



**Working to Maintain  
Lifesaving Fire Protection  
& Emergency Services**

**Santa Cruz County Fire  
*County Service Area 48 (CSA 48)***

# Introduction

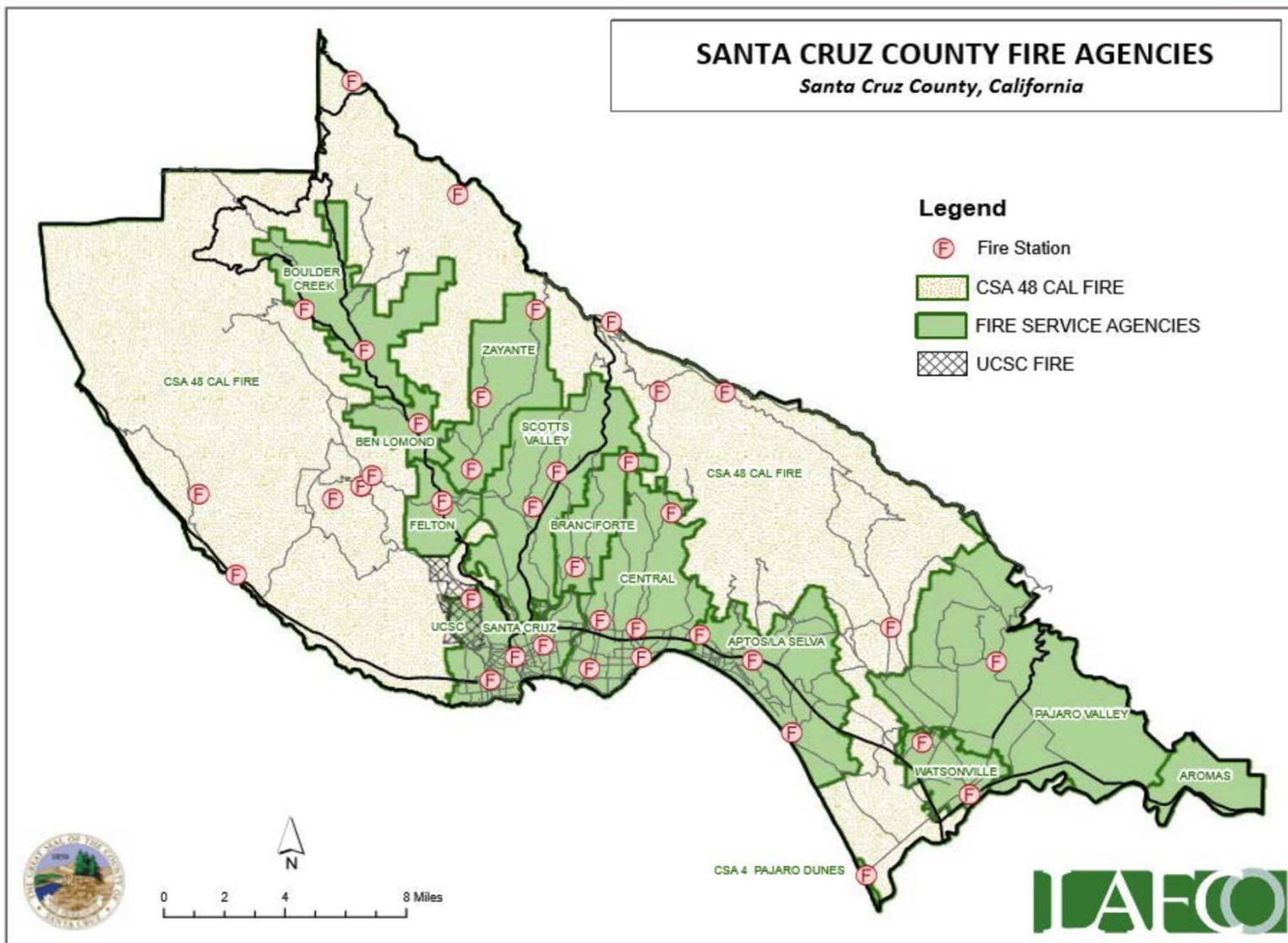
- The Santa Cruz County Fire Department serves specific areas of unincorporated Santa Cruz County known as “County Service Area 48” (CSA 48).
  - **CSA 48** includes the communities of **Bonny Doon, Davenport, Loma Prieta, Corralitos, Las Cumbres** and the wider **South Skyline** area.
- The County Fire Department operates in CSA 48 with five year-round volunteer fire stations in cooperation with five corresponding state fire stations.
- The County also contracts with CAL FIRE to keep the state fire stations in CSA 48 open during non-fire season to ensure year-round fire protection and emergency response services.



