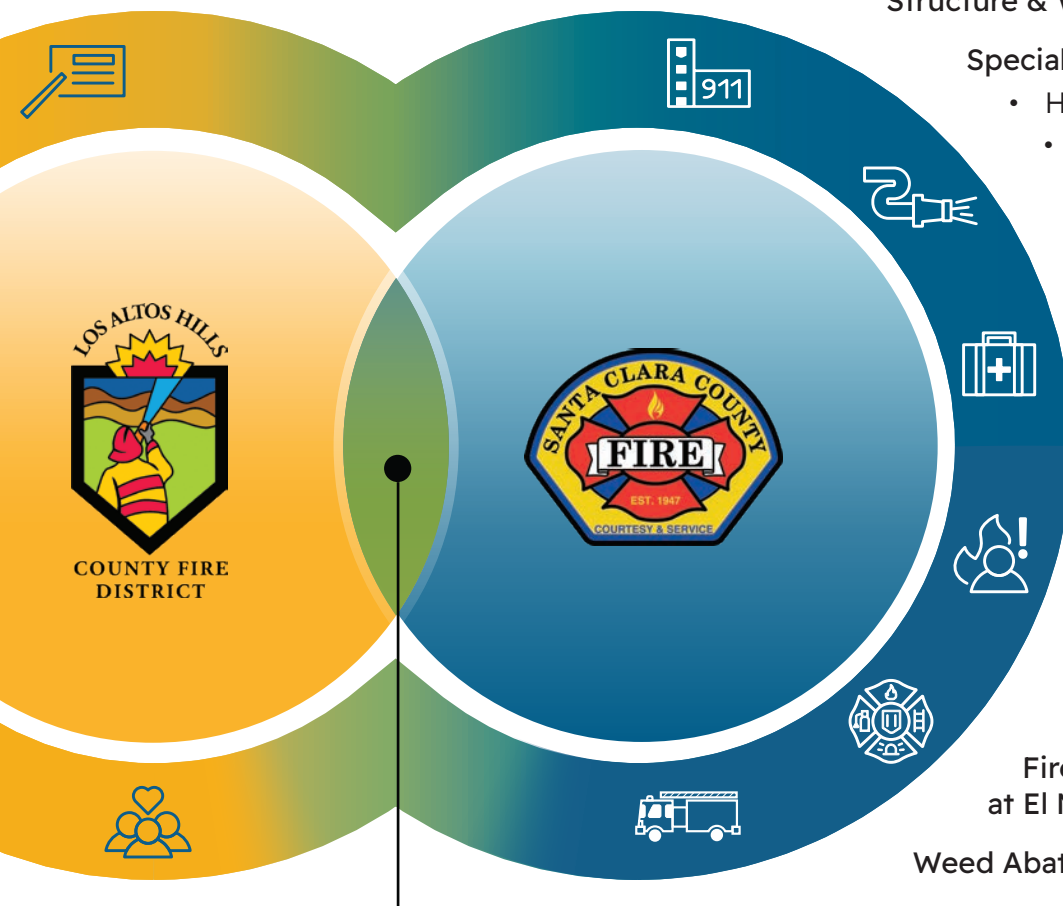
Community Education
& Risk Reduction

Wildfire Preparedness
and Prevention

Wildland Urban Interface
(WUI) Inspections

Firefighters and Apparatuses
at El Monte Fire Station

Weed Abatement



Mutual aid protecting life & property safety
Palo Alto Fire Station 8 regional benefits

Countywide Wildfire Protection Partnerships

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Santa Clara County is a countywide guiding document that coordinates wildfire resilience efforts across multiple fire agencies, land managers, and cities.

Tailored Wildfire Planning

Given Santa Clara County's diverse landscape — ranging from urban and suburban areas to agricultural lands and nature preserves — a one-size-fits-all approach isn't feasible. To address local needs, annexes allow jurisdictions to implement customized wildfire management plans while benefiting from regional coordination and expertise.

LAHCFD Annex 4: A Targeted Approach

LAHCFD's Annex 4 builds on fire science, historical data, and risk modeling to develop programs and projects that reduce wildfire risk across its 12-square-mile district. Since wildfire knows no boundaries, regional collaboration is key to enhancing safety and supporting mutual aid during disasters.

Three Levels of Wildfire Risk Reduction



Individual or Parcel Level:

Homeowner education, Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment and Rebate Program, structural hardening, fire-resistant landscaping, and brush chipping removal/drop-off programs.



Neighborhood Level:

Support for **Firewise USA Communities** and roadside vegetation management to maintain safe evacuation routes.



District & Regional Level:

Development of **shaded fuel breaks** and participation in countywide fire mitigation projects.

