

H. Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District

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SUMMARY

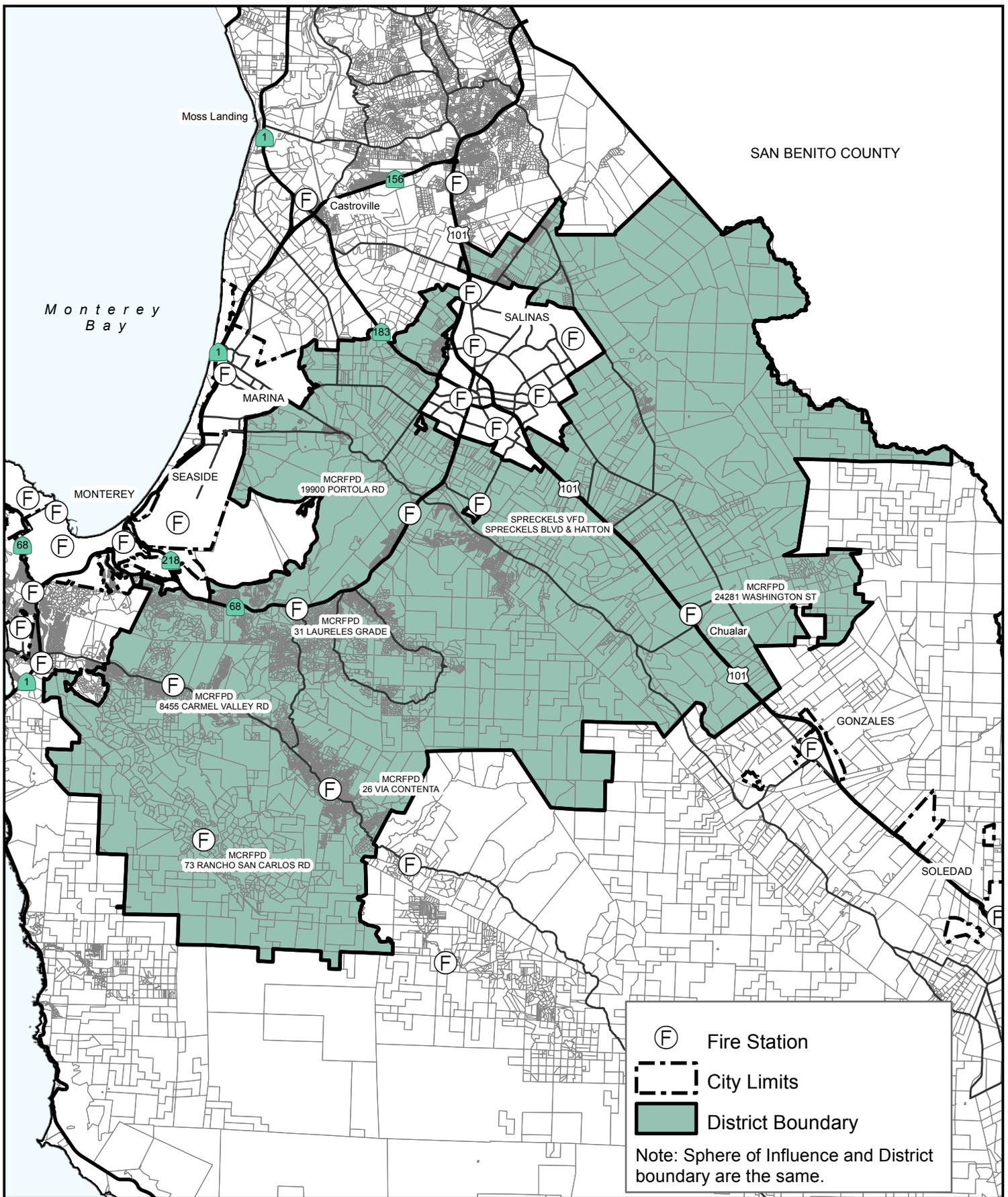
The Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District covers approximately 361 square miles of Monterey County from the rural area north of the City of Salinas south to the Federal Ventana Wilderness and the outskirts of the City of Gonzales, from the former Fort Ord on the west to the San Benito County line in the east. This area is the home of over 31,000 people. The District provides its own stations, equipment, and staffing. The District receives revenues of approximately \$377 per resident, and has an increasing fund balance. The Monterey County Regional FPD has financial procedures in place to ensure the preparation of timely agency audits. The District maintains an ISO Public Protection Classification of 5 within five miles of a station. The District has grown substantially in the past few years through annexation and consolidation with the Carmel Valley FPD. As the successor of the Carmel Valley FPD, the Monterey County Regional FPD provides ambulance service to Carmel Valley residents. The District's current boundaries and Sphere of Influence are identical, and no changes are anticipated except for minor mapping corrections.