# Local Fire Protection

- Santa Cruz County Fire protection funding comes from local property taxes, including the CSA 48 fee shown on your local property tax bill.
- These critical funds pay for all of our fire engines, rescue vehicles, and firefighter protective gear, as well as training and administrative support provided by CAL FIRE.
- These funds also ensure continuous staffing at CAL FIRE stations in each of our five areas during the winter (non-fire) season.
- Due to the increased level of fire and emergency calls, the critical need is to meet industry safety standards by restoring the number of firefighters to three per engine to be better prepared for large-scale wildfires and emergencies. Additional funding is required to meet this need.

# CSA 48 Boundaries



# CSA 48

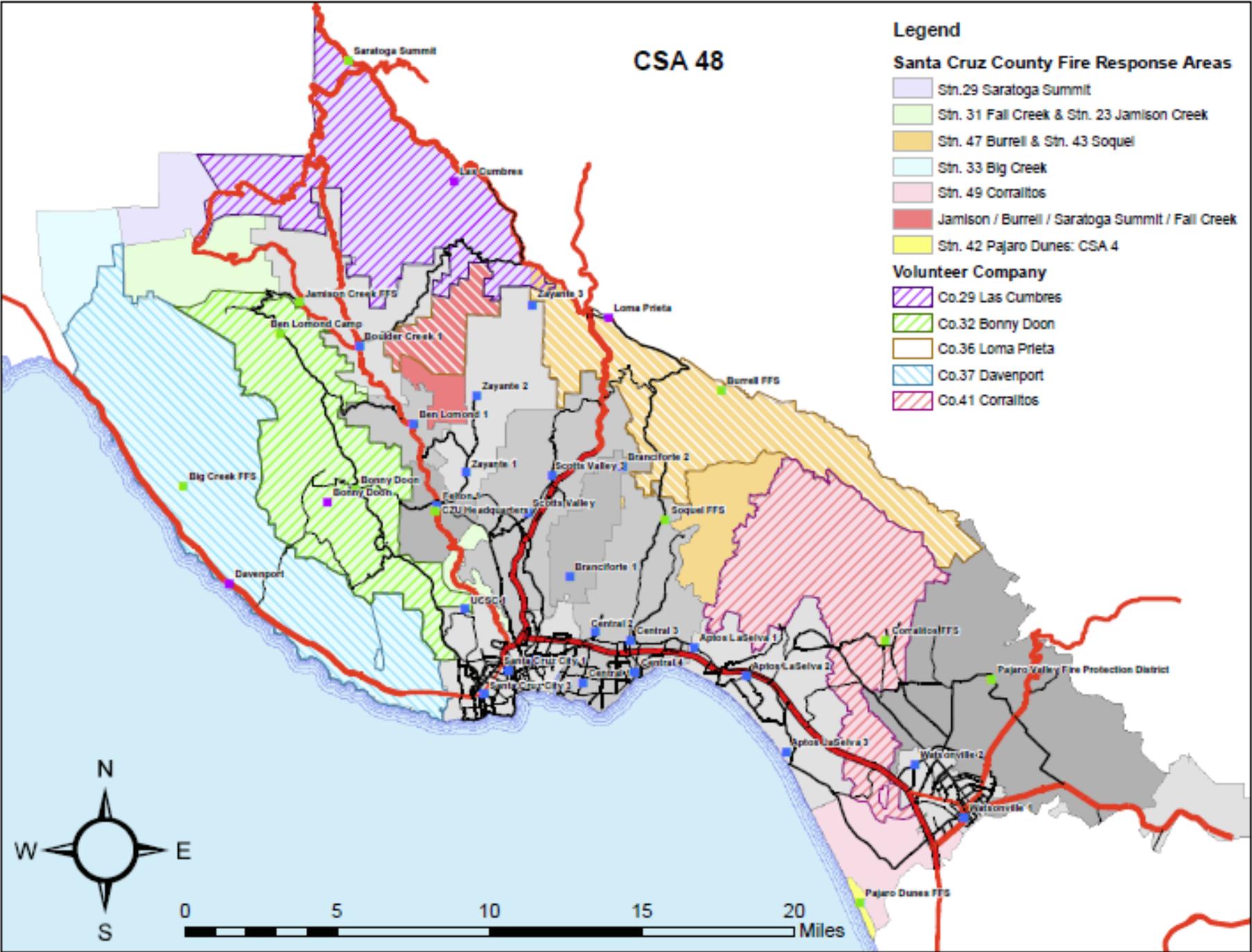
## Legend

### Santa Cruz County Fire Response Areas

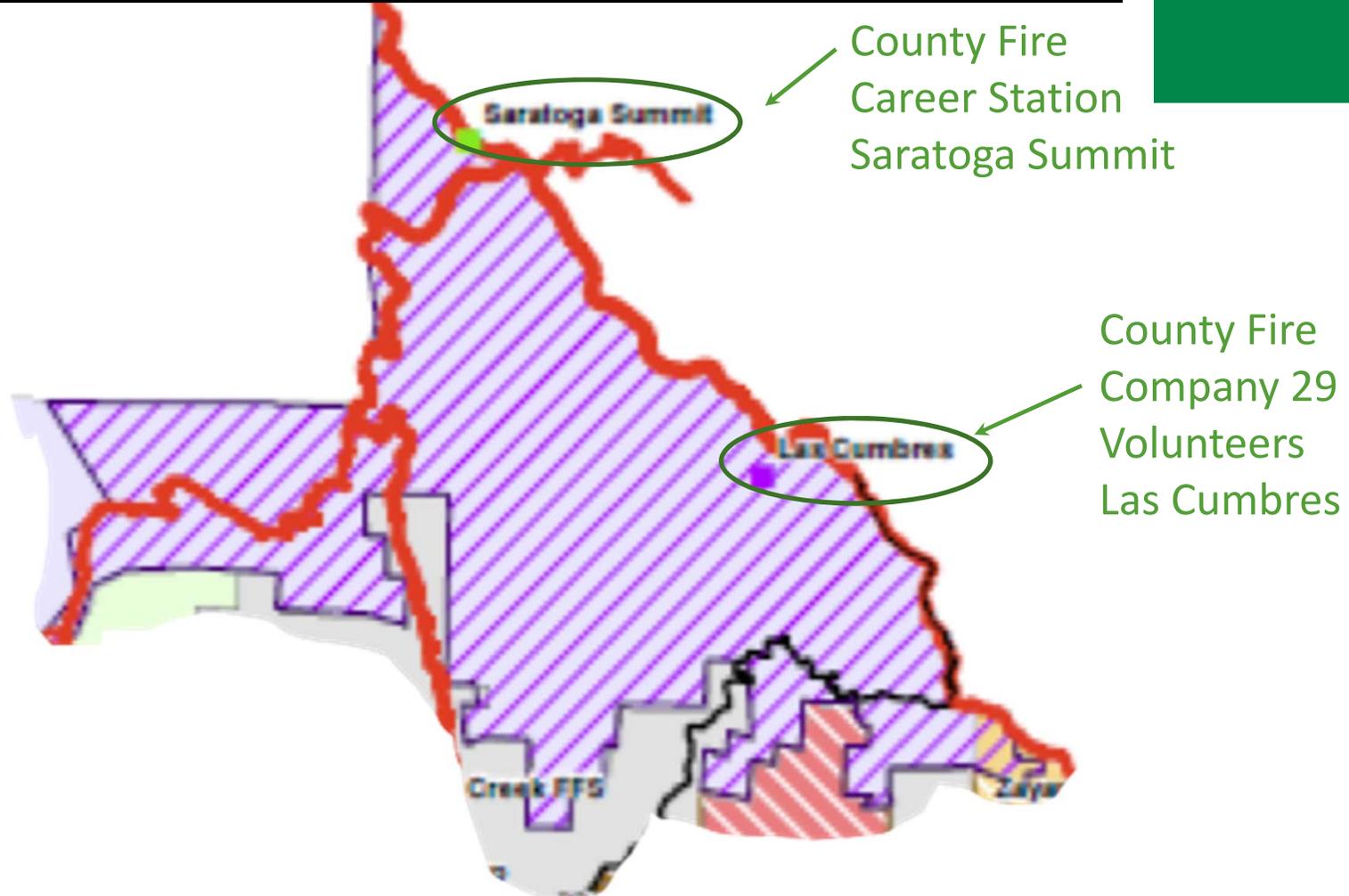
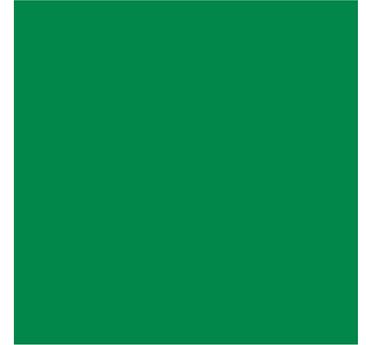
- Stn. 29 Saratoga Summit
- Stn. 31 Fall Creek & Stn. 23 Jamison Creek
- Stn. 47 Burrell & Stn. 43 Soquel
- Stn. 33 Big Creek
- Stn. 49 Corralitos
- Jamison / Burrell / Saratoga Summit / Fall Creek
- Stn. 42 Pajaro Dunes: CSA 4

