



# Templeton Fire and Emergency Services

*Serving the Templeton Community for over 120 years!*

## SURVEY INSIDE

*Your opinion is important to us.*

**Emergencies  
don't just happen  
between the hours  
of 8 am and 5 pm...**

**So why is Templeton Fire and  
Emergency Services' fire station  
only staffed between the hours  
of 8 am and 5 pm?**



***PLEASE READ***

*for important information on Templeton's  
growing fire and emergency services dilemma.*



2016 Commercial Structure Fire



Dear Neighbors:

**Our Templeton community is at risk when a medical emergency, fire, natural disaster or other emergency strikes.**

## The Challenge:

**Templeton Fire and Emergency Services, a division of the Templeton Community Services District (TCSD), has one fire station that serves our community of 8,000 residents.** Due to limited property tax funding from the County, the Templeton fire station is only staffed from 8 AM to 5 PM daily. Nights are currently covered voluntarily by firefighters when available.

**This leads to longer response times and occasionally our emergency service crew is unable to respond to after-hours 911 calls. Meanwhile...**

- ▶ **Templeton Fire and Emergency Services has experienced a 75% increase in service calls since 2010.**
- ▶ **Sixty percent (60%) of all calls for service are for emergency medical incidents.** This includes responding to victims of heart attacks, stroke, traumatic injury, car accidents, youth sport injuries and other medical emergencies.

**The American Heart Association states that brain deterioration starts between four and six minutes after a person stops breathing.** The average 911 response time for Templeton Fire and Emergency Services is 6 minutes.

Even a one-minute delay in response time increases mortality rates. **Due to the lack of adequate property tax funding, there are times when Templeton emergency responders (firefighters) are not available to respond to your 911 calls for help.**

**Current staffing levels at Templeton Fire and Emergency Services are not adequate to provide full time protection.** Additional funding is required to staff our fire station 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. TCSD is conducting a thorough financial study to determine how much additional funding is needed to keep our only fire station open. Decisions will be made in May.

**I need your help.** As we evaluate Templeton Fire and Emergency Services needs, I want to make sure that we include our community. It is our responsibility to keep YOU informed and to do everything possible to ensure adequate fire protection and quick access to lifesaving emergency medical care. Complete the attached response card and mail it back to us by April 26, 2019.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you in advance for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

**Fire Chief Bill White**  
*Templeton Fire and Emergency Services*

# Solutions Update:

In order to protect lives and property, improve response times and provide fire and emergency response coverage 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, Templeton Fire and Emergency Services has been aggressively working towards a solution that would provide a sustainable and reliable fire and emergency service delivery model. Identified solutions include:

1

In 2017, the TCSD Board of Directors voted to create a Community Facility District (CFD) for new residential and commercial development to ensure that new development pays their fair share of the increase in demand for emergency services. This anticipated future funding, unfortunately, will not address the Fire Department's current funding shortfalls.

2

The District asked the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors for a remedy in the form of an increased share of our property tax allocation. Templeton Fire Department's only source of funding comes from property taxes.

- ▶ **Our current property tax allocation from the County was established in 1976 and is about 8.4%.**
- ▶ So, of all the property taxes paid by TCSD property owners, only 8.4 cents of every dollar you pay to the county comes back to the District.

After numerous meetings over the past several years, the Board of Supervisors denied our specific request to increase our property tax share.

3

A remaining sustainable and reliable option available to the District is to seek community support for a local parcel tax. This allows your local Fire Department to provide lifesaving fire and medical emergency services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

## Funds from the proposed measure would be used to:

- ▶ **PROVIDE** essential local fire protection and emergency medical services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- ▶ **REDUCE** 911 emergency response times.
- ▶ **RECRUIT & RETAIN** qualified firefighters.



**Templeton  
Fire and  
Emergency  
Services**



## Templeton Community Services District

206 5th Street  
Templeton, CA 93465

Provided for your information only as a public service from Templeton Fire and Emergency Services.

# The Need is Great

## Why Keep Templeton Fire and Emergency Services?

For more than 120 years, Templeton Fire and Emergency Services has been a proud and important part of our community. If TCSD is forced to close your Fire Department and Templeton's ONLY fire station, it is uncertain whether or not operations would be provided by Cal Fire. What is certain is that our community would lose local control of this vital lifesaving service.

**If Templeton Fire and Emergency Services was forced to dissolve, the loss would impact Templeton residents and the entire North County.** No one agency can safely mitigate large incidents such as freeway accidents, structure or wildland fires alone. Templeton receives assistance from Atascadero, Paso Robles and Cal Fire for large emergency incidents. Templeton provides assistance to our neighboring communities as well. The loss of Templeton Fire and Emergency Services would eliminate a valuable resource to the North County. *(Information provided by Scott Jalbert, San Luis Obispo County, Cal Fire Chief and Templeton Resident.)*

**Cal Fire is a valuable partner, but already stretched thin.** If our fire service is handed over to Cal Fire, Templeton would most likely be served by County Fire Engine 30, located in Paso Robles. Engine 30's primary response area is over 60 square miles and one of the busiest engines in SLO County. It is possible that simultaneous incidents could occur, which would create longer 911 response times for a fire or medical emergency in Templeton.

► **In the last 2 years, Cal Fire (Engine 30) could not respond to 13.9% of Templeton's 911 emergency calls because they were already committed to another incident.**



## Community Input Is Welcome

As we evaluate Templeton Fire and Emergency Services needs, we want to make sure that we include our community. We welcome input from you in our study process. Please share your opinions by emailing Chief Bill White at: [chief@templetoncsd.org](mailto:chief@templetoncsd.org)

For more information, visit our website:  
[www.templetoncsd.org](http://www.templetoncsd.org)

Or call us at:  
**(805) 434-4911**

May 7, 2019 • 7 pm

### Board Workshop:

TCSD Board discussion on proposal to seek community support for a local parcel tax.

Address:  
206 5th Street

# SURVEY

*Please tell  
us what  
you think.*

## Lifesaving Fire and Emergency Care in Templeton

Please share your  
opinions regarding  
local access to medical  
emergency, fire, natural  
disaster and other  
emergency services.

How important is it to you to have your Templeton Fire Station  
staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week?

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Have you or anyone in your household needed fire or emergency  
services?

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What are your questions about the District's proposal to seek  
community support for a local parcel tax that will enable your  
Templeton Fire Department to provide lifesaving fire and medical  
emergency services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week?

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Other Comments/Questions:

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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# **Templeton Community Services District**

206 5th Street  
Templeton, CA 93465

Attn: Fire Chief Bill White