

9. MEADOW VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Meadow Valley Fire Protection District (MVFPD) provides structural and wildland fire suppression, rescue, medical first responder, public assistance, and some fire prevention services. This is the first municipal service review (MSR) for the District.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

MVFPD was formed in 1955 for the purpose of providing fire protection to the residents of the District.

The principal act that governs the District is the Fire Protection District Law of 1987.¹²⁰ The principal act empowers fire districts to provide fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material response, ambulance, and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property.¹²¹ Districts must apply and obtain LAFCo approval to exercise services authorized by the principal act but not already provided (i.e., latent powers) by the district at the end of 2000.¹²²

MVFPD is located in the central part of Plumas County. The nearest fire protection district to MVFPD is Quincy FPD, which is located to the east of the District.

Boundaries

MVFPD's territory is located entirely within Plumas County. The present bounds encompass approximately 34.8 square miles and include the community of Meadow Valley and some U.S. Forest Service lands.

Since the formation of the District, there have been no boundary changes.

Sphere of Influence

The sphere of influence (SOI) for the District was established on August 26, 1976. The SOI was further updated and reduced to exclude the USFS lands in 1983, indicating that LAFCo anticipated this territory would eventually be detached from the District. The current sphere of influence is smaller than MVFPD's boundaries and includes 2.5 square miles compared to 34.8 square miles of territory within the District's bounds.

Extra-territorial Services

MVFPD occasionally provides services outside of its bounds through an automatic aid agreement with the Bucks Lake Home Owners Association (HOA) fire department. In addition, the District has an automatic aid agreement with Quincy FPD, according to which

¹²⁰ Health and Safety Code §13800-13970.

¹²¹ Health and Safety Code §13862.

¹²² Government Code §56824.10.

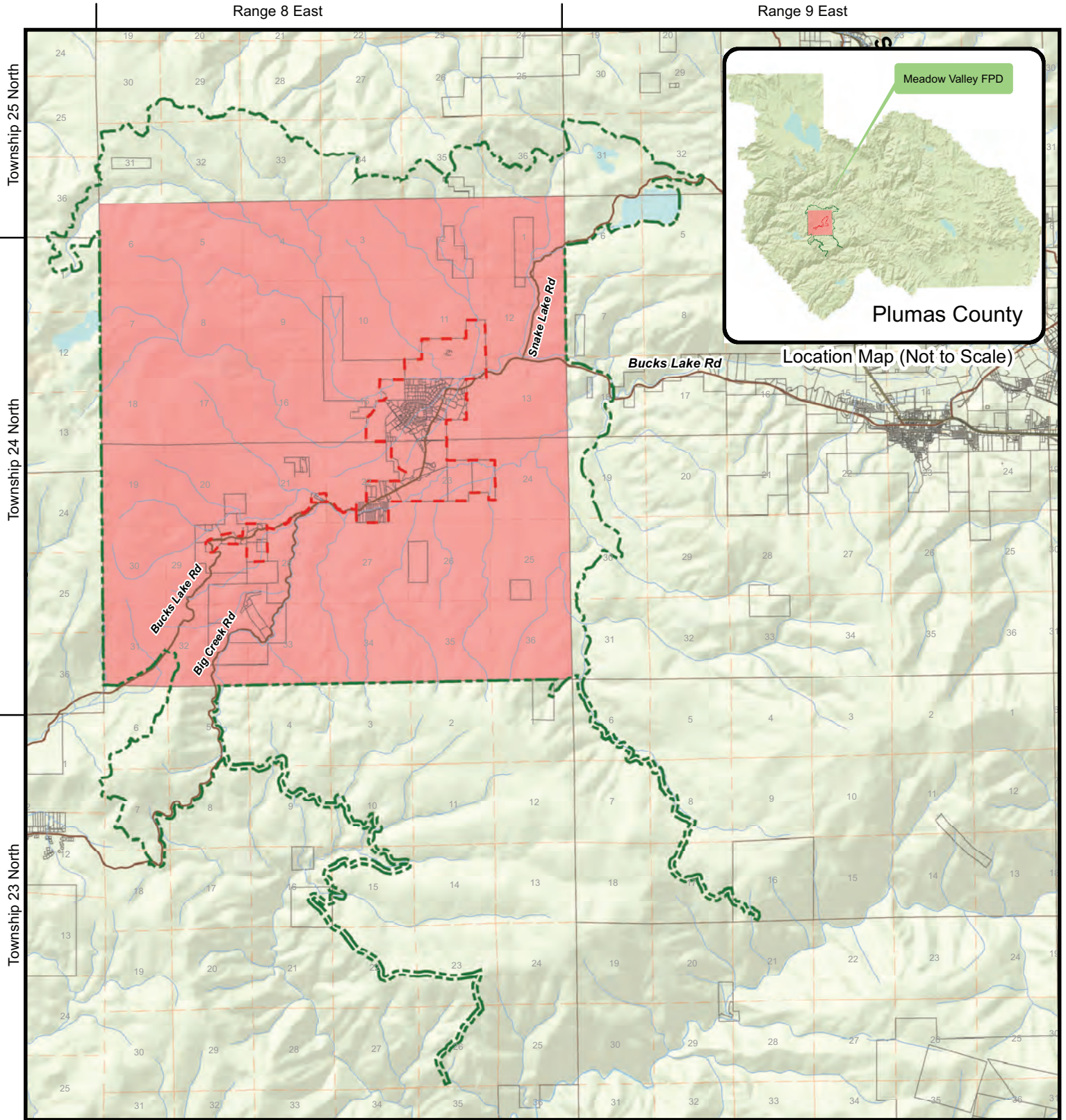
Quincy FPD responds within MVFPD's service area as needed. MVFPD also has mutual aid agreements with all other local fire providers in Plumas County.