### Volunteer Company

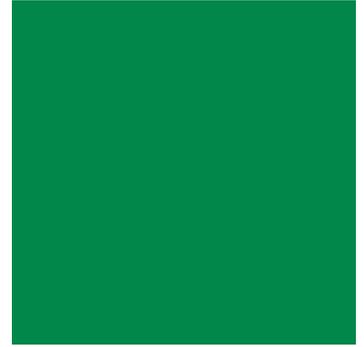
- Co.29 Las Cumbres
- Co.32 Bonny Doon
- Co.36 Loma Prieta
- Co.37 Davenport
- Co.41 Corralitos



# Santa Cruz County Fire is Local!



# The Challenge



**The devastating fires in Butte County and LA County provide a stark reminder that our Santa Cruz County community is AT RISK when a fire, natural disaster, or other emergency strikes.**

## **Consider These Facts:**

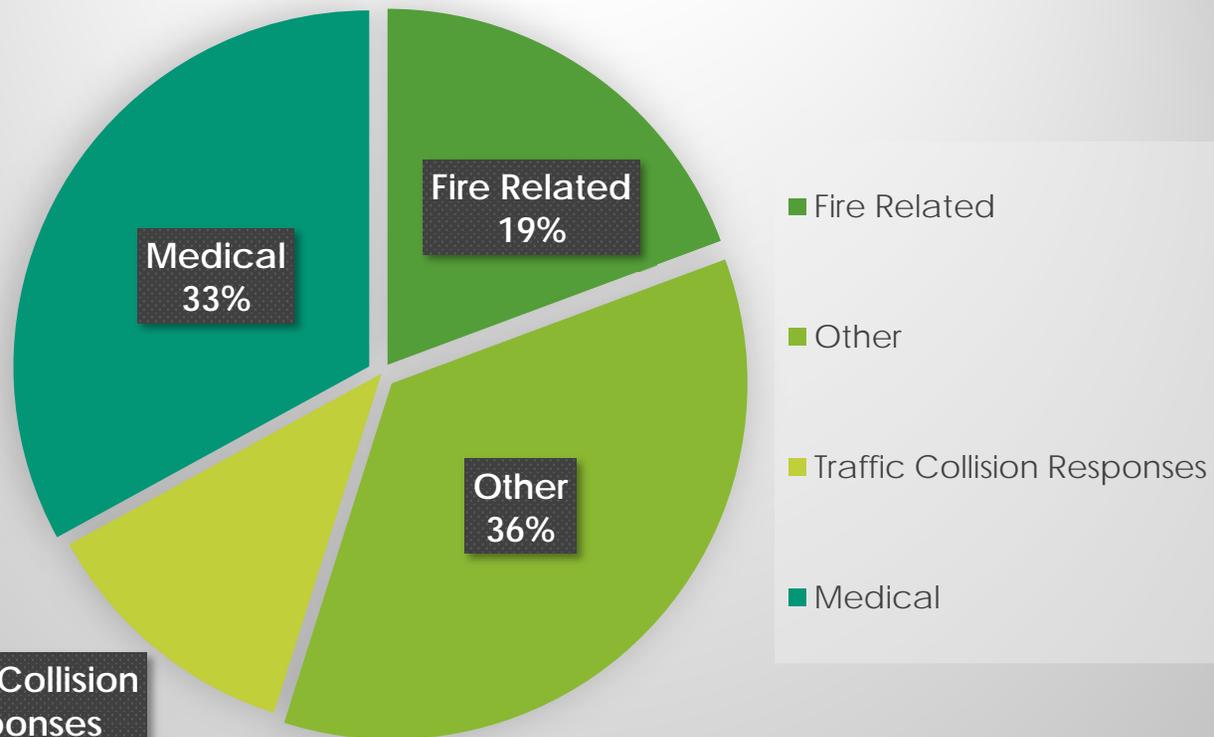
- **FACT:** We have 25% fewer firefighters on staff today than we did 10 years ago -- meanwhile our number of emergency calls has grown steadily – approximately 22% since 2010.

# County Fire Staffing



TYPE	CSA 48	LOCAL AGENCY AVERAGE
Fire Fighters Per Engine	2	3
Floating Fire Fighter	0	1
Volunteers Average Per Response	1	0
<b>TOTAL FIREFIGHTERS PER ENGINE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NFPA Standard for Response</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>DEFICIT FOR SINGLE ENGINE RESPONSE</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>

# 2018 Incidents By Type



Traffic Collision Responses  
12%