Ongoing Innovation and Coordination

LAHCFD continuously integrates the latest fire science, vegetation management strategies, and legislative updates into its planning. The District actively collaborates on countywide wildfire preparedness efforts, including the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) and other key initiatives from agency partners.

Expected to be adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in 2025, the CWPP ensures regional connectivity and project tracking for more effective fire prevention strategies.

For more information, visit lahcfd.org/cwpp and stay informed about wildfire prevention efforts in your community.



History of the District

Founded in 1939, the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD or District) is a dependent special district of the County of Santa Clara. LAHCFD serves residents of the Town of Los Altos Hills and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County known as Loyola, Los Trancos, and San Antonio Hills and is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners who live in the District. LAHCFD is approximately 12 square miles and has a population of approximately 12,229.

LAHCFD provides its residents with fire and disaster prevention and protection, while also building resiliency within the community. The District and the City of Los Altos (City) formerly operated a fire department. In 1996, the District and City decided to contract the fire department and emergency medical services with the Santa Clara County Fire Department, also known as the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District.

Hydrants & Appurtenance

LAHCFD owns, replaces, adds, and maintains 552 fire hydrants within its boundaries and the related infrastructures appurtenant to the hydrants from the water main. The infrastructure is connected to the Purissima Hills Water District (PHWD) water system.

An agreement between the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors and PHWD governs the terms and conditions of the duties and responsibilities of the parties. LAHCFD has a professional services agreement with a local engineering firm who serves as a consultant to the District on services, projects, and assistance to develop policies and processes for management of the District's hydrants and infrastructure for protection of property, life safety, and support of fire suppression systems.



Appurtenance refers to the accessories between the hydrant itself and the water delivery pipe — for example, valves.

About the Board of Commissioners

The seven-member LAHCFD Board of Commissioners is appointed by the District 5 Supervisor of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, which is then approved by the County Board of Supervisors. Commissioners are residents of LAHCFD and serve a four-year term, with at least two of the Commissioners representing the unincorporated areas of the District.

The Board of Commissioners develops the District's Strategic Plan, budget priorities, and long-range planning documents to be used in the preparation of an annual operating budget based on a July through June fiscal year.

Meet Your Board



Roger Spreen Board President

Board President Roger Spreen has served on the Commission since February 2016, originally joining as a representative of the Los Altos Hills City Council. A longtime volunteer dedicated to restoring and maintaining Los Altos Hills' natural open spaces (where he enjoys walking his family dog), he is motivated to strike a balance that preserves its scenic beauty while mitigating fire risks.



Toby McDonell Board Vice President

Commissioner Toby McDonell joined the LAHCFD Commission in 2023, bringing more than three decades of fire service experience, including seven seasons with CAL FIRE and 28 years with the Palo Alto Fire Department. A lifelong "fire geek," Commissioner McDonnell was born with a passion for firefighting. Outside of the Commission, he enjoys working on cars and spending time with his wife and their three boys.



2025 Fire District Commission Meeting Schedule

The District usually holds hybrid public meetings the third Tuesday of every month. Please check our website to confirm times and changes to the meeting schedule.

lahcfd.org/meetings





George Tyson

Commissioner George Tyson has been on the LAHCFD Commission for nearly a decade and is a former Board President. Commissioner Tyson is the Los Altos Hills City Council representative appointed to the Commission. He is motivated by his passion for public safety. With a career in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry, he brings a wealth of knowledge in industrial safety. In addition, he enjoys reading, running, and cultivating rare and unusual fruits.



Mark Warren

Commissioner Mark Warren joined LAHCFD in 2017 to serve the community and is a former Board President. When he's not reviewing agenda packets and attending community events, he enjoys spending time with his family, aviation, and being an avid college football fan.



Kavita Tankha

Commissioner Kavita Tankha has served on the LAHCFD Commission since 2021. As a longtime resident, she understands the very real risk that fire poses to Los Altos Hills, and she is committed to protecting the community against fire risk. Commissioner Tankha is the Los Altos Hills City Council representative appointed to the Commission. Outside of the Commission, she enjoys hiking in the hills, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.



Jim Basiji

Commissioner Jim Basiji joined the LAHCFD Commission in February 2022. His 35-year District residency and prior service on the Town's Senior and Planning Commissions inspired him to take a proactive role in community safety. Commissioner Basiji enjoys hiking the local hills, traveling to new destinations, and staying informed through avid reading.



Indu Kadambi

Commissioner Indu Kadambi joined the LAHCFD Commission in January 2025 to support and recognize the hard work of local government. Inspired by a commitment to community safety, she chose to step up as Fire Commissioner. She is a passionate reader, hiker, and volunteer, with interests in creative writing and sustainable practices.