Additionally, each fire provider in Plumas County has informally agreed to a service area that extends outside of their LAFCo-approved boundaries, in order to minimize those areas without a defined first responder. In the case of MVFPD, the District's service area extends to the north, east, and south in two narrow portions. The service area encompasses about 44.6 square miles. MVFPD, similar to other fire departments in the County, does not receive property tax revenue in the territory that lies outside of its bounds, and in effect is providing free services to these areas without reimbursement. Fire districts have the option to charge for service outside of their district.

Areas of Interest

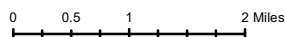
An area of interest for MVFPD is the community of Bucks Lake. Fire and EMS services in Bucks Lake are provided by a private fire department organized by the community's HOA. MVFPD occasionally (especially often in winter) provides services within the subdivision. The District would like to annex the area but reported that a major challenge to annexation is LAFCo fees.

Meadow Valley Fire Protection District



Legend

- Highways
- Major Roads
- Stream / River
- Waterbodies
- Parcels
- Sectional Grid (MDB&M)
- Fire Station
- Meadow Valley FPD
- Meadow Valley FPD Sphere of Influence
- Meadow Valley FPD Service Area



Meadow Valley FPD
Resolution:
Formed: June 7, 1955

Meadow Valley FPD (SOI)
Resolution: 83-21
Adopted: February 16, 1983

Source: Plumas LAFCo Map Modified 9/25/2013

Accountability and Governance

The principal act orders that the board of directors of a fire protection district must have an odd number of members, with a minimum of three and a maximum of 11 members. Directors may be appointed or elected.¹²³ MVFPD is governed by a three-member board of directors elected at large to staggered four-year terms. All current members were elected; there are no vacancies. Current board member names, positions, and term expiration dates are shown in Figure 9-2.

The Board meets once in a quarter. Board meetings have no specific time or place. Board meeting agendas are posted on the fire station door. Minutes of every board meeting are available upon request.

Figure: 9-2: Meadow Valley FPD Governing Body

Meadow Valley FPD				
District Contact Information				
Contact:	John DeSelle, Director			
Address:	6913 Bucks Lake Road, Meadow Valley, CA			
Telephone:	530-283-3128			
Email/website:	jdscpa@sbcglobal.net			
Board of Directors				
Member Name	Position	Term Expiration	Manner of Selection	Length of Term
Peter Beck	Chairman	December 2015	Elected	4 years
Rick Beacham	Director	December 2015	Elected	4 years
John DeSelle	Director	December 2013	Elected	4 years
Meetings				
Date:	Quarterly. There is no set date or time.			
Location:	There is no set location.			
Agenda Distribution:	Posted on the fire station door.			
Minutes Distribution:	Available upon request.			