BACKGROUND

The boundaries of the Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District include a large area surrounding the City of Salinas, eastward to the boundaries of the Cities of Marina, Seaside, and Monterey, and into Carmel Valley. It provides service through six stations spread throughout the District's boundaries.

The District began as the Salinas Rural Fire Protection District in 1934. A major realignment of fire protection district boundaries in northern Monterey County occurred in 1982 when the area around Prunedale was detached from the Salinas Rural FPD and the District assumed responsibilities for the Chualar area south of Salinas. In 2008, the District completed the annexation of over 15,000 acres that were wholly or partially surrounded by the District. In late 2009, the District changed its name to the Monterey County Regional FPD. In late 2010, LAFCO approved a consolidation of the Carmel Valley FPD into the District, which became effective on July 1, 2011.

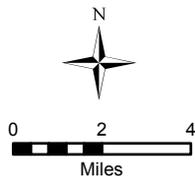
Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District



LAFCO of Monterey County
 LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS
MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Last LAFCO-Approved Change: 07/01/2011
 2012 Municipal Services Review
 Map Produced on 10/11/2011

When the two Districts consolidated, the successor Monterey County Regional FPD continued to operate with a board of directors appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Carmel Valley FPD had previously operated with an elected board. A major factor in staying with an appointed board is the cost of elections, which have been projected at approximately \$80,000 to \$120,000 per election.

More people, an estimated 32,000, live in the Monterey County Regional FPD than any other fire protection district in the County, except for the North County FPD. The Monterey County Regional FPD also covers a larger geographic area, an estimated 361 square miles, than any other district, except for the South Monterey County FPD. Significant growth is projected for some of the suburban areas of the District and for the East Garrison area within the former Fort Ord.

OPERATIONS

The Monterey County Regional FPD has been in an expansion and stabilization mode over the last few years. In January 2009, the District began providing management assistance to the Carmel Valley FPD. This arrangement resulted in the consolidation of the two Districts which became effective on July 1, 2011. The consolidation was designed to increase efficiencies and to facilitate the continued provision of the current level of services. The Consolidated Service Plan outlined a number of savings that would be experienced through a sharing of administrative staff and equipment. These cost savings were especially high in Carmel Valley, where, in the 2011-12 Fiscal Year, property owners and residents are expected to save at least \$625,000 through reduced costs for administrative services, retirement (PERS and Social Security) payments, overtime, election costs and an updated radio communications system.

When the consolidation of the two Districts was approved in 2010, LAFCO also approved the annexation of approximately 12,500 acres to the Carmel Valley FPD which became effective prior to consolidation. This reorganization occurred only two years after the annexation of approximately 15,000 acres to the Monterey County Regional FPD.

The consolidated District receives approximately 2,100 annual primary response calls for service. In Fiscal Year 2010-11, 10% of these calls were fire related and 59% were for emergency medical services. The remaining 31% were a variety of other requests for service.

The District's normal response to a structure fire includes the three closest on-duty engines, a chief officer and two water tenders. Off-duty personnel and/or volunteers also respond. If help from neighboring fire agencies is needed, fire engines from agencies closest to the incident will be dispatched through mutual aid agreements.

The District contracts with the City of Salinas to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to approximately 35 square miles of the northern corner of the District. This allows a reduced response time for these areas, which include Bolsa Knolls, Boronda, and the area along Old Stage Road to Williams Road.

All of the District's engines carry a full complement of advanced life support medical and rescue equipment. This equipment includes the "Jaws of Life" and a semi-automatic defibrillator, which

is used to attempt to shock the heart back into a proper beating rhythm. All of the District's personnel are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and 25 are currently trained as Paramedics. These skilled professionals can provide advanced medical skills such as airway management and the administration of medication.

Carmel Valley has had a fire protection district-administered ambulance services since 1948, which predates the establishment of countywide ambulance services. State law grants the successor Monterey County Regional FPD the rights to continue these services within the boundaries of the former Carmel Valley FPD. The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is the only other local agency with ambulance powers separate from those of the County. Through 2011, the systems in Carmel Valley and the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea operated jointly through "Carmel Regional Fire Ambulance." At that time the joint powers authority dissolved and the two systems became fully separate.