Medical  
33%

Fire Related  
19%

Other  
36%

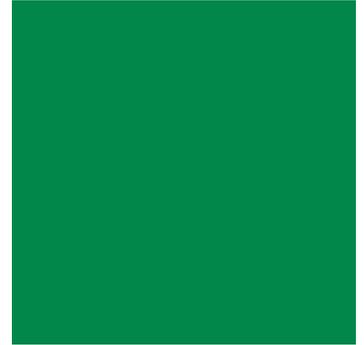
■ Fire Related

■ Other

■ Traffic Collision Responses

■ Medical

# The Challenge Continued



## Consider These Facts:

- **FACT:** For the safety of the public and first-responders, the State recommends at least three firefighters per engine.
- **Currently, Santa Cruz County Fire can only afford two paid firefighters per engine.**
- **FACT:** To enter a burning structure or rescue a trapped victim, the law **REQUIRES** four firefighters: two firefighters to enter the structure and two outside for backup.



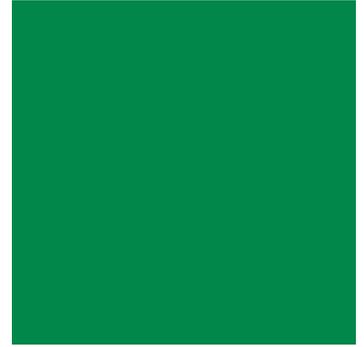
# The Challenge Continued

## Consider These Facts:

- **FACT:** More than 56 times in 2018, **ALL** County Fire firefighters were out on emergency incidents, leaving no one available to respond to the next emergency call.
- **FACT:** The American Heart Association states that brain deterioration begins between four and six minutes after a person stops breathing.
- **FACT:** The average emergency response time for Santa Cruz County Fire - CSA 48 area is approximately 10 minutes.



