



Hurricane Valley Fire District



Message from the Chief

I am privileged to present the 2022 annual report on behalf of the women and men of the Hurricane Valley Fire SSD. Our mission is to prevent, prepare for, and provide emergency response in a respectful, professional manner. We achieved this through the exceptional service provided to the communities and individuals we serve.

This annual report will highlight the challenges, successes, and achievements of the past year. It is my hope that the facts, figures, and achievements outlined will paint a proper picture of the challenges and successes of providing all hazard emergency services to an area that serves as the world's playground. The communities we serve draw over six million visitors a year who come to recreate in our world-renowned state and national parks along with the surrounding recreational areas. The influx of visitors who discovered our valley when other areas closed due to a pandemic have not gone home and we continue to be the fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States.

We remain committed to providing exceptional emergency services while working with our legislators and others to find new, creative, and more cost-effective ways of providing these services while decreasing the fiscal impact on our residents. It is our privilege to serve you as we strive to prevent, prepare for, and respond to all hazard safety needs of our community.

Tom Kuhlmann

Fire Chief of the Hurricane Valley Fire District



Hurricane Valley Fire District

Who We Are

As our name indicates, our firefighters protect our communities from fire danger – we responded to 467 fire-related calls in 2022. But did you know we also...

- Provide emergency medical services by trained paramedics and medical technicians
- Provide ambulance transportation to our hospitals (we helped with a total of 3140 medical-related calls in 2022)
- Provide standby services for over 60 events a year, including last year's Redbull Rampage and the Ironman World Championship
- Efficiently evacuate areas in danger, like when gas lines are struck
- Provide emergency services to remote areas with our OHVs (Humvee and Ranger)
- Are certified to train new recruits in the Hurricane Valley Fire Academy to continue improving the coverage and speed of emergency responses across the District

Don't let the name fool you - our brave group of frontline workers do much more than expertly fight fires. These men and women work hard to keep us all safe, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – when every second counts.



Current State of Affairs

Both population and visitation have nearly tripled since the origin of the fire District. The pandemic in particular, increased the load on the fire department.

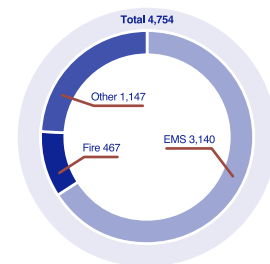
	Population	Visitors	Total	Districts
2007	18,828	2,657,281	2,676,109	Hurricane, LaVerkin, Toquerville and Virgin
2008	19,293	2,690,154	2,709,447	
2009	19,377	2,735,402	2,754,779	
2010	19,235	2,961,572	2,980,807	
2011	19,510	3,081,562	3,101,072	
2012	19,853	3,255,954	3,275,807	
2013	20,127	3,091,791	3,111,918	
2014	20,634	3,556,475	3,577,109	
2015	22,041	4,075,298	4,097,339	Added Leeds
2016	22,835	4,811,296	4,834,131	
2017	24,022	4,811,296	5,211,640	
2018	26,701	5,228,476	5,255,177	Added Rockville and Springdale
2019	27,750	5,522,159	5,549,909	
2020	28,654	5,202,211	5,230,865	
2021	30,536	7,000,520	7,031,056	
2022	33,590	6,064,826	6,098,415	

More people equals more emergencies.

The District's call volume has steadily increased, but with the addition of more full-time firefighters, our response times have shortened significantly. The national standard for response times in rural areas is 8 minutes.

	Call Volume	Response Time Average
2016	2,556	11:09
2017	2,840	10:18
2018	3,248	8:50
2019	3,572	8:41
2020	4,036	9:42
2021	4,431	9:26
2022	4,750	8:39

2022 Call Breakdown



* Other calls include service calls, good intent calls, hazardous conditions, overpressure or rupture/explosion calls, false alarms, hazardous conditions, etc.

In 2021, the need for more qualified fire fighters inspired the development of the academy. Of 22 recruits, 20 graduated and were placed in stations in the District. The District now has three fully staffed stations (two in Hurricane and one in LaVerkin). Since the graduation of the first class, not a single structure in the District has burned fully to the ground!



Supporting Our Workers

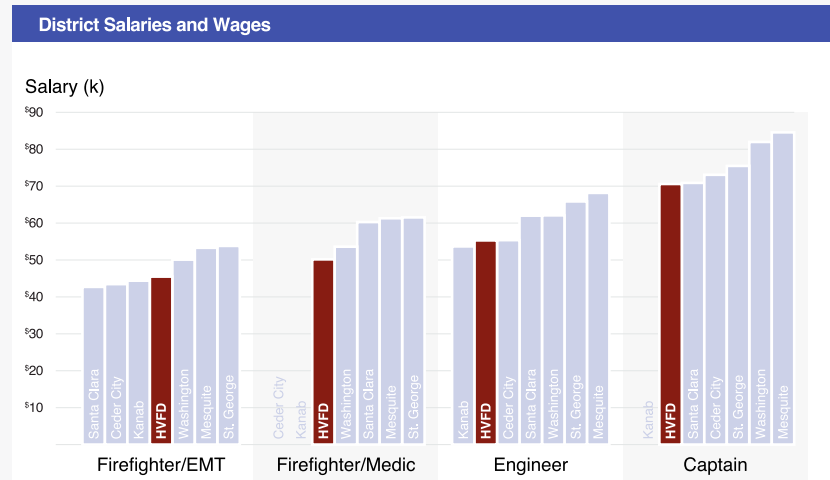
Brain cells begin dying after only 5 minutes of being deprived of oxygen.