The Monterey County Regional FPD houses ambulances at the fire stations at Mid-Valley, Carmel Valley Village, and Laureles Grade Stations. In addition to serving Carmel Valley, the District provides ambulance service to the Cachagua and Hidden Hills areas under contract with the County ambulance provider, American Medical Response-West (AMR). This contractual arrangement is beneficial because the Monterey County Regional FPD can respond with ambulances to these areas more rapidly than AMR.

The two predecessor Districts experienced a 93% increase in fund balance in the two fiscal years ending in June 2010. Over this period the Carmel Valley FPD's budget was augmented by a \$770,000 grant through the Federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response ("SAFER") program. Public support for supporting the District was shown by the approval of a special tax measure to support the ambulance service. "Measure F" was approved by 85% of the voters of the Carmel Valley FPD on August 25, 2009.

At the end of Fiscal Year 2009-10, the Monterey County Regional FPD carried a long-term debt of \$1,076,000 for construction of its Administrative Office. The Carmel Valley FPD carried a debt of just under \$1.5 million, primarily for a building lease. This long-term debt from Carmel Valley is now the responsibility of the successor Monterey County Regional FPD.

The District has an ISO Public Protection Classification of 5 for properties within five miles of a station when there is a credible source of water. The insurance industry normally requires that a property be located within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant to receive the lower insurance rates of a good ISO rating. Property owners within the Monterey County Regional FPD receive these rates even though they may not have a nearby hydrant because of the District's use of water tenders to bring additional water to a fire.

The District participates in mutual aid throughout the State, and maintains automatic aid agreements with all surrounding fire protection providers, including the cities of Gonzales, Marina, Monterey, and Salinas, the North County FPD, the Monterey Peninsula Airport District, the Spreckels Volunteer Fire Company, the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department, the U. S. Forest Service, and CAL FIRE.

The work of the Monterey County Regional FPD is supported by approximately 36 volunteer firefighters. The District also provides programs for the community including public safety programs for youth, training for disaster preparedness, an Explorer Boy Scout post, and a holiday toy drive.

The District is concerned about a continuing decrease in property values, upon which taxes are based, and the diversion of local revenues by the State. The District is also concerned that it receives no property tax revenues from the thousands of acres it has annexed unless the base assessed property value of these areas increase. This fact means that the District provides direct service to many areas, such as Chualar, where it receives virtually no property tax proceeds.

The District foresees a need for the construction of permanent sleeping quarters at the Santa Lucia Preserve Station. An additional station is needed, and planned, in the East Garrison Area once the approved development for this area commences. The dissolution of the County Redevelopment Agency may jeopardize the availability of tax increment financing for this construction.

The Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District Board of Directors has seven Members appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to four-year terms. Board Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each odd numbered month, unless scheduled otherwise. The meeting locations are rotated between facilities of the former Salinas Rural and Carmel Valley Fire Protection Districts. The District maintains a website which includes the names of Directors, and their terms, and agendas for upcoming Board meetings.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE & BOUNDARIES

The District currently has no Sphere of Influence beyond its boundaries. The District's boundaries were solidified through the consolidation and annexations that occurred from 2008 through 2011. A map of the District's Sphere of Influence and boundaries can be seen at the beginning of this profile. One area that was excluded from these annexations was a portion of the former Fort Ord that is planned to be transferred to the U. S. Bureau of Land Management for open space. Consideration of the inclusion of this area within the District's Sphere of Influence awaits the U. S. Army's clearing of buried munitions. This area is currently a Federal Responsibility Area.

No significant boundary changes are anticipated although conversations are continuing between LAFCO and District staff concerning minor technical adjustments where boundaries do not reflect property ownership lines. In the future, the District will be reduced in size, as portions of the District are annexed to the cities of Salinas, Seaside, Marina, and Monterey. In some cases these District detachments may cause a financial hardship to the District, unless mitigated. An existing LAFCO policy discourages proposals causing adverse financial impacts on the provision of government services. This policy may support financial mitigation to compensate for future District detachments.

**Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

District Formation and Duties	
Formation Date	1934
Legal Authority	Fire Protection District Law of 1961, Health & Safety Code, section 13800 et seq.
Board of Directors	Seven Directors appointed to four-year terms by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.
Agency Duties	Fire Protection / Emergency Medical Services

**Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

Carmel Valley FPD General Fund Revenues				
	2008-2009		2009-2010	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total
Property Tax	\$3,079,414	67.1%	\$2,897,749	67.0%
Fire Protection Tax	\$314,872	6.9%	\$331,798	7.7%
Proposition 172 Allocation	\$313,993	6.8%	\$271,050	6.3%
Homeowners Property Tax Relief	\$16,260	0.4%	\$17,025	0.4%
Sale of Fixed Assets	\$26,776	0.6%	\$5,100	0.1%
Investment Earnings (Losses)	(\$8,333)	-0.2%	\$2,404	0.1%
Others	\$845,586	18.4%	\$802,721	18.5%
Total General Revenues	\$4,588,568	100.0%	\$4,327,847	100.0%

Source: Carmel Valley FPD, Financial Statements for the Years Ended June 30, 2010 and 2009 and Independent Auditors' Reports: Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances and Statement of Activities.

Monterey County Regional FPD General Fund Revenues				
	2008-2009		2009-2010	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total
Property Taxes	\$6,115,984	76.7%	\$5,864,673	77.6%
Public Safety Revenues	\$448,863	5.6%	\$373,750	4.9%
Reimbursements - Overtime & Equipment	\$1,249,159	15.7%	\$709,020	9.4%
Fire Mitigation Fees	\$40,733	0.5%	\$69,000	0.9%
Fire Prevention Fees	\$28,748	0.4%	\$34,407	0.5%
Capital Grants	\$72,831	0.9%	\$327,492	4.3%
Investment Earnings (loss)	(\$8,427)	-0.1%	\$23,289	0.3%
Miscellaneous	\$29,736	0.4%	\$152,440	2.0%
Total General Revenues	\$7,977,627	100.0%	\$7,554,071	100.0%

Source: Salinas Rural FPD, Basic Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2009 and Independent Auditors' Report; and Monterey County Regional FPD, Basic Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2010 and Independent Auditors' Report: Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances and Statement of Activities.

Note: Financial information is presented separately for the Carmel Valley FPD and the Monterey County Regional FPD. The consolidation of these two Districts was effective July 1, 2011. Prior to 2009 the Monterey County Regional FPD was known as the Salinas Rural FPD.

**Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

Attributes	
District Area (est. square miles)	361
Population (2010 estimated)	31,508
Assessed Valuation (FY 10-11)	\$7,816,136,134
Number of Stations	6
Dispatch	County
ISO Public Protection Classification:	
Within 5 miles of a Station and with a Credible Source of Water	5
Without a Credible Source of Water	10
Regular Financial Audits	Annual
Average Annual Revenue Per Capita (FY 09-10)	\$377
Average Portion of County 1% Property Tax Received	13¢/\$1
Ending General Fund Balance (June 2010)	\$2,931,165
Change in General Fund Balance (from June 2008 to June 2010)	93%
Total Fund Balance/Annual Revenue Total (FY 09-10)	39%

Source: District area estimated utilizing County of Monterey GIS Data; Population estimated utilizing 2010 U. S. Census Data, Assessed Valuation and Portion of County Property Tax Received are from County of Monterey Auditor-Controller's Office; Fund Balance Information from District Audit; Other information from District.

Types of Services	
Fire	X
Technical Rescue	X
Basic Life Support (EMT)	X
Advanced Life Support (Paramedic)	X
Ambulance	X

Ambulance Service is available within the boundaries of the former Carmel Valley Fire Protection District.

