

# 2023 CHIEF'S REPORT

## To the Citizens of the Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District

10349 NW Rand Street  
Seal Rock, Oregon 97376

Chief Will Ewing  
email: [chief@sealrockfire.com](mailto:chief@sealrockfire.com)

**Phone:** 541-563-4441

**Business hours:** 9am to 4pm, Mon-Fri

**Website:** <https://sealrockfire.com/>



### Mission Statement

**“Making a difference”**

By: Protecting Lives, Property and Resources

The Seal Rock Fire Protection District mission is to provide life safety, property protection, emergency medical response, mitigate and protect from hazardous material events, and begin the recovery process from large scale disasters whether natural or manmade.

These tasks are accomplished through the district's budget process, constant training, and the professionalism and dedication of our district firefighters to the best of our ability letting the taxpayers know **"WE CARE"**.

### Board of Directors

*As of 12/31/2023*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Position #</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Karl Kowalski	President	3	6/30/2027
David Pelligrinelli	Vice President	2	6/30/2027
Mike Burt	Secretary	4	6/30/2027
Paul Rimola	Treasurer	1	6/30/2025
Skip Smith	Director	5	6/30/2025

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month,  
beginning at 5:00 PM and are open to the public.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- **MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF**
- **EXPENDITURES**
- **TAX INFORMATION**
- **GRANTS RECEIVED**
- **NUMBER OF ALARM RESPONSES**
- **STAFFING**
- **ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**
- **APPARATUS**
- **FACILITIES**
- **PARTNERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**
- **HISTORY**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF**

### **• Introductory letter from the fire chief**

Seal Rock Fire operates on a few basic principles. First is transparency. There is very little we do that is not the business of the public. Second is the principal that Seal Rock is a small fire district and we must foster and embrace volunteerism. It is my honor to work with everyday people to prepare for and mitigate emergencies. Lastly, we are firmly committed to good stewardship of tax dollars. Seal Rock Fire realizes that our tax payers are hardworking people; we do our best daily to protect your tax investment into this community.

As of 2021 Seal Rock fire has moved back to its roots. The reboot is engineered to embrace volunteerism as well as self- sufficiency. We now have a great deal of capacity as we have moved away from a very limited paid person only model. We can now respond to several concurrent calls with appropriate work force or a single call with appropriate staffing. We still utilize mutual aid when necessary but have proven that we can be very dependable on our own. By utilizing volunteers, we do save the citizens valued tax dollars. For example, a car crash with entrapment could require 4-6 firefighters. To have four of our own paid firefighters on shift at all times could cost almost \$500,000 per year. Our current model has one paid person and the rest are volunteer. I can see the direct advantage. I believe in developing capacity.

In the past three years we have moved on from emergency spending to urgent spending. We are now able to be focused on stabilizing our response infrastructure. That ranges from protecting our personnel from danger with the proper protective equipment, to assuring the ability of the vehicles to respond when needed.

We still have a lot of work to do. The solidification and permanence of our response model is at the top of the list. This means developing a total program that can be handed off to future leadership here and have it carry on. The hope is to eliminate a potential change in the program with any change in leadership.

William Ewing  
Fire Chief  
Seal Rock fire

## 2023 accomplishments

Our accomplishments in 2023 are too numerous to list. I can highlight a few of the key aspects.

- Facility improvements include a real septic system at the Bayshore fire station. The old septic situation was a source of many complaints. Finally with the help of the County Sanitarian and Howery industries we have a fully functioning and permitted system. That project cost in excess of \$25,000. We did not budget for the project but had both the funds and authorized expenditure in the reserve fund. We did not dodge a bullet, we took the hit. The project was very worthy and it is nice to be able to say we have a functioning system that doesn't pollute the environment or pose a threat to human health.

Several other small improvements were made at the Bayshore station. Removal of a lot of old materials that were no longer of use or value were disposed of (Like empty paint cans) some painting and replacement of old worn-out window blinds were also a part of that.

We had a visit from OSHA that I feel went very well. We were able to make a couple of adjustments to Policy and facilities to meet the needs as set forth during the visit. No fines were issued.

Up at Station 61 a great deal was done although not as aesthetically pleasing, the projects at the 61 campus were centrally focused on the overall reduction of accumulated stuff. That is the best way to describe it. The stuff included a small mountain of paper that we did not need to hang onto. Jet skis, a large accumulation of Class A foam which has been declared a hazardous material, a large amount of metal of assorted decades, and junk. The 80-year-old generator that was used in Building B was disposed of, the huge air compressor in Building C was broken so it too was disposed of.