In addition to the required agendas and minutes, the District attempts to reach its constituents by participating in community events such as the Pancake Breakfast and Fourth of July parade and BBQ, which the District sponsors. MVFPD has not had contested elections for over a decade, and the District does not conduct any voter outreach.

If a customer is dissatisfied with the District's services, complaints may be submitted to a board member or anybody at the fire department. The District does not have a formal policy regarding complaints. The person responsible for handling complaints depends on the nature of the complaint. The responsibility is delegated by the chief. The District reported that there were no complaints in 2012.

MVFPD demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with interview and document requests.

¹²³ Health and Safety Code §13842.

Planning and Management Practices

The District has 18 personnel, of whom 16 are sworn staff and the other two are a communications officer and an auxiliary staff member. None of the personnel are paid, with the exception of the chief who receives \$500 a year for travel expenses. There are one fire chief, one assistant chief, two captains, two engineers, and 10 firefighters.

Daily operations are managed by the assistant fire chief. The chief is accountable to the Board of Directors and directly oversees the assistant chief. The assistant chief is in charge of the captains, the communications officer and auxiliary staff member. The captains oversee the firefighters.

MVFPD tracks its employees' workload by tracking training time and the number of personnel responding to each call. Response times for each incident are not tracked.

MVFPD does not currently evaluate its own performance in the form of an annual report or benchmarking with other providers, but is planning to do so in the future through a strategic plan.

The District's financial planning efforts include an annually adopted budget and biennially audited financial statements. The most recent audit took place in FY 11. The District does not adopt a capital improvement plan (CIP). Currently, the District plans its capital improvements at board meetings. MVFPD is waiting to complete its strategic plan to identify the District's goals, after which the District will put together a list of infrastructure needs and funding sources. The District does not adopt any other planning documents.

Government Code §53901 states that within 60 days after the beginning of the fiscal year each local agency must submit its budget to the county auditor. These budgets are to be filed and made available on request by the public at the county auditor's office. All special districts are required to submit annual audits to the County within 12 months of the completion of the fiscal year, unless the Board of Supervisors has approved a biennial or five-year schedule.¹²⁴ The most recent audit for MVFPD was completed for FY 11. The District should ensure it is meeting the adopted audit requirements as determined by the Board of Supervisors and submitting budgets annually to the County as legally required.

Special districts must submit a report to the State Controller of all financial transactions of the district during the preceding fiscal year within 90 days after the close of each fiscal year, in the form required by the State Controller, pursuant to Government Code §53891. If filed in electronic format, the report must be submitted within 110 days after the end of the fiscal year. The District has complied with this requirement.

Existing Demand and Growth Projections

Land uses within the District are timber production zone, general forest, agricultural preserve, residential, and commercial. The District's bounds encompass approximately 34.8 square miles.

¹²⁴ Government Code §26909.

Population

There are approximately 464 residents within the District, based on census place population in the 2010 Census and GIS estimates.¹²⁵ The District's population density is approximately 13 residents per square mile; however, a majority of the District's residents are concentrated in the Meadow Valley community.

Existing Demand

The District reported that it did not have enough call volume to be able to identify peak demand hours. Calls for medical emergencies are consistently high in volume throughout the year, similar to other fire districts in the region.

The District reported that it had observed no change in service demand in the last few years. MVFPD was unable to provide service call data for 2006-2010.

Projected Growth and Development

MVFPD anticipates limited growth in service demand within the District in the next few years. A new road is being made off of Bucks Lake Road, which indicates to the District that a potential new development is being planned. Additionally, should the District annex the Bucks Lake community, there would be a larger population served and greater demand for services.

The District does not currently project service demand in its service area; however, it is trying to integrate some projections in its strategic plan, which is presently being developed.

MVFPD reported that it had sufficient capacity to serve current demand; however, serving possible future growth may be challenging if more volunteers are not recruited.

The State Department of Finance (DOF) projects that the population of Plumas County will grow by four percent in the next 10 years. Thus, the average annual population growth in the County is anticipated to be approximately 0.4 percent. Based on these projections, the District's population would increase from 464 in 2010 to approximately 483 in 2020. It is anticipated that demand for service within the District will increase minimally based on the DOF population growth projections through 2020.

Growth Strategies

The District is not a land use authority, and does not hold primary responsibility for implementing growth strategies. The land use authority for unincorporated areas is the County.