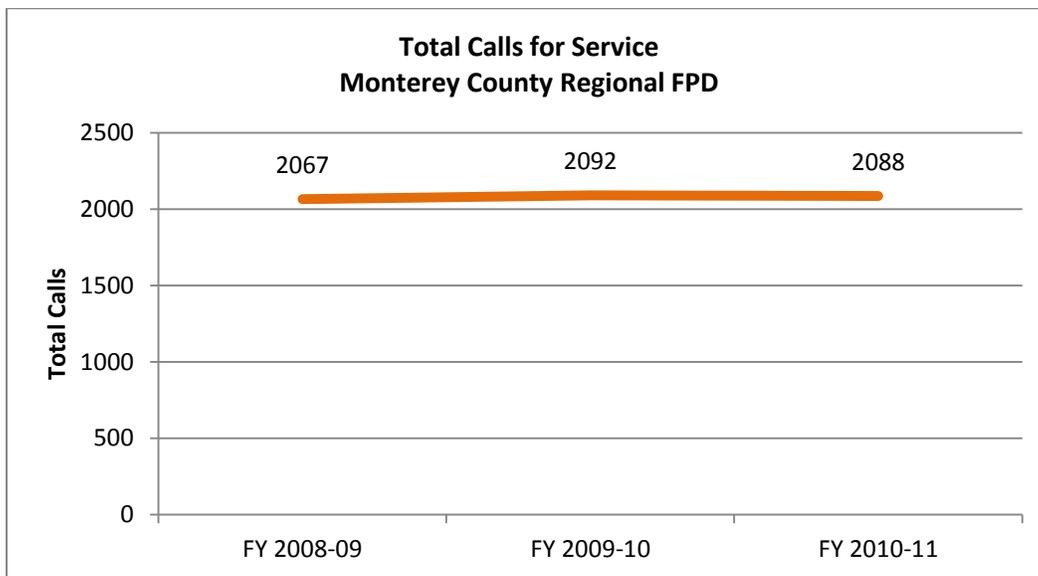
**Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

Stations		
Address	Acquired/Built	Condition
19900 Portola Drive, Salinas	1966	Good
24281 Washington Street, Chualar	1981	Good
31 Laureles Grade, Salinas	1990	Good
8455 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley	1976	Good
26 Via Contenta, Carmel Valley	1968	Fair
72 Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel (Santa Lucia Preserve)	2004	Fair

Apparatus	
Engines	9 Structure Engines (Type I)
	7 Wildland Engines (Type III)
Water Tenders	4 Water Tenders
Ambulance/Squads/Rescue	4 Ambulances
	2 Rescue All-Terrain Vehicles
Utility	9 Utility Vehicles
Special	5 Chief Officers Command Vehicles
	2 Urban Search & Rescue Trailers

**Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

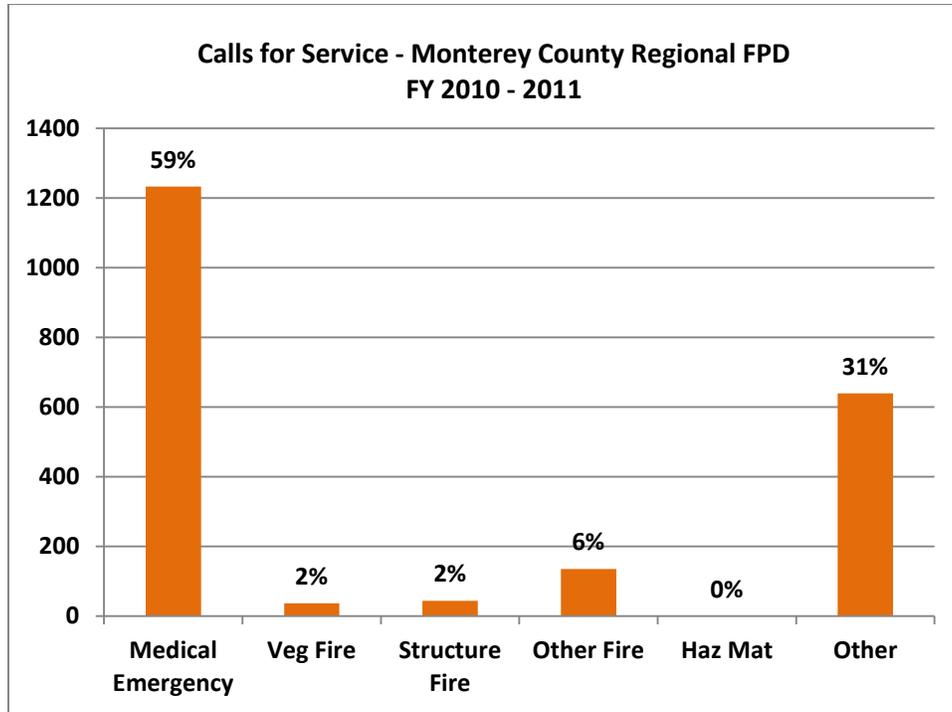
Total Staffing	
Full time fire suppression	49
Temporary fire suppression	
Volunteer / Paid call firefighters	36
Non-safety regular	4



Source: County Department of Emergency Communications (911 System) Data.

Note: This table tabulates calls referred to the District for primary response. Additional calls are referred - and responded to - for mutual and automatic aid.

Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources



Source: County Department of Emergency Communications (911 System) Data.