Specifically in building A there was a lot done. The whole east end of the building had been full of archives and disaster response material. The archives were moved as was the disaster preparedness items. The storage of our hose used to be in building B, the hose and racks were moved up to the green building.

We located the septic unit for Building A&B, unfortunately whatever the system consists of it does not appear to be compliant.

We were able to repurpose the water rescue equipment. We did this through sales and trades from the long-abandoned equipment.

We obtained two new to us vehicles. One a Type I engine from Vale, will serve us when our 190 agreement with East County is terminated. The other, a type VI from the Federal excess program which we can keep as long as we wish. There is some cost incurred bringing these units up to Par. We have taken care of the issues with the Type VI engine but have not started with the Type I

Of course we Lost Bill Kenworthy in the Spring last year. Bill was a long standing member and we miss him everyday!

We have developed wildland response capacity through training and acquisition of equipment. We may be able to go out of district on a deployment this year, but we most certainly have bettered ourselves for in district responses.

#### 2024 Goals

- Continue upgrade of building B
- Evaluation of septic system
- Start preventive replacement of tires
- Solidify training program
- Seek a large grant for new breathing apparatus.
- Enhance disaster response capacity
- Have all accounting done in house
- Increase roster by 10 percent

#### SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis)

A SWOT is a very in depth form of self-evaluation. A good SWOT is done in an open setting with valued members including volunteer responders, board members, and staff. That said my opinion of SWOT for us is as follows:

**Strengths.** A well-balanced combination department with a service depth that allows for a very flexible response.

Fiscally responsible

Family culture

Flexibility

**Weakness.** Revenue insufficient for the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs.

Deferred maintenance.

Insufficient housing for apparatus and sleeper program

**Opportunities.** Capitalize on positive culture.

Grant seeking.

Working with the local community college for programs that support emergency service

Increased public opinion to help with the funding shortage

**Threats.** Local attacks on Seal Rock Fire leading to morale issues.

Unfunded mandates

Service provision/cultural drift

## **EXPENDITURES**

<b>5 Year comparison of Expenses</b>					
<i>[As reported in the July Budget vs. Actual Report]</i>					
<u>FUND</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
FIREFIGHTERS	217,186	234,521	213,037	*265,704	222,814
CHIEF	92,364	95,249	84,470	**122,643	107,464
GENERAL	139,474	139,474	156,286	164,675	323,088
TRUCK & BUILDING	28,968	38,403	38,866	*** 13,161	41,530
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>477,992</b>	<b>507,647</b>	<b>492,659</b>	<b>566,203</b>	<b>700,896</b>

**\*Payment of past pers**

**\*\*Part time help for Chief**

**\*\*\* not enough payments recorded?**

## **TAX INFORMATION**

<b>Lincoln County Statement of Taxes</b>							
<i>FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024, ASSESSMENT ROLL OF 2023-2024</i>							
<u>TAXING DISTRICT</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE ON ROLL</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE TO CALCULATE RATE</u>	<u>OPERATING RATE</u>	<u>LOCAL OPTION RATE</u>	<u>BOND RATE</u>	<u>BILLING RATE</u>	
CENTRAL COAST F/R	\$476,734,140	\$469,627,770	0.8209	1.5200	0.0000	2.3409	\$1,099,352
NORTH LINCOLN	\$2,766,410,060	\$2,730,008,926	0.6783	1.2200	0.3248	2.2231	\$6,069,083
YACHATS	\$714,309,220	\$658,564,145	0.2896	1.2000	0.5590	3.0538 6	\$2,011,162
DEPOE BAY	\$1,550,118,390	\$1,522,478,560	0.8323	1.0900	0.0000	1.9223	\$2,926,661
ALSEA fire	\$10,409,870	\$10,409,870	1.1363	0.0000	0.0000	1.1363	\$11,829
Siletz fire	\$191,260,470	\$191,260,470	1.33	0.00	0.00	1.331	\$254,568
East Lincoln fire	\$238,933,880	\$238,933,880	1.0255	0.00	0.00	1.0522	\$251,406
<b>SEAL ROCK RFPD</b>	<b>\$630,337,390</b>	<b>\$630,007,390</b>	<b>0.4634</b>	<b>0.6000</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	<b>1.0634</b>	<b>\$669,949</b>
NEWPORT RFP	\$387,926,470	\$367,657,704	0.9634	0.0000	0.0000	0.9634	\$354,202

## **GRANTS RECEIVED**

<i>Date</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Amount</i>
May 2023	Oregon State Fire Marshal	Summer fire resistance	\$31,000
Nov. 2023	Siletz Tribe Contribution Committee	Fit Tester	\$9,100
May 2024	Oregon State Fire Marshal	Summer fire Resistance	\$35,000

