

Lake County Fire Protection District

2023 Annual Report



Fire Chief's Message

The Lake County Fire Protection District takes pride in providing excellent, all hazard services to the residents, businesses, and visitors of our 165 square miles. Daily, our professional firefighters, EMS, and administrative staff mitigate emergencies and provide customer services to support our approximately 21,000 constituents. We are pleased to present the 2023 LCFPD annual report featuring the many highlights from all of our program areas.



As you will see in the following pages, our fire district responded to many calls for services in 2023. These numbers reflect not only the calls within our community, but also the auto and mutual aid responses to our local and state partners. LCFPD is proud to be a part of an elaborate system that ensures the necessary resources are available to respond and provide support regardless of the type of incident or location of the emergency.

In 2023, the district took part in several career fair days at local elementary and high schools and provided a variety of educational, interactive, and static opportunities. We continue to provide periodic car seat inspections and installations. We participated in the annual Heroes of Health and Safety Fair and the various parades and events for Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. We provided numerous fire prevention presentations throughout the community to all ages. We provided internships for several EMTs, and EMT-Ps and worked to bring the EMT program to the Lower Lake High School. These are just a few of the vibrant activities that your district continues to support.

We would like to give photo credit to the Lower Lake Schoolhouse Museum Preservation Committee, Mike Dean, Samantha Hembree, and our Lake County Fire employees for the wonderful pictures throughout this annual report. We would also like to give a special *Thank You* to Cole Euken for the use of his exquisite photos, not just in the report, but the ones he's allowed us to use over the years and the videos he's created for us.

In closing, it is my honor and privilege to serve this Board of Directors, our community, and the dedicated staff of the Lake County Fire Protection District. We extend our heart-felt thanks to the many community members and local businesses who have tirelessly supported us over the years, from the cards of appreciation to the meals and wonderful snack and to your sincere words of appreciation. We will strive to continuously meet the expectations and challenges of the community through our highly trained and motivated team.

Respectfully,

Willie Sapeta
Fire Chief

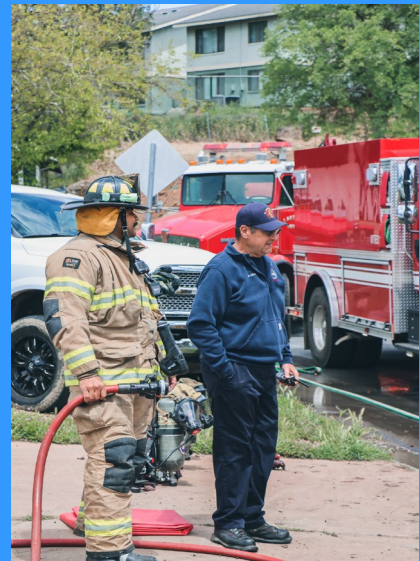
The Fire Chief

The Fire Chief is the highest-ranking officer of the fire district and reports directly to the Lake County Fire Protection District Board of Directors. The Fire Chief is responsible for the administration, supervision and technical work in planning, budgeting, coordinating, and directing the district personnel and equipment. Fire Chief Sapeta has worked for LCFPD for 37 paid years and 2 years as a volunteer.

Our Mission

Lake County Fire Protection District's mission is to protect all the citizens within the district from injury and loss due to natural and man-made emergencies and disasters.

This is accomplished by providing highly trained and equipped emergency personnel to respond to incidents of fire, flood, chemical release, and medical emergencies within three minutes of notification.



District Overview



The Lower Lake Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1949 and the Lakeshore Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1942. In 2001, both fire departments were consolidated, and the Lake County Fire Protection District was established. It responds to the City of Clearlake, the unincorporated areas of Clearlake, Clearlake Park, and the unincorporated areas of the community of Lower Lake. The district serves 165 square miles and has a population of approximately 21,000 people.

The district has a total of five fire stations, with full-time staffing at Station 70 in Clearlake and Station 65 in Lower Lake. Station 70 serves as the main administrative station and houses the administrative office, the training division, the fire prevention division, and emergency fire and medical divisions. There are 45 active employees and volunteers. The district is governed by seven Board of Directors who are elected at large to four-year terms.

