



Fact Sheet

- Provides basic life support, fire suppression, hazardous materials response, ice rescue, swift water rescue operations, business and new construction inspections, plans review, preplanning, public education and car seat technicians and all-hazard response for the citizens of the district;
- Responded to over 3800 calls for service in 2013 with an average time from receipt of call to the first unit arriving on-scene of 4:03 minutes;
- Successfully managed separate two-alarm fires in multi-family dwellings, two major storm events and numerous single alarm fires;
- Participated in over 15,000 hours training in 2013 including Firefighter I and II, Fire Officer, Emergency Medical and CPR, Ice and Water rescue and car seat training as well as provided over 1000 hours of public education and 1500 business and construction inspections;
- WRFD currently has the lowest mill levy of any of it's neighbors;

ISSUES

- Demands on the volunteer's time caused a decrease in the reliability of the volunteer program to provide 24/7 coverage.
- Increases in the demand for service pushed the department to staff stations that had not been previously staffed on a 24/7 basis.
- Continued demands for staffing moved the department staffing model from a mostly volunteer to a mostly paid department.
- 2009 was the tipping point for the department as they were only able to send one engine and 3 personnel to a working structure fire in the district.
- The 2010 mill levy increase had been earmarked to try and catch the district up financially. Yet, the increased staffing demands exceeded the district's ability to keep up fiscally; the model the 2010 increase was based upon was a volunteer model.
- Apparatus is aging. The aerial is in the last year of compliance as well as both Engines. The capital needs have not been upgraded since 2004 and the failure rate of these apparatus are increasing in a situation where failure to respond due to equipment malfunction is not an option.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

The Wheat Ridge Fire Protection District is asking the voters of the district to increase the mill levy by 5 mills for a total mill levy of 12.5 mills. This was vetted by the Blue Ribbon Panel commissioned by the Board of Directors to provide independent review of the finances of the district. Projections vetted by Certified Public Accountants with Pinnacle Consulting show financial stability to 2020 while meeting the capital needs of the district with the addition of the mill levy increase.

EXAMPLE: Cost on a \$250,000.00 home is an additional \$8.29 per month.