## **NUMBER OF ALARM RESPONSES**

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
In district								95	380	436
Out of district								12	340	159
Total responses								107	720	594

## **STAFFING**

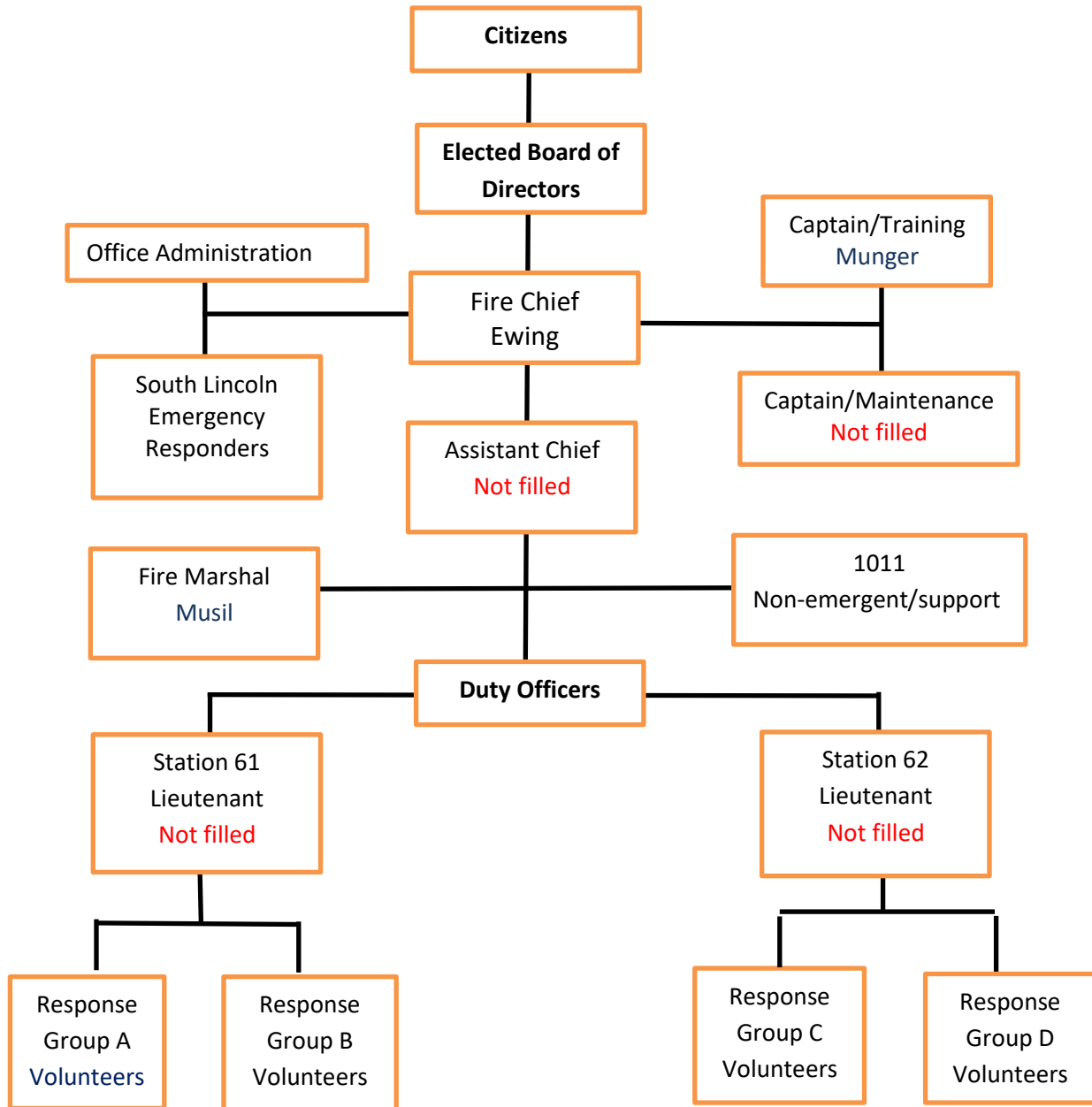
	# of volunteer emergency responders	# of volunteer support staff/office staff	# of full-time paid responders	# of part-time (reserve) paid responders
<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>12/31/2022</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>

### 2023 Responses:

<b>2023</b>	Total Runs	Seal Rock	CCFR	Out of District
January	41	32	4	5
February	42	31	8	5
March	38	30	5	3
April	49	30	12	7
May	42	30	8	4
June	54	39	11	3
July	64	54	7	3
August	58	47	8	3
September	59	43	9	7
October	46	37	9	2
November	53	37	12	2
December	49	40	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>48</b>