The County enforces the codes that it has enforcement power over, which does not encompass all State fire codes. The County ensures that new construction meets the requirements of the latest adopted edition of the California Building Standards. The County enforces the County codes that have been adopted in lieu of the California Fire Safe regulations. The County does not have authority to enforce PRC 4291, which requires defensible space around structures; however, the County does have some enforcement authority over vegetation removal around buildings that was adopted prior to PRC 4291.

¹²⁵ Census Place Meadow Valley in Plumas County.

In addition, the Board of Supervisors, through the adoption of the General Plan and county codes, regulates development standards to be followed in processing subdivisions, including fire protection.

The proposals for new developments are sent for review to the appropriate fire provider, if a development is within district's boundaries. The County reported that as SOI maps have not been digitized, it has been challenging to ensure that proposals go to the appropriate district if a proposed development was within that district's SOI but outside its boundaries. The County and Plumas LAFCO are working on a process to ensure that all appropriate districts are contacted for review of proposed developments.

The County has several policies in the existing general plan, which impacts the fire providers of new developments.

- 1) Turnouts are now required in every new development.¹²⁶
- 2) The County encourages development to be located adjacent to or within areas where fire services already exist or can be efficiently provided.¹²⁷
- 3) The County requires new developments within areas not currently served by a fire provider to be annexed into an existing fire district or create a funding mechanism, such as a CSD, to cover the costs of fire service provision.¹²⁸
- 4) Sustainable timber and biomass production and harvesting as well as intensive forest management practices are encouraged to reduce the danger of catastrophic wildfires.¹²⁹
- 5) There is a minimum requirement of two roadway access points, which are maintained on a year-round basis by the County or the State.¹³⁰
- 6) Minimum public and private road standards: roads providing access to two or more lots have to conform to a two-lane standard of no less than 16-foot traveled way.¹³¹
- 7) Bridges are required to be designed for an 80,000 pound vehicle load.¹³²
- 8) All access roads must be marked with an approved sign; and all lots must be identified by an address.¹³³
- 9) All developments within boundaries of a structural fire service provider may be required to contribute to the maintenance of the structural service proportionate to the increase in demand for fire service resulting from the development.¹³⁴

¹²⁶ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.604 (k).

¹²⁷ Plumas County, *General Plan*, 1984, pp. 28 & 29.

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 32.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*,

¹³² *Ibid.*

¹³³ *Ibid.*

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

10) As a condition of development it is required to provide long-term maintenance of private roads to the standards of original improvements, including roadside vegetation management.¹³⁵

11)The County encourages biomass thinning programs in high fire risk areas.¹³⁶

The County is in the final stages of updating its general plan. The suggested new policies in the General Plan update that would impact fire service providers, but had not yet been adopted as of the drafting of this report, include:

12)The County shall review and update its Fire Safe ordinance to attain and maintain defensible space though conditioning of tentative maps and in new development at the final map or building permit stage.

13)The County will consult Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps during the review of all projects. The County will work with fire protection agencies to develop community fire plans and require appropriate building setbacks and fuel modification requirements within fire hazard zones.

14)In order for the new development to be approved, the County must conclude that adequate emergency water flow, fire access and firefighters and equipment are available.

15)New developments have to show that they have adequate access for emergency vehicles to access the site and for private vehicles to evacuate the area.

16)New developments within high and very high fire hazard areas are required to designate fuel break zones that comply with fire safe requirements.

17)The County will work with Forest Service and fire districts in developing fire prevention programs, identifying opportunities for fuel breaks in zones of high and very high fire hazard and educating public.

18)Fire, law enforcement, EMS, resource management, and public health response partners are encouraged to conduct joint training exercises.¹³⁷

The County has not adopted the new standards for development yet. The revised General Plan may be adopted in 2013. County zoning code will then go through a revision process in order for the zoning code to implement the General Plan.

Not all private property in Plumas County is located within a local structural fire protection district. This issue has been well-documented in Board of Supervisor reports and correspondence, newspaper articles, and former Grand Jury reports. Identifying and reducing the number of such parcels has been the task of local fire districts, county staff, the feasibility study group and volunteer groups who collectively have spent countless hours quantifying the problem, educating the public, and encouraging solutions.

Over the past few years, these efforts have been very successful. A summary of the activities and their impacts are listed to help solve this important problem:

¹³⁵ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.601.

¹³⁶ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 4 Section 4-2.101.