# The Challenge Continued

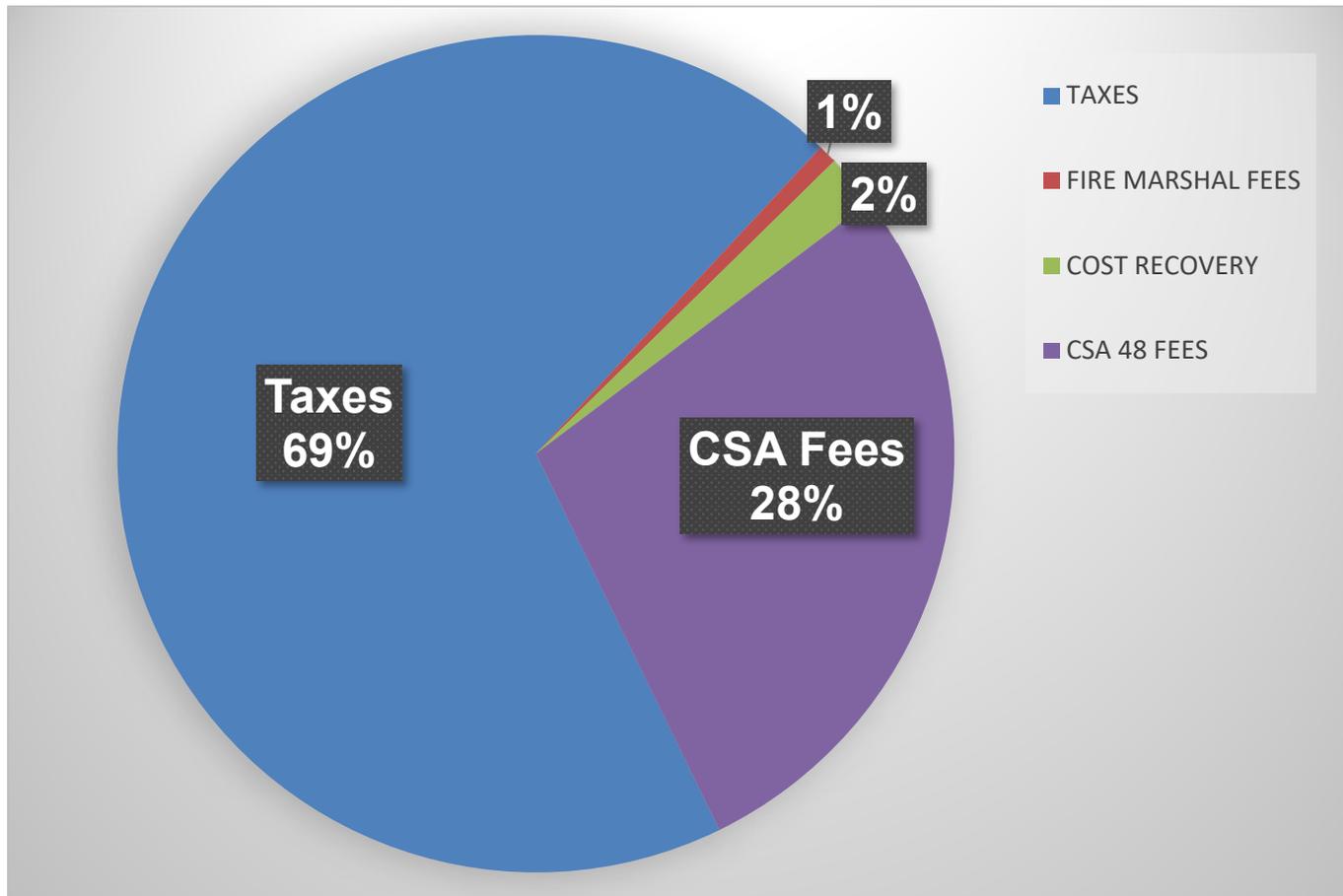
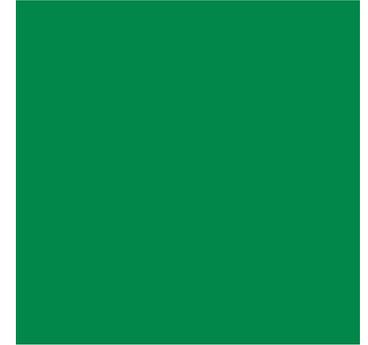