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# APPARATUS

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Engine E-61</b>          1988 Ford L9000          1000-gallon tank          1500 GPM pump</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Station 61</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Engine E-62</b>  <b>2001</b> American LaFrance          1000-gallon tank.          1500 GPM pump</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Station 61</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tender E-61</b>  <b>2008</b> Rosenbauer          1800-gallon tank          750 GPM pump.          A 2500-gallon portable water tank</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Station 61</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rescue/Wildland R-61</b>  <b>2001</b> Ford F550          480-gallon tank.          125 GPM pump</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Station 61</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Squad S-62</b>  <b>2010</b> Chevy Suburban 1500.          It serves primarily as a personnel response vehicle,          and carries emergency medical equipment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Station 62</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Squad S-61</b>  <b>2018 Ford Interceptor</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Involved in a rear end accident March 2024.          Outcome yet to be determined)</p>



**Engine E-64**  
**1991 Pierce**  
**700-gallon tank.**  
**1250 GPM pump**

**Station 62**

**\*Loaned to us from East Lincoln Fire**  
**(a 190 agreement)**



**Rescue/Wildland/Duty R-62**  
**2004 Ford**  
**130 GPM pump**  
**280 gallon tank**

**Station 62**

**(This is a Federal excess Vehicle on loan to Seal**  
**Rock indefinitely)**



**Engine 65 E-65**  
**1991 Bosie mobile Equipment**  
**1500 GPM pump**  
**700 gallon Tank**

**Station 61**

# FACILITIES

	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Administrative Office</b>  <b>Station 61A</b>  <b>10349 NW Rand St</b>            Administration and Board/Conference         </p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Training Room</b>  <b>Station 61 B</b>  <b>10349 Grebe St.</b>            Training and meeting facility         </p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Station 61 C</b>  <b>10255 NW Swallow St</b>            Apparatus housing and Disaster Preparedness         </p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Station 62</b>  <b>2009 Hilton Dr</b>  <b>Apparatus housing/Day quarters</b> </p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">           Repeater            Building         </p>

## **PARTNERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

Seal Rock Fire District has been going through some major changes for the past several years. We are at a point where we are coming out of the rebuild and are now moving into independent, sustained, service provision. We could not have made the change to a predominantly volunteer agency without help from our associated fire service partners. Central Oregon Coast Fire was tremendously helpful, their personnel assisted us in many ways with abject professionalism. Despite some stress between the agencies, we met the mission and it would have been hard to do in the early stages of the rebuild without them. The fire agencies in the county were all supportive in our quest for our roots as a predominantly volunteer agency.

We have a unique 190 agreement with East Lincoln Fire for the use of their Type I engine while they are building their new station.

We often partner with Pac West Ambulance (PWA) by nature of the business. That relationship has produced a bounty for Seal Rock. The crews and management are invested in Seal Rock fire's development and success as a medical response agency and has been there to help.

Our County and State Law enforcement partners also interface well with our members.

Especially when dealing with problem incidents such as Mentally Disturbed Persons (MDP).

Regardless if we are on a highway mitigating a crash, or trying to locate someone, both Lincoln County Sheriff Department and Oregon State Police are reliable and interactive. It is a pleasure.

We also partner with:

- ODOT, although to a lesser extent.
- Lincoln County Emergency management
- Oregon Coast Community College
- Lincoln County School District
- CERT
- Homeowners associations

Affiliations:

- Oregon Fire Chiefs association
- Special District Association of Oregon
- Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators
- Lincoln County Rope Rescue team
- Central Oregon Coast Training Association
- Lincoln County Fire Defense Board
- Seal Rock Water District

---

## **DISPATCH SERVICES**

---

The Willamette Valley Communications Center (WVCC) is a regional center based in Salem, Oregon. It provides 9-1-1 dispatch services to agencies in three counties. Police, fire, ambulance, and emergency services agencies in Marion, and Polk & **Lincoln** counties and the Grand Ronde. All in these areas rely on the communications center to take emergency calls (PSAP) and handle incidents (dispatch)

---

---

---

---

---

---

**LINCOLN COUNTY FIRE DEFENSE BOARD (MUTUAL AID)**

Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue	Depoe Bay Fire District
Newport Fire Department	Newport RFPD
North Lincoln Fire & Rescue	Seal Rock RFPD
Siletz Valley RFPD	Toledo Fire Department
Yachats RFPD	

---

**OTHER AGENCIES SEAL ROCK RFPD RESPONDS WITH:**

<u>Pacific West Ambulance</u>	American Red Cross
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	Oregon State Police,
Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office	Oregon Department of Forestry, Toledo Unit
Life Flight/ REACH	Air Medical Services
U.S. Coast Guard.	