Strategic Plan

The mission of the LAHCFD is to protect the lives, property, and environment within the District it serves from fire, disasters, and medical emergencies or other incidents through education, prevention, protection and emergency response services, and to be responsible for the financial stewardship of District taxpayer funds.

The District’s mission is guided by three pillars:

1. The LAHCFD 2023-2027 Strategic Plan
2. The Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and LAHCFD Annex 4
3. The fiscal-year Budget that funds programs, projects, and initiatives based on the Strategic Plan and CWPP-Annex 4

The District’s 2023-2027 Strategic Plan is structured around four strategic goals which reflect broad, long-term efforts in support of educating and increasing protection of the community and residents from disasters.

To read the full Strategic Plan, visit lahcfd.org/stratplan

Strategic Goal	Objective
Prevention, Protection, Resiliency	Fund, develop and maintain programs to protect life, property and enhance safety to build a resilient community.
Preparedness	Deliver community services that support emergency response and build programs of outreach, communication, education, and regional benefits; collaborate with regional partners to strengthen community resiliency, transparency, and effectiveness of local government programs; continue to identify opportunities to use District resources to benefit a broader regional area in support of common interests.
Infrastructure	Preserve and develop physical and digital assets that support life, safety, property, and District operations.
Sustainability	Adapt organization and allocate resources to maintain a position of fiscal strength and promote stability and sustainability of the District to continue its operations as a valued local Special District. Optimize organizational structure to align with the District’s Mission and Goals; utilize available resources and adapt to a regional approach for community resiliency.

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Overview

The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY25-26) Budget, adopted by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and subsequently by the LAHCFD Board of Commissioners in June 2025, focuses on large-scale projects such as the I-280 Shaded Fuel Break Project (at a multi-year \$6M project cost), a newly proposed roadside weed mitigation program along District evacuation routes, and a feasibility study to build a new fire facility. The development of the Budget is also influenced by the recent wildfire events in Southern California.

FY25-26 Budget Priorities

- Maintaining momentum on resident services for life, property, environment & safety programs
- Achieving the District FY2025-26 Workplan
- Planning/funding large wildfire risk reduction projects
- Leveraging contractors to implement projects
- Monitoring the budget-to-actual expenditure gap
- Budgeting to allow for unknowns in an emergency response environment



Looking Back: FY24-25 Accomplishments

- Repaired/replaced fire hydrants
- Supported Firewise USA neighborhoods
- Provided HIZ Assessments and Rebates
- Partnered on County weed abatement
- Hardened/maintained evacuation routes
- Offered monthly brush chipping
- Hosted monthly vegetation drop-off
- Developed strategic fuel breaks
- Conducted herbivory vegetation treatment at Byrne Preserve
- Delivered public education and training
- Coordinated disaster response with County

To learn more about the budget process and District’s finances, visit lahcfd.org/finances.

Budget Breakdown

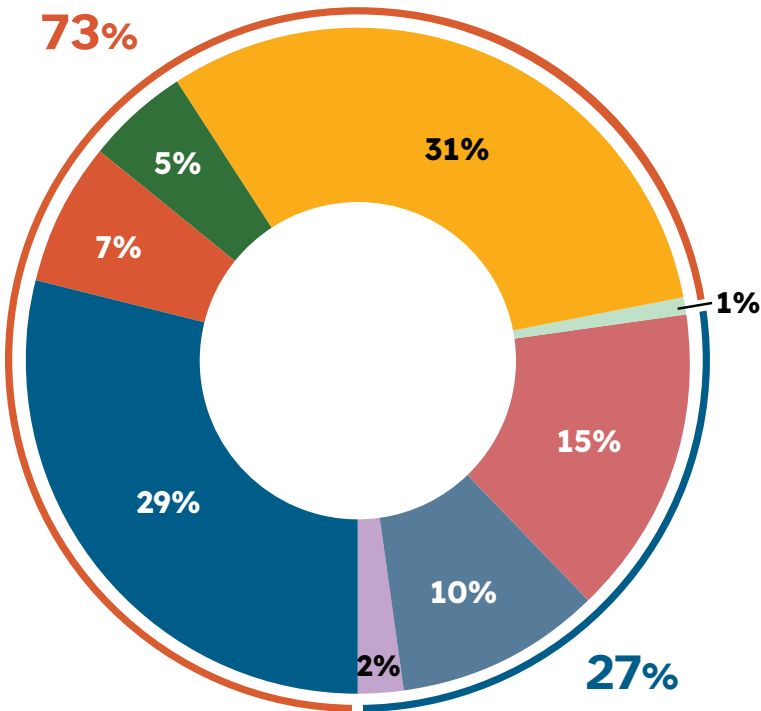
73% of expenditures **directly provide** Protection, Prevention, and Building Resiliency Services

- Fire & EMS Services Contracts: 29%
- Battalion Chief Services: 7%
- Augmented Fire Staffing: 5%
- Life & Safety Projects/Programs: 31%
- Life & Property Supporting Capital 1%

27% of expenditures **support** Protection, Prevention, and Building Resiliency Services

- Staffing & Benefits: 15%
- Leveraged Professional Services: 10%
- Operations: 2%

These funds support critical services, training, and community resilience initiatives.