## Consider These Facts:

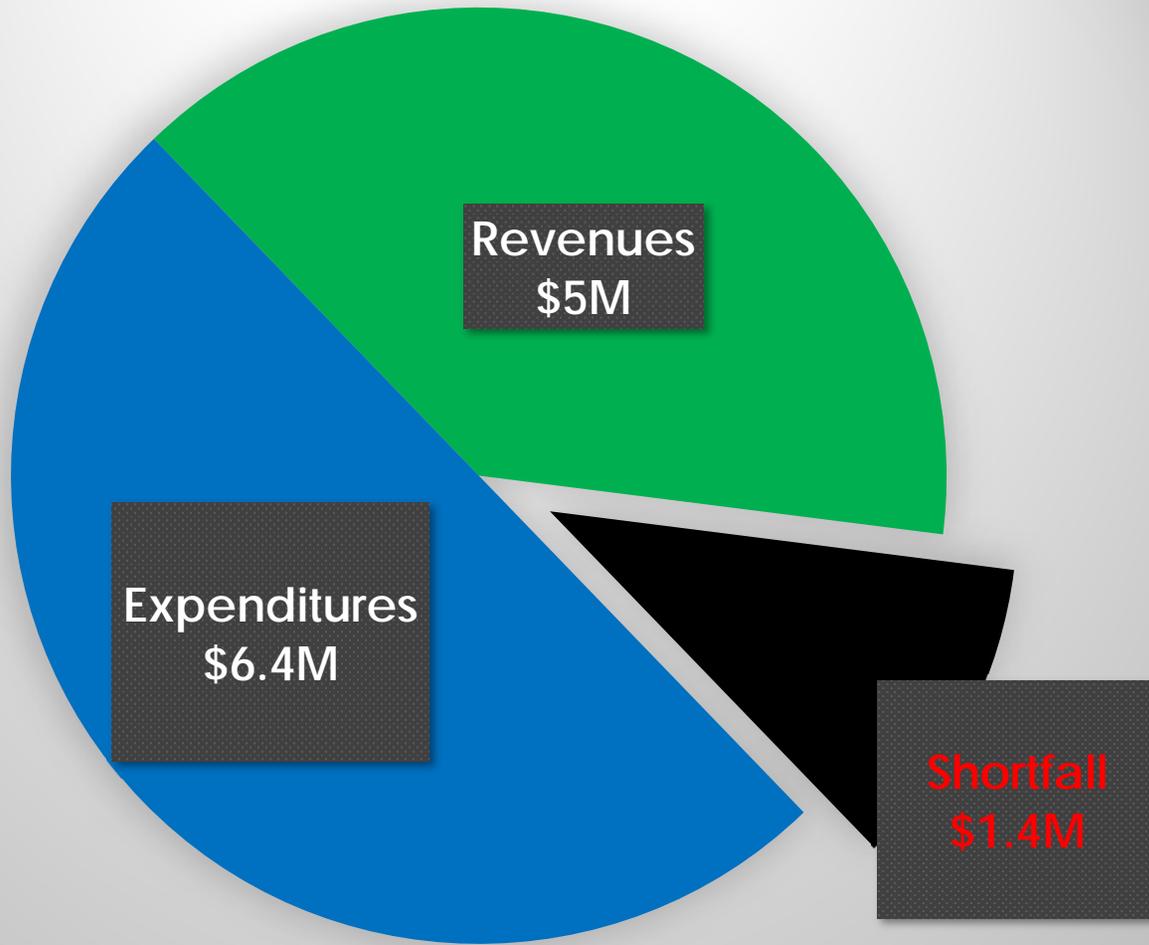
- **FACT:** Climate change and drought have made wildland fires faster, larger, and deadlier. We need to make sure we have the resources and staff to respond quickly to these emergencies when they happen.
- **FACT:** Without additional funds, the County will be forced to close a fire station, resulting in slower emergency response times in many areas of unincorporated Santa Cruz County.



