



# The Lake Valley Fire Protection District

## Information Fact Sheet

### Why did you receive this survey?

You have been identified as a registered voter or property owner within the Lake Valley Fire Protection District. The Fire District is responsible for providing year-round fire protection and advanced life support services in your area. The Fire District is seeking your opinion to help it continue to provide the highest quality fire and emergency response services to the community.

Please read this information sheet and complete the enclosed questionnaire. Your responses will help the Fire District make important decisions about how to maintain and improve services in the community.

### About the Fire District

The Lake Valley Fire Protection District was formed in 1947, is an independent special district, and is governed by a locally elected five member Board of Directors. The Fire District serves a population of over 12,000 residents and covers an area of approximately 86 square miles, protecting the community of Meyers and areas extending north to the El Dorado/Placer County line on Hwy 89 north, west to Twin Bridges on Hwy 50, south to the El Dorado/Alpine County line on Hwy 89 south, and east to the limits of South Lake Tahoe. Currently the Fire District is staffed with 28 full time firefighters.



*Fire District carrying injured motorist uphill*



LVPD-A

*Fire District responding to wildland fire*

### The Fire District's services

Last year, the Fire District responded to over 1,600 calls, including:

- Emergency medical aid and advanced life support
- Wildland, structure, and vehicle fires
- Traffic collisions and entrapments
- Technical rescue (swift water and entrapments)
- Hazardous materials response

In addition, the Fire District provides fire prevention services, backcountry rescue, and public education.

### Funding challenges

The Fire District is not funded by the State nor County. It is funded through a small portion of local property taxes, as well as other miscellaneous fees and a special tax that was approved in 1986 and has not increased.

With the cost of services increasing, higher demand of services, limited budget, and usage of outdated fire engines and equipment, the Fire District needs to fund the replacement of aging apparatus and equipment. The Fire District has made budget cuts, deferring equipment rehabilitation and replacement, and postponing facility maintenance. However, these cuts are unsustainable and the Fire District needs a long term solution.

### Proposed Funding Solution

In order to continue providing a high level of fire protection and emergency medical services, the Fire District is considering proposing a new ballot measure that could be adjusted annually with the cost of living. This new proposed revenue measure would be in addition to the current special tax in place. The proposed annual rates for the new ballot measure are listed on the attached survey questionnaire page.

To respond online, please visit [www.inputlocal.com](http://www.inputlocal.com) and enter the codes found on the front of your survey



# The Lake Valley Fire Protection District

## Information Fact Sheet (continued)

### Fire District cost reductions

A significant portion of the revenue for the Fire District comes from a percentage of local, annual property taxes. However, costs have increased more quickly than our revenue. As a result, the Fire District has taken the following steps and budget cuts:

- Deferred replacement of aging equipment
- Deferred maintenance of fire station
- Use of reserve firefighters to help with staffing

Additionally, the special tax approved by the voters in 1986 **has never been increased**. Therefore, and despite all these budget cuts and the recent improvements in the local economy, the Fire District's current revenue is not adequate to continue providing services at a level that is safe for the community, and costs will still continue to increase over time. This continually expanding funding gap can no longer be bridged by cost cutting solutions alone.



*Fire engine arriving at a fire at motor vehicle accident*

***A long-term, local approach to Fire Protection is needed to protect our community for current and future generations***

The Fire District has identified 3 critical areas that require additional funding to maintain and improve services.\*

#### **Provide more reliable firefighting equipment**

- Create a dedicated fund to support the upgrade and replacement of fire apparatus and equipment

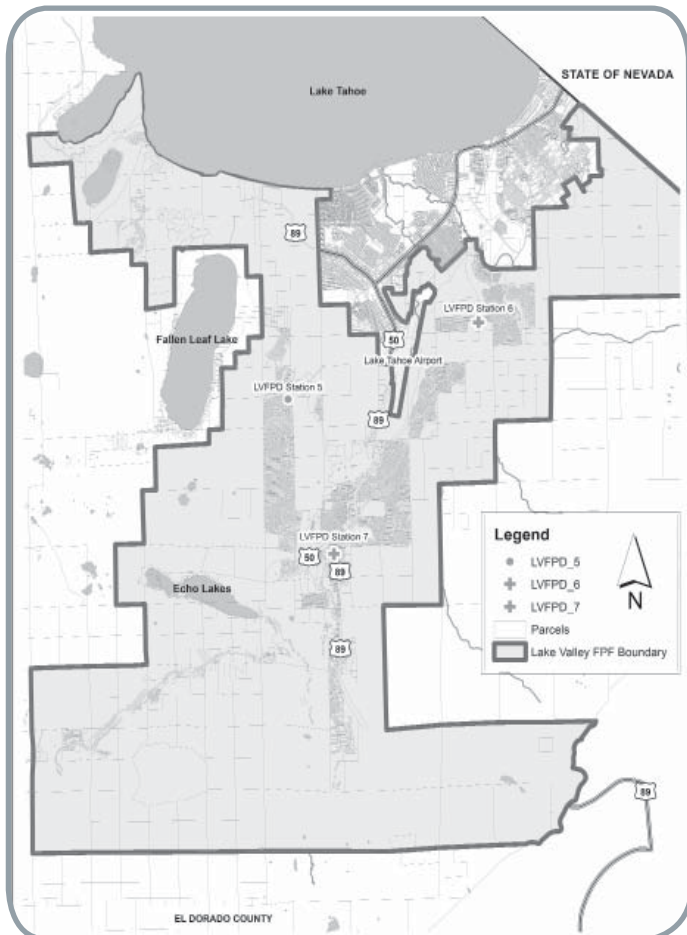
#### **Maintain and improve emergency response times**

- Maintain our current level of fire protection and emergency response services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to better protect lives and property.

#### **Ensure safe, adequate fire stations for firefighters, apparatus, and equipment**

- Allocate capital to aid the necessary maintenance of the district's fire station facilities.

*\* Funds from this measure will not go to fund wages nor benefits.*



*Lake Valley Fire Protection Boundary*

If you would like to respond online, please visit [www.inputlocal.com](http://www.inputlocal.com) and enter the code found on the front of your questionnaire