District Objectives

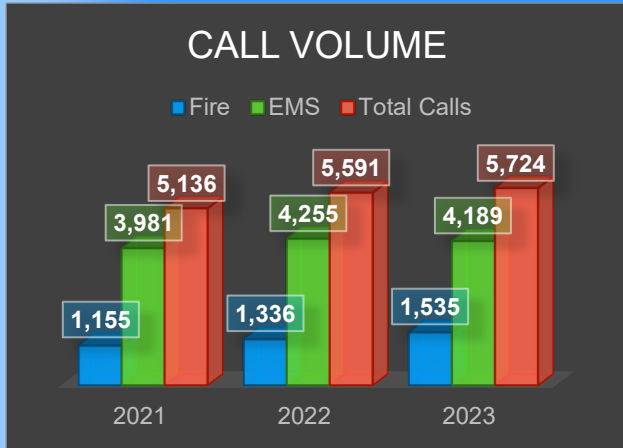
1. Prevent the loss of life and reduce property damage due to fire through public education, code enforcement, and inspection services.
2. Control fires which occur, and rescue persons endangered by fire by maintaining a well-trained and equipped firefighting force.
3. Provide emergency medical services to all areas of the Lake County Fire Protection District.
4. Respond to man-made and/or natural disasters, such as earthquakes, storms, flood, hazardous materials incidents, and other life-threatening situations, and provide direction, control, containment, and hazard mitigation within the resources of the Lake County Fire Protection District.
5. Assist in the maintenance of a stable economy related to the impact of a fire or other disasters within the revenue sources of the Lake County Fire Protection District.
6. Meet the fire district objectives in the most efficient and economical manner.
7. Support a stimulating, challenging, and enjoyable work atmosphere, which encourages personal growth for all members of the fire district assigned to carry out the fire protection objectives.
8. Provide a continuous assessment of the community's fire protection needs and the degree to which they are met by the current fire protection system.



Calls for Service

Lake County Fire Protection District has seen a steady increase in calls for service for the past several years. New commercial and multi-family developments have driven this increase.

LCFPD has automatic mutual aid agreements with Southlake County Fire Protection District, Northshore Fire Protection District, Kelseyville Fire Protection District, and Lakeport Fire Protection District. When their units or ours are committed to incidents, the next closest fire district with an available unit is dispatched.



Calls for Service Highlights

- 🚒 LCFPD crews respond to an average of 16 calls for service every 24 hours.
- 🚒 The busiest tour of 2023 consisted of 52 calls in a 48-hour period.
- 🚒 Medical crews responded to 63 cardiac arrest calls in 2023 which is an average of one cardiac arrest every 5 days.
- 🚒 3,000 calls in 2023 were overlapping. This means that we responded to multiple calls for service at the same time. This equates to 52.41% of the total calls for service.

Fire & EMS Divisions

LCFPD staffs Station 65 and Station 70 with Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel. The response from Station 65 can complete all ALS assessment and treatment, except ambulance transport. Ambulance transport is provided out of Station 70. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division encompasses quality improvement, ambulance transport, narcotic control, EMS supplies, EMS training, licensing and certification, and safety adherence to the district's daily operations. Fire suppression crews are cross trained and cross staffed on both engine and ambulance transport units.



Fire & EMS Highlights



- LCFPD experienced a historic snowstorm February 23rd-24th. During the two-day event, crews responded to 107 emergency calls to 911.
- Station 65 and Station 70 responded to 5,724 calls for service in 2023, our busiest year tracked yet (16 calls every 24 hours).

- LCFPD responded to 36 vegetation fires during the 2023 fire season.
- The largest vegetation fire of the season was the Creek Fire, which burned 28 acres with no homes lost.
- The 3rd St Fire was another significant fire this year. Multiple structures were involved with extensive spread into the vegetation.
- LCFPD responded to 35 residential structure fires.
- LCFPD staffed 2 Advanced Life Support ambulances and was the primary medical transport provider for the district.



- 3 firefighters: EMT Charles White, Firefighter/EMT Jafet Negrete, and Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Thomas completed their probationary periods and were sworn in as full-time employees.
- Medical crews responded to 63 Cardiac arrest calls in 2023 which averaged one cardiac arrest every 5 days.



- In addition to the 2 ALS ambulances, the district provides Quick Response ALS services by the engines at Station 65, Fire Chief 700, Battalion Chief 702, and Prevention 715 units.

Training Division

Training is one of the most essential functions of the fire and EMS service. It is intended to prepare our staff for the many unique types of emergency and non-emergency calls for service.