# 2018-19 County Fire Revenues



# 2018-19 County Fire Budget



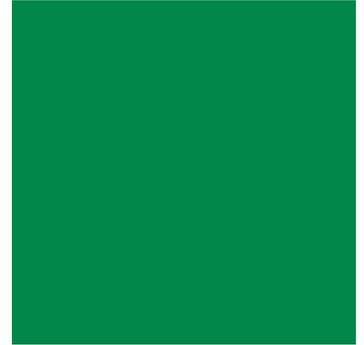
# Identified Solution

Santa Cruz County has been diligently working towards a solution that would provide a sustainable and reliable fire and emergency service delivery model that will:

- **Maintain** the quality of local fire protection services
- **Ensure** quick response times to emergency calls
- **Repair, upgrade, or replace** aging fire engines and life-saving emergency and rescue equipment
- **Restore** the number of local firefighters and fire stations needed to keep our communities safe



# Identified Solution Cont...



A sustainable and reliable option available to the County is to seek community support for a local property tax assessment.

This allows your local Santa Cruz County Fire Department to meet safety standards and replace aging equipment so our firefighters can continue to provide life-saving fire and emergency protection services.

The proposed funding would be an annual assessment on each property in the Santa Cruz County Fire – CSA 48 area.



# The Bottom Line

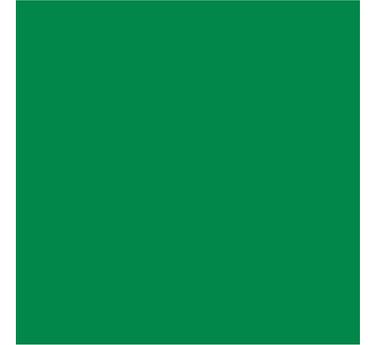
Additional funding to restore paid firefighter staffing levels to meet State recommended standards, allows Santa Cruz County Fire to replace aging fire and lifesaving emergency rescue equipment and maintain the current minimum level of service in CSA 48 to protect you, your family, and your property.

## **Failure to increase funding would mean:**

- Further damaging cuts to services
- Continued reliance on outdated fire engines and life-saving emergency rescue technologies
- Increased emergency response times
- Closure of one or more fire stations



# Community input is welcome!



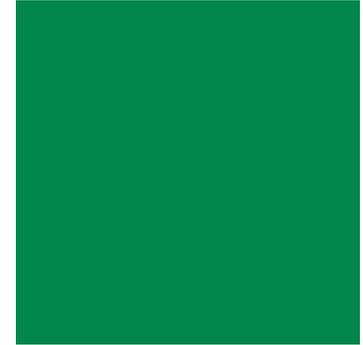
## Share your thoughts? We want your input!

As we evaluate Santa Cruz County Fire and emergency services needs, we are actively engaging our local communities to participate and provide feedback. It is our responsibility to keep you informed and to do everything possible to ensure adequate fire protection and quick access to lifesaving emergency response.

**Please share your opinions by emailing Chief Larkin at:**  
[csa48feedback@gmail.com](mailto:csa48feedback@gmail.com)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Please go to our website at:  
[www.santacruzcountyfire.com](http://www.santacruzcountyfire.com)

# Question & Answers



## Santa Cruz County Fire

YOUR FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY  
SERVICE PROVIDER SINCE 1948

**We're Listening!**

Questions/Comments:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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