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS AND ASSOCIATES**

Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training	Local Government Law Group P.C., Eugene
WHA Insurance Agency Inc., Eugene	EMS Advisor: Consortium of physicians:
Lincoln County Emergency Management	Oregon Health Authority
Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital	
Central Coast Community College	

---

# HISTORY

The Seal Rock Fire District was established in 1962 and was an all-volunteer department. The Main station in Seal Rock was built in 1968 and was equipped with two fire trucks. The Bayshore station was constructed primarily by fire department volunteers in 1980. The first paid Fire Chief was hired in 2008. The Seal Rock Fire District, as well as most fire service agencies, have had major additions to service provision. It started in the 1970ies with a medical component. Many smaller departments had, what were referred to as, Medical Quick Response Teams. After some time, these were folded into the regular fire response model. This doubled our response numbers. For some bigger departments this worked to validate the expenses of having paid fire responders. For the smaller departments and districts, it was another expense. What started as a, “get to” do type of service provision, is a, “have to” do it. This trend didn’t stop with medical provision. The fire service seems to be the only serviced type agency that will respond to what I refer to as social services. Our aging population is often in some type of situation where assistance is needed. These types of incidents use to be handled by family and neighbors but with the advent of 911, and the lack of nuclear families the 911 dispatcher often has little choice of providers for the incident so fire is tapped. These types of incidents include: Falling, non-ambulatory in home needs, and welfare checks. Seal Rock Fire is working to meet all these needs while being good stewards of the finances. Unfortunately, the dollars just do not match the demand. Small fire districts are at risk of shuttering the doors due to the limited amount of revenue verses the demand. There are outside influences that exacerbate this issue and we are bound to a 62-year-old tax base. 62 years ago firefighting was cheap and easy. However, the combination of those two led to egregious firefighter fatalities.

The outcome of that is we have standards and expectations that address those issues, but cost the agencies dearly financially. That is our biggest struggle. It gets worse every year. Although a volunteer is wonderful asset we still have to outfit them and train them. We then need to provide the type and amount of equipment that will allow them to successfully meet the expectations of the community. Not a nice precipice to be on. Seal Rock Fire vows to keep volunteers as our mainstay force. We just need to furnish all the associated needs.

All that said the levy for a paid duty officer program is as essential for command and control of major incidents as well as unburdening the volunteers with more routine chores such as inspections and assisting the public on non-emergent requests for assistance.

## • ISO Rating and what the rating means to the community:

The Insurance Service Office is a private business that rates the risks to a community for insurance companies. This is a fire risk specific process, and doesn’t consider any outer discipline, such as Law enforcement.

The rating process starts everyone on an even playing field of a rating of 10 on a scale of 1-10 (ten being the worst rating). ISO then looks at certain processes and capabilities such as:

Water supply (including fire hydrants),  
communications,

training,  
available responders,  
equipment,  
aid agreements.

Many fire service agencies build their service provision to maintain the lowest insurance rating, while others provide the service, and attempt to do their best to meet ISO needs. We fall into the later. As of our last rating, we have a 4-8 rating. I will explain.

A rating of four (4) is due to the proximity, (1000 feet), of a fire hydrant that has proven to produce the appropriated water value.

The rating of eight (8) is a structure that is further than 1000 feet, but less than five road miles from a fire station. It is at this juncture I need to add a bit of a struggle the fire service has with the 5 miles. Years ago, the five miles were measured in “air” miles, or in a straight line, from a station, to the value at risk. The fire service placed stations accordingly. Then at some point the value of the five miles were changed to road miles, and we found many of our coverage areas now out of the service range.

What all that means, is that any value at risk, that is farther than five road miles away, but are in the district, are valued at a rating of ten (10). Insurance for a class ten (10) structure is much more expensive than that of an eight (8).

Compounding our struggle to help in the rural areas are building codes. ISO doesn't care about building codes, but if we wanted to build a modest structure that meets ISO needs it would cost millions and it is a very cumbersome process. The land use issue alone complicates the whole process, to the point it is unnerving. Any structure we would propose to build is considered an “essential service”. That label mandates a very expensive construction process.

In short, those issues make putting a station any where new is a daunting task both time wise and financially.

We do our best to help mitigate these obstacles. We have developed a program where our volunteers on the eastern fringe of the district can take a response vehicle home for a more expeditious response in these more distant locations.

Building a third station is a very impractical goal at this time, if we already had land somewhere it might be a bit easier but even at that it is a years long process, if we had the funds which we do not.