Training Division Highlights

- LCFPD, CALFIRE, California State Parks, and California Department of Transportation coordinated a 50-acre multi-agency live training burn at Anderson Marsh State Park.



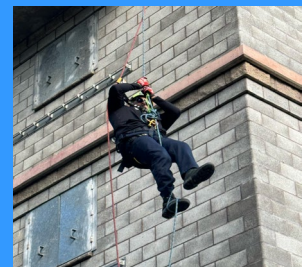
- The district acquired a new AMBU-MAN mannequin thanks to grant funding from the Redbud Healthcare District. These state-of-the-art simulation mannequins provide crews with opportunities to train on lesser used EMS skills.

- LCFPD continued to support district employees by providing in-house Firefighter 1 training to assist employees with transitioning from the single-role EMS division to the fire suppression division.



- LCFPD Engineer Eric Vinyard provided crews with tools and training for elevator extrications.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Jon Sarris attended 80 hours of district paid training to attain his Rope Rescue Technician Credentials. He is the lead firefighter on C-Shift where Captain Andy Peterson is also a Rope Rescue Technician.

- 2023 was the first year of LCFPD's Fire Explorer Program. Members of this program worked with full-time employee mentors and accrued approximately 50 hours of supervised training and several hundred hours of ride along time.



Fire Prevention Division

The primary goal of the fire prevention division is to provide safety and assistance to firefighters during emergency operations, and to safeguard the public from general hazards, fires, explosions, or other dangerous conditions in new and old buildings. The prevention division conducts plan review for water supply, fire district access, egress, wildfire hazard and vegetation mitigation, and fire protection systems. Buildings, large events, subdivisions, and fire protection systems are inspected to ensure compliance with the California Fire Code, and applicable safety standards. The fire prevention division, led by the Fire Marshal, includes two arson investigators. The district's lead fire investigator is IAAI-CFI certified. In addition to their duties with LCFPD, they are contracted by neighboring fire districts to provide arson investigation services.



Fire Prevention Highlights

- 🔥 Organized the platform for over 1,200,000 square feet of hazardous vegetation abatement in 2024.
- 🔥 Completed 100% of the State Mandated Inspections in the district.
- 🔥 Placed a heavy emphasis on pre-incident planning, and each shift was allowed on-site training of target hazards.
- 🔥 The district's lead fire investigator began investigating fires in neighboring fire districts.

Fire Marshal Autumn Lancaster is the district's CA State Fire Marshal Inspector and Plans Examiner. Fire Marshal Lancaster has been a member of the fire service for 9 years and is also a firefighter/paramedic.



Fire Captain Andy Peterson is a Certified Fire Investigator through the International Association of Arson Investigators. Captain Peterson has been a member of the LCFPD for 17 years and is also a paramedic.

Firefighter/Paramedic Corey Isom serves as an additional fire arson investigator for the district. Firefighter/Paramedic Isom has been a member of the LCFPD for 11 years.



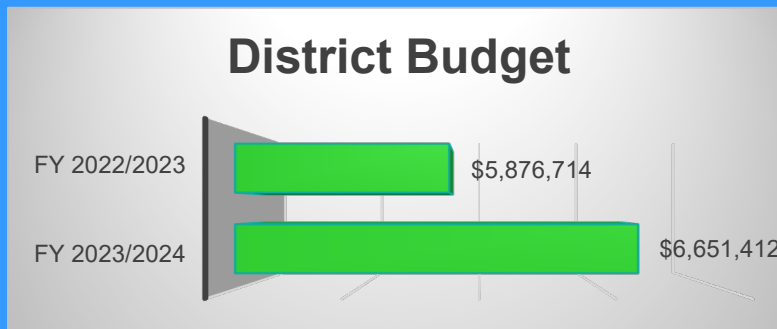
District Administration and Finances



The administration of the LCFPD oversees strategic planning, policy development, personnel management, risk management, budget development, and fiscal oversight. The administration encompasses the roles of the Fire Chief, administrative services, human resources, and finance. Human Resources provides support to district employees with labor relations, benefit administration, retirement, and worker's compensation.

Finance oversees and performs all fiscal activities of the district to include payroll, accounting, grant management, and debt obligations. They lead the annual budget development process and manage the budget throughout the fiscal year. On top of this, they provide support to the Board of Directors, Fire Chief, fire prevention, and EMS.