¹³⁷ Plumas County General Plan, Draft Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures, 2010.

- ❖ Updated General Plan Policies: The updated General Plan will require fire protection for any new development, preventing the number of parcels outside a fire district from increasing and encouraging annexations.
- ❖ Building Permit Review: Applications for new construction are reviewed by County staff to determine if the property is outside a district. Permit applicants are provided a resources and a handout on what it means to be outside a district.
- ❖ GIS Website Update: The Planning Department's GIS data on fire district boundaries is now available on the County's website, making it easy for fire districts and the public to determine whether a parcel is within a district.
- ❖ District Sphere of Influence Updates: The Local Agency Formation Commission continues work on updating fire districts' spheres of influence. These spheres indicate areas of likely district growth and serve as a blue print for possible future district annexations.
- ❖ Fire Protection Communication Plan: Completed in August 2012, the Fire Protection Communication Plan is a comprehensive tool to guide fire districts through the process of educating the public and gaining support for service agreements or annexations.
- ❖ Close-of-Escrow Notification on Fire District Status: As directed at the October 2, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting, County staff is investigating options for escrow notification of property buyers regarding fire district status.
- ❖ Firewise and Fire Safe Communities Development: The Plumas County Fire Prevention Specialist continues working throughout the County to encourage firewise and fire safe activities to reduce the risk and consequences from wildfire.

With regard to possible governance structure alternatives, the District reported that it had not considered consolidation with other districts. There is the potential of MVFPD annexing the Bucks Lake community; however, the District reported that LAFCo fees may deter annexation.

Financing

The District reported that current financing levels were adequate to cover operations but not for necessary capital improvements. MVFPD reported that it could not finance its capital improvement needs, because the District could not service the required debt with only property tax revenue. In the past, the District received a number of donations, but due to the economic downturn, donations have dramatically declined.

To improve its level of financing, the District is looking into applying for more grants.

The District's total revenue for FY 12 was \$60,073. Sources of revenue included property taxes (89 percent), interest (one percent), rental income (three percent), donations (one percent), Evening on the Green fundraiser (three percent), craft fair (one percent), calendar sales (one percent), and state homeowner's property tax (one percent).

The District's principal source of funds is derived from property taxes levied by Plumas County. MVFPD does not collect any special taxes or benefit assessments.

MVFPD's expenditures in FY 12 amounted to \$63,927. Primary expenditures were depreciation (36 percent), utilities (17 percent), worker's compensation insurance (11 percent), insurance (10 percent), professional services (eight percent), maintenance of buildings and grounds (six percent), vehicle fuel (two percent), truck maintenance (two percent), and tax administration fees (two percent). The remainder was spent on wages, clothing, communications, equipment maintenance, office expenses, training, travel, newspaper advertising, fire calls, and fire equipment.

The District performs capital improvement planning as needed. The District is planning to conduct capital improvement planning after the strategic plan is finished. MVFPD reported that its fire station was in need of replacement. It was estimated that a new station would cost approximately \$500,000.

MVFPD has a management practice to maintain a financial reserve. The District puts away about \$10,000 per year. At the end of FY 12, the reserve had a balance of \$195,760.

The District does not have any long-term debt.

The District does not participate in any joint financing ventures under joint powers agreements.

FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

Service Overview

MVFPD provides structural and wildland fire suppression, vehicle rescue in conjunction with Plumas County Search and Rescue, emergency medical services, medical first responder services, public assists, and some fire prevention in the form of handouts and signage.

The District provides contract services to other agencies. MVFPD contracts with and gets reimbursed from the California Office of Emergency Services and California Emergency Management Agency.

Collaboration

MVFPD has an automatic aid agreement with Quincy FPD, according to which QFPD responds in MVFPD's service area as needed Monday through Friday, from eight in the morning to five in the afternoon. The District also has an automatic aid agreement with the Bucks Lake Homeowners Association Fire Department to respond within the Bucks Lake community as needed, particularly in winter months. The District has mutual aid agreements with all other local fire providers in Plumas County.

MVFPD is a member of the Fire Safe Council and the Fire Chiefs Association.