Meet the LAHCFD Team



J. Logan General Manager

J. Logan doubles as the first employee hired in the District in 2018 and the first General Manager. J. is an attorney and executive leader with a prior career in technology, a former Assistant City Manager, employment negotiator, risk pool leadership, educator, and counselor.



Eugenia Woods Programs, Planning & Grants Manager

Eugenia Woods joined LAHCFD in 2022. A wildfire prevention practitioner since 2011 with degrees in Psychology and Wildlife Science, her professional experience spans landscape contracting, insurance and risk mitigation, environmental work, and leadership roles in a wildfire prevention nonprofits.



Fire Captain Denise Gluhan (Retired) Community Education & Risk Reduction Manager

Denise Gluhan joined LAHCFD in 2019 after retiring as a Fire Captain from Santa Clara County Fire Department. She provides community education, manages the goat grazing program, and supports the Firewise USA and HIZ programs. She has also served in critical incident stress management organizations as an instructor, peer counselor, and volunteer.



Russell Morreale Finance and Information Technology Manager

Russ Morreale joined LAHCFD in August 2022 with more than 35 years of experience as a Certified Public Accountant and 21 years in local government. Russ is passionate about being part of a dynamic, outcome-based team that delivers superior service in a responsive, efficient and innovative manner.



Fire Captain Ryan Cronin (Retired) Technical Analyst/Project Manager

Ryan Cronin joined LAHCFD in 2022 after retiring as a Fire Captain from Santa Clara County Fire Department. He is a reserve police officer and certified State Fire Training, POST, and AHA BLS instructor. He has managed Hazardous Fuel Reduction projects, launched a firefighter academy, and held key training and investigative roles.



Laura Giorgi General Analyst

Laura Giorgi joined LAHCFD in 2023. After nearly 18 years in enterprise marketing, she pivoted to follow her true passion: wildfire education. As an NFPA-trained Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) assessor and a WUI resident herself, she is thrilled to use her corporate skills to raise awareness about wildfire and disaster preparedness.



A. Harmon Field Manager

A. Harmon joined LAHCFD in 2023. His interest in technology has helped advance the District's GIS capabilities. He brings a diverse skill set cultivated through roles in fire science, military, executive protection, and construction and approaches challenges with a unique perspective.



Edgar Martinez Technical Data Analyst

Edgar Martinez joined LAHCFD in 2023. He brings over 31 years of experience in public safety, including 25 years in law enforcement and six years as an EMS/Fire Data Analyst for the San Jose Fire Department. As a California State Certified Crime and Intelligence Analyst, Edgar supports LAHCFD's mission through data-driven insights.



Fire Captain Dee King Raub (Retired) Project Specialist Risk Reduction

Dee King Raub joined LAHCFD in 2024. She retired as a Fire Captain from the Santa Clara County Fire Department after 26 years of service, during which she spent 10 years responding to disasters and wildfires as part of a National Type 1 Incident Management Team.



Sarina Revillar Administrative Specialist

Sarina Revillar joined LAHCFD in August 2024. With 22 years in civil service, she worked her way up from payroll technician to Finance Manager at the City of Los Altos and then Administrative Services Director for the Town of Los Altos Hills.



Fire Captain Paige Russell (Retired) Operations Project Manager

Paige Russell joined LAHCFD in 2023 after retiring as a Fire Captain from Santa Clara County Fire Department with 17 years of experience, including deployment to the Tubbs Fire in 2017. Paige focuses on prevention by helping residents enhance their home ignition zones and defensible spaces.



Amita Sachdeva Community Events Specialist

Amita Sachdeva joined LAHCFD in 2024. A CERT member for 10 years, she is a CERT Program Manager and the current Chair of the Los Altos Hills Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee. Her background includes operations and accounting management, with expertise in business continuity and emergency response planning.



Cori Vargas District Clerk

Cori Vargas joined the LAHCFD in 2008 as a Financial Consultant and became the District Clerk in 2019. With 16 years of accounting experience, including nine years as an Enrolled Agent certified by the IRS, she brings a strong background in financial management.



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