Administration and Finance Highlights



- 🔥 The district refunded their CalPERS Unfunded Actuarial Liability resulting in a \$1.1M cost savings over the next 15 years.
- 🔥 Three employees successfully completed their 1-year probation.
- 🔥 The LCFPD Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was drafted to address the specific needs of our district and the communities we serve.
- 🔥 Contracted with AP Triton to complete an EMS valuation assessment in collaboration with the Lake County Fire Chiefs Association.
- 🔥 Engaged with the Board of Supervisors to foster collaborative relationships to support the unique challenges and issues within their respective supervisory districts. Some topics and issues include the EMCC bylaws, review of the Lake County Ambulance Ordinance, and revisions to the Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Fleet Services

The Fire District maintains and operates over 25 district apparatus, ranging from fire engines to staff utility vehicles. Over the last year, operational readiness was maintained by seamlessly shuffling vehicles in and out of service to ensure that all apparatus remained in proper condition. This task was accomplished successfully and with no interruptions in the district's ability to respond to all calls for service.

The district's fleet is maintained by Fire Captain and Fleet Manager Kyle Shields. Captain Shields is a certified heavy Fire equipment mechanic. In addition to routine maintenance, Captain Shields leads the procurement and development of specifications for newly acquired apparatus.



Fleet Services Highlights



- ❖ Purchased and took delivery of an OES 315 HME/Westates Type 1 engine. This engine was upgraded to meet department specifications ensuring the two first out engines are identical in capability and equipment.
- ❖ Put into service Water Tender 6511. WT6511 is a 2021 Rosenbauer tactical water tender holding 2,000 gallons of water supplied by a 750 GPM Pump which was acquired using Assistance to Firefighters grant funding.

- ❖ Purchased two new frontline medic units which will replace existing apparatus in early 2024.
- ❖ Surplused of two fire engines and one Hazmat unit which had aged out and become obsolete.



Community Involvement

Youth Engagement

Lake County Fire Protection District has been long involved in the Clearlake and Lower Lake communities. Each year the district takes part in many classroom and school presentations about fire prevention and fire safety. This year, Firefighter/EMT Negrete was honored to read a Dr. Seuss book in a class from Lower Lake Elementary School for Dr. Seuss Day.



The safety of our youth is a high priority for LCFPD. The district proudly participates in the Lake County Every 15 Minutes program. This program provides lifelike crash reenactments educating our local youth about the

dangers of drinking and driving. We also provide EMS standby for home football games and wrestling matches.



Each year we bring our 24-foot ladders to the elementary schools for the always nail-biting egg drop events and our engines to cool off the kids during their field days to celebrate the end of their school year.

Career Engagement

LCFPD tries to do their part to encourage careers in the medical and fire professions. We are always looking for ways to be involved to advance these careers or to help students break into them.

🚒 The district accepts ride-a-longs for EMT and paramedic students to provide them with a look at what it's like in the field and to see real patient assessments which aid them in their learning. We also provide ride-a-longs for Mobile Intensive Care Nurses as a requirement for them to retain their certifications.



🚒 The district has Field Training Officers for paramedic students to complete their internships. In 2023, the district accepted 2 paramedic internships. These internships have resulted in permanent and temporary positions with us. Currently, Battalion Chief Marc Hill was a previous paramedic intern with us.

🚒 The district accepts firefighter interns. These internships have resulted in permanent and temporary positions with us. Currently, firefighter/EMT Jafet Negrete was a previous firefighter intern with us.

🚒 The district sits on the Lower Lake High School Medical Pathways Committee providing input on ways to create pathways into the medical field for their students. This led to an EMT program facilitated by Lower Lake High School and LCFPD which is set to begin in 2024.

🚒 The Lake County Fire Protection District Explorer Program introduces high school students to the fire service. They learn basics about fire behavior. They learn and train in

various firefighting skills. This has resulted in permanent and temporary positions with us. Currently, EMT Shane Hill was a previous Explorer with us.

Community Engagement

The district keeps a strong presence within its community and in many ways that may not always be noticed.



- ✪ We took part in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Lower Lake Cemetery.
- ✪ We assisted in posting the flags for the Avenue of Flags along Main Street in Lower Lake.
- ✪ We took part in SafeRx providing guidance for controlled and non-controlled substance abuse and distributed NARCAN to the community, schools and other government agencies.