Dispatch and Communications

The County Sheriff is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP); consequently, most land line emergency calls (9-1-1 calls) are directed to the Sheriff. Most cell phone emergency calls (9-1-1 calls) are answered by the Sheriff's Office; however, some are answered by CHP and redirected to the Sheriff. The Sheriff provides dispatching for most fire providers in the County except for the ones in northern part of the County, which are served by the Susanville Interagency Fire Center. The Forest Service has its own dispatch. The sheriff dispatch center has a first responder map, which it uses to identify what provider to dispatch to an incident. All territory within the County has a determined first responder; although, many areas lie outside the LAFCo approved boundary of the districts and lack an officially designated fire provider.

The District reported that it was satisfied with the dispatch services as provided by the sheriff's office.

Staffing

MVFPD has 16 sworn personnel—one fire chief, one assistant chief, two captains, two engineers, and 10 firefighters. None of the staff is paid. The median age of the firefighters is 50, with a range from 19 to 74.

The District reports that its staffing levels have not changed significantly in the last few years. MVFPD attempts to recruit more volunteers through posters and via word of mouth. In addition, the Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association is working to assist fire departments in the County in their recruitment efforts.

Currently, there are three certifications in the California firefighter series; Volunteer Firefighter, Firefighter I, and Firefighter II. While the Volunteer Firefighter focuses on skills and tasks necessary to assure safety on the fire ground, Firefighter I & II prepares the fire fighter to perform essential and advanced fireground tasks as well as allowing entry into all tracks of the certification system. According to the California State Fire Marshal, all paid, volunteer and call firefighters must acquire Firefighter I certification; however, there is no time limit as to how long they may work before attaining certification. Firefighter I certification requires completion of the 259-hour Firefighter I course, which includes training on various fireground tasks, rescue operations, fire prevention and investigation techniques, and inspection and maintenance of equipment. In addition to this course, Firefighter I certification also requires that the applicant have a minimum of six months of volunteer or call experience in a California fire department as a firefighter performing suppression duties.¹³⁸ MVFPD has one Firefighter I, seven First Responder, and no EMT I certified personnel.

The District provides training for its volunteers. Regular training sessions take place on two Tuesdays of each month for two hours each time. New district volunteers, without previous firefighter experience, must attend a firefighter academy organized by Quincy FPD. The District reported that its primary challenge is obtaining time commitments from its volunteers.

Facilities and Capacity

MVFPD operates one fire station located at 6913 Bucks Lake Road. The original portion of the fire station was built in 1964. The second building was constructed in 1981, and the two joined together in 1999. The station is not staffed and was reported to be in fair condition. MVFPD currently has six operable vehicles that consist of a rescue/medical aid unit, a brush (wildland fire) rig, two type 2 engines, and two water tenders. The station grounds are occasionally used to park Plumas County road maintenance equipment. The administrative area of the fire station is used for periodic Meadow Valley Cemetery District meetings at no charge. The District also owns the property commonly called Schoolhouse, which is used as a community center and located at 7512 Bucks Lake Road.

The District's water reserves are represented by water storage tanks located behind the fire station that hold up to 6,000 gallons. MVFPD's mobile water tenders have a combined capacity of 6,800 gallons. The District has access to one hydrant on a private water system, which does not have any water storage. MVFPD can also draft water from a number of ditches, streams and ponds.

Currently, the District has sufficient capacity to provide adequate services within its service area; however, future growth may present a problem, if MVFPD does not recruit more personnel.

¹³⁸ State Fire Marshal, Course Information and Required Materials, 2007, p. 44

Infrastructure Needs

The District reported that it either needed to upgrade or replace its existing fire station. The current station's bays are too narrow, short and low to accommodate newer vehicles. To date, MVFPD has not upgraded or replaced its station, due to lack of funding.

The District also has multiple vehicle needs. MVFPD would like to replace its type 2 engines with type 1 engines that are able to carry five to six firefighters. The District also needs vehicles with 1,000-gallon water storage; however, these vehicles would not be able to fit into the existing station.

Challenges

The District's main challenge is lack of funding for needed capital improvements. In addition, MVFPD has difficulty providing fire services to the Toll Gate area, due to the steepness of the road. Other challenges include narrow access roads in select areas, difficulty in the winter due to accumulation of snow, and lack of available personnel during work hours.

Service Adequacy

While there are several benchmarks that may define the level of fire service provided by an agency, indicators of service adequacy discussed here include ISO ratings, response times, and level of staffing and station resources for the service area.