- ✪ We held a free car seat clinic at the Heros of Health and Safety Fair. We provide free car seats throughout the year. Whether your child has outgrown their current one, it's been damaged, been in a vehicle accident or you have a new infant, our certified car seat technicians show parents and caregivers how to properly install the car seat, and how to properly fit the seat to their child. All of this is made possible through grants.



- ✪ We participate in many parades and holiday celebrations throughout the year which include the Lower Lake Daze Parade, Christmas parades and tree lightings, Trunk or Treats, 4th of July parades, and various other community events.
- ✪ We are a proud drop off location for Toy for Tots and have been a distribution site in the past.
- ✪ We are a proud drop off location for Lake County Operation Tango Mike, a non-profit organization that ship supplies, snacks and other items to the local service men and women serving overseas.

- ✪ We provide ride-a-long to community members who just want to see what we experience in the daily life of Lake County Fire.
- ✪ We volunteer with the Redwood Empire Food Bank, when our staff at Station 65 is available, to help pass out food at the Lower Lake Park.

Inter-agency Engagement

We also assist the community in the background through the many, many committees and advisory boards listed below that the fire district holds a seat at, along with interagency cooperations.

- 🔥 Assisted County and City Public Works and Roads Departments with debris and tree removal from the various 2023 storms and provided flood fighting efforts.
- 🔥 Provide the United States Forest Service with annual training on structure and vehicle fires.
- 🔥 Emergency Medical Committee to provide oversight, policies, procedures, training and guidance for EMS providers and hospitals.
- 🔥 Medical Advisory Committee to review and provide guidance for EMS issues in the pre-hospital setting. It evaluates individual patient care issues, whether proper policies were followed, and if disciplinary or corrective actions are needed.
- 🔥 Trauma Advisory Committee that includes pre-hospital and hospital providers to review current trauma system components, such as policies, procedures, and patient outcomes.
- 🔥 Inter-Facility Transfer Committee to review current issues with patient transfers from Adventist Health Clearlake and Sutter Lakeside Hospital.
- 🔥 Continuum of Care to review the current and future services and needs of the community to access current services. It also assesses the shortfalls that result in overuse of the 911 system and its impact on EMS and hospital providers.
- 🔥 Risk Reduction Authority that coordinates the efforts of fire, local government, tribal nations, and private sector resources to secure grant opportunities to create fire safe communities and fuel reduction projects.



- 🔥 Project Restoration coordinates resources for community members in need of access to housing, medical and behavioral health care, and nutritional needs.
- 🔥 Cannabis Task Force Committee to provide directions for the growth of the cannabis industry in Lake County that will help to ensure local, state, and federal compliance.

- ☸ Hope Rising Committee to provide actual services, such as transitional living, to super utilizers. They coordinate services other than 911 and the hospital in hopes of addressing their needs and helping to alleviate their dependency on them for day-to-day needs.
- ☸ Lower Lake Modernization Committee for the development of the new Lower Lake High School main campus.
- ☸ Unchartered Waters Committee to discuss current and future water needs of the communities within our fire district to ensure current and future fire protection water demands are met.
- ☸ City of Clearlake Utilities Committee to discuss current and future utility development and infrastructure.
- ☸ Office of Emergency Services HSGP Governing Board to coordinate the distribution of HSGP funds to the various fire, law enforcement and EMS providers within the county.
- ☸ Lake County Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan Steering Committee to coordinate the future of the Lake County Parks, Recreation and Trails for all the communities to enjoy.
- ☸ Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan Committee to Develop a community-based and countywide wildfire evacuation plan.
- ☸ Lake County Ambulance Ordinance Review Committee to review the 20-year-old ordinance and make recommendations to better meet the current and future EMS system of Lake County.





William Sapeta
Fire Chief



Marc Hill
Battalion Chief

Fire Captains



B. Inman
EMT



A. Peterson
Paramedic



Z. Pindell
Paramedic



K. Shields
EMT

Apparatus Engineers



W. Swan
Paramedic



A. Thoman
Paramedic



E. Vinyard
Paramedic

Firefighters



K. Frazier
Paramedic



A. Glaser
Paramedic



C. Isom
Paramedic



A. Lancaster
Paramedic



C. Mendoza
Paramedic



D. Perry
Paramedic



J. Sarris
Paramedic

Paramedics



S. Gonsalves



T. Tang



R. Ritchie

EMTs



S. Hill



J. Tinkler



C. White



WT-7011

Charlotte, Pa.

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LAKE CO
FIRE