Fire services in the communities are classified by the Insurance Service Office (ISO), an advisory organization. This classification indicates the general adequacy of coverage, with classes ranking from 1 to 10. Communities with the best fire department facilities, systems for water distribution, fire alarms and communications, and equipment and personnel receive a rating of 1. MVFPD has an ISO rating of 8B. The District was last evaluated in 2010.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has issued a performance standard for volunteer and combination fire departments (NFPA 1720). This standard, among other guidelines, identifies target response time performance for structure fires. The response time is measured from the completion of the dispatch notification to the arrival time of the first-responder at the scene. Though not a legal mandate, NFPA 1720 does provide a useful benchmark against which to measure fire department performance. NFPA 1720 recommends that the response times for structure fire be nine minutes in urban demand zones at least 90 percent of the time, 10 minutes in suburban zones at least 80 percent of the time and 14 minutes in rural zones at least 80 percent of the time. Response times in remote zones are directly dependent on travel distances.¹³⁹ MVFPD falls under the definition of a rural demand zone.

Emergency response time standards vary by level of urbanization of an area: the more urban an area, the faster a response has to be. The California EMS Agency established the

¹³⁹ Urban demand zone has population density of more than 1,000 people per square mile; suburban zone—between 500 and 1,000 people per square mile, rural zone—less than 500 people per square mile, and remote zone is identified by eight or more miles of travel distance to an incident.

following response time guidelines: five minutes in urban areas, 15 minutes in suburban or rural areas, and as quickly as possible in wildland areas. The District's response zones include rural and wilderness classifications. The District reportedly tracks its response times for each incident. MVFPD provided a sample of service calls and response times for August 2012; however, this sample consisted of only one call, which had a response time of 10 minutes. The provided sample was not large enough to determine the District's median and 90th percentile response times.

The service area size¹⁴⁰ for each fire station varies between fire districts. The median fire station in Plumas County serves approximately eight square miles. A station in La Porte FPD services the most expansive area of 151 square miles. Densely populated areas tend to have smaller service areas. For example, the average service area for Quincy FPD's fire station is six square miles. By comparison, each fire station in MVFPD serves approximately 44.6 square miles.

The number of firefighters serving within a particular jurisdiction is another indicator of level of service; however, it is approximate. The providers' call firefighters may have differing availability and reliability. A district with more firefighters could have fewer resources if scheduling availability is restricted. Staffing levels in Plumas County vary from nine call firefighters per 1,000 residents in Quincy FPD service area to 231 in La Porte FPD. By comparison, MVFPD has approximately 37 firefighters per 1,000 residents.

¹⁴⁰ Service area refers to the area that the agency will respond to, based on a first responder map used by the Sherriff's office.

Figure 9-3: Meadow Valley FPD Service Profile

Fire Service					
Facilities					
Firestation	Location	Condition	Staff per Shift	Vehicles	
MVFPD Station	6913 Bucks Lake Road, Meadow Valley, CA	Fair	Unstaffed	Rescue/medical aid unit, a brush (wildland fire) rig, 2 type 2 engines, and 2 water tenders.	
Facility Sharing					
Current Practices: The District's Schoolhouse is available for community events. The fire station grounds are occasionally used to park Plumas County road maintenance equipment. The administrative area of the fire station is used for periodic Meadow Valley Cemetery District meetings at no charge.					
Future opportunities: The District did not report any future opportunities to share facilities with other entities.					
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies					
The District's fire station is in need of replacement or expansion. MVFPD also needs type 1 engines that would carry 5-6 firefighters. There is also a need for vehicles with 1,000-gallon water storage.					
District Resource Statistics		Service Configuration		Service Demand	
Staffing Base Year	2012	Configuration Base Year	2012	Statistical Base Year	2011
Fire Stations in District	1	Fire Suppression	Direct	Total Service Calls	26
Stations Serving District	1	EMS	Direct	% EMS	62%
Sq. Miles Served per Station ¹	44.6	Ambulance Transport	PHD	% Fire/Hazardous Materials	15%
Total Staff ²	18	Hazardous Materials	QFPD	% False	8%
Total Full-time Firefighters	0	Air Rescue/Ambulance Helicopter	CHP	% Misc. emergency	8%
Total Call Firefighters	16	Fire Suppression Helicopter	USFS	% Non-emergency	8%
Total Sworn Staff per Station ³	16	Public Safety Answering Point	Sheriff	% Mutual Aid Calls	0%
Total Sworn Staff per 1,000	34	Fire/EMS Dispatch	Sheriff	Calls per 1,000 people	56
Service Adequacy			Service Challenges		
Response Time Base Year	2012 (August)	The District lacks funding for capital improvements. MVFPD also reported that there are areas in its service area which are hard to serve because of narrow, steep roads especially in winter.			
Median Response Time (min)	N/P	Training			
90th Percentile Response Time (min)	N/P	Training takes place two Tuesdays a month for two hours each time. New volunteers must attend QFPD firefighter academy.			
ISO Rating	8B (2010)				
Mutual & Automatic Aid Agreements					
The District has automatic aid agreement with QFPD according to which QFPD responds in MVFPD Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm, automatic aid agreement with Bucks Lake HOA to respond in Bucks Lake, and mutual aid agreements with the rest of the local fire service providers in Plumas County.					
Notes: 1) Primary service area (square miles) per station. 2) Total staff includes sworn and non-sworn personnel. 3) Based on ratio of sworn full-time and call staff to the number of stations. Actual staffing levels of each station vary.					

MEADOW VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DETERMINATIONS

Growth and Population Projections

- ❖ Meadow Valley Fire Protection District (MVFPD) had a population of approximately 464 as of 2010.
- ❖ The District reported that it had observed no change in service demand in the last few years.
- ❖ MVFPD anticipates limited growth in service demand within the District in the next few years. There is a potential development on the Bucks Lake Road. Additional growth may also result from the annexation of the Bucks Lake community.

The Location and Characteristics of Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Agency's SOI

- ❖ The population threshold by which Plumas LAFCo will define a community is yet to be determined. Specific disadvantaged unincorporated communities and characteristics of the communities will be identified when appropriate as other areas are to be annexed to the District.

Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

- ❖ Currently, the District's facilities appear to have sufficient capacity to provide adequate services to existing demand. Future growth areas, however, may present a problem if more volunteers are not recruited. It was not possible to be determined whether current response times meet California EMS Agency and NFPA standards for response to medical emergencies and structural fires respectively because the District was unable to provide sufficient call sample.
- ❖ The District needs to upgrade or replace its existing fire station and replace and purchase multiple vehicles. These capital needs have not been fulfilled for the lack of funding.
- ❖ The District does not adopt a capital improvement plan (CIP). Currently, the District plans its capital improvements at board meetings. MVFPD is waiting to complete its strategic plan to identify the District's goals, after which the District will put together a list of infrastructure needs and funding sources.
- ❖ MVFPD services appear to be adequate. Based on a single call sample, the District has adequate response times. ISO is high compared to urban service providers, but similar to rural providers and those in the County.

Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

- ❖ The District reported that current financing levels were adequate to cover operations but not for necessary capital improvements. MVFPD reported that it could not finance its capital improvement needs, because the District could not service the required debt with only property tax revenue.
- ❖ To improve its level of financing, the District is looking into applying for more grants.
- ❖ The District's principal source of funds is derived from property taxes levied by Plumas County. MVFPD does not collect any special taxes or benefit assessments.
- ❖ MVFPD has a management practice to maintain a financial reserve. The District puts away about \$10,000 per year. At the end of FY 12, the reserve had a balance of \$195,760.
- ❖ The District does not have any long-term debt.

Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

- ❖ MVFPD has an automatic aid agreement with Quincy FPD, according to which QFPD responds in MVFPD's service area as needed Monday through Friday, from eight in the morning to five in the afternoon.
- ❖ The District has an automatic aid agreement with the Bucks Lake Homeowners Association Fire Department to respond within the Bucks Lake community as needed, particularly in winter months.
- ❖ MVFPD has mutual aid agreements with all other local fire providers in Plumas County.
- ❖ MVFPD is a member of the Fire Safe Council and the Fire Chiefs Association.

Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

- ❖ MVFPD demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with the document requests.
- ❖ Although MVFPD practices some constituent outreach efforts, the District does not conduct any voter outreach and has not had contested elections for over a decade. The District lacks a website where district information is made available to the public. It is recommended that every public service provider have a website to keep constituents aware of the agency's activities.
- ❖ With regard to possible governance structure alternatives, the District reported that it had not considered consolidation with other districts. There is the potential of MVFPD annexing the Bucks Lake community; however, the District reported that LAFCo fees may deter annexation.