This can be a result of heart attacks, drowning, strokes, choking, or smoke inhalation in a fire.

Speed of emergency services is our top priority.

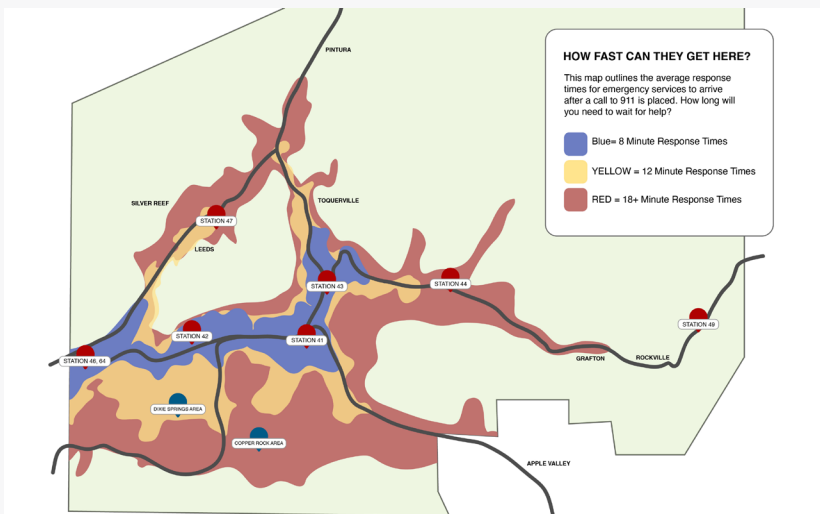
(Annals of Emergency Medicine)

The District strives to offer adequate pay for our employees. However, in comparing our pay rates to the regional fire departments, we are struggling to remain competitive. In fact, many of our previous firefighters have left the District to work for higher paying areas. This leaves our community vulnerable, as we endure a large turnover rate. The ability to adjust our pay scale is a must in the future.



How fast can they get here?

This map outlines the average response times for emergency services to arrive after a call to 911 is placed. How long will you need to wait for help?



The district's ongoing goal is to decrease response times to save as many lives as possible. Ideally, each station should have 5 firefighters on duty at any given time: 3 in the firetruck and 2 in the ambulance.

Currently, 50.8% of calls cannot be responded to by the primary station because staff are already on a call. This adds to response times significantly, increasing risk to our citizens. HVFD believes the safety of our residents should keep pace with the growth in both residents and visitors in the District. HVFD growth is paramount.



The District's Future Plans

To keep up with the growth in our communities, here is what Hurricane Valley Fire District is preparing to...

Add an additional fighter to Springdale (currently only 2 firefighters on staff)

- Increases shift personnel to 3
- Allows for immediate medical transport when needed (2 are required by law, leaving one still on scene), and allows for immediate action at fires without delay waiting for backup

Build a new station in Dixie Springs (Begin construction in 2024, to be opened in 2025)

- Full-time station, fully equipped and staffed
- Currently has no fire station that can respond in less than 20 minutes
- Population of 3,000+ and growing, with over 5,000 homes approved for construction
- Two popular golf courses attract many visitors
- The District desires to serve outlying and growing communities with the same quality of care as more populated regions



Relocate Station 41 in Hurricane (Begin construction in 2024, to be opened in 2025)

- Current location is on the Hurricane Fault
- Moving the station to the west will help improve response times to rapidly growing areas
- Current building is aging and not large enough to accommodate needs, resulting in slower response times



Build a new station in Virgin (2026)

- Geographically strategic location for better service
- Better service to compensate increased visitation to the area
- Lifts strain on Springdale's station

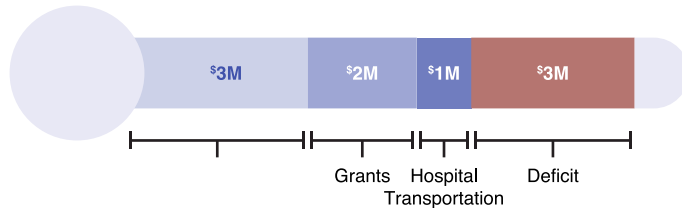


Financial Structure and Proposal

For the last 16 years, property tax, grants, and medical services income have been used to fund the District. This method of funding has put financial strain on both the District and its citizens. We propose a new funding model that will shift much of the burden to our visitors and reduce costs for local residents.



Revenue Streams & Spending for 2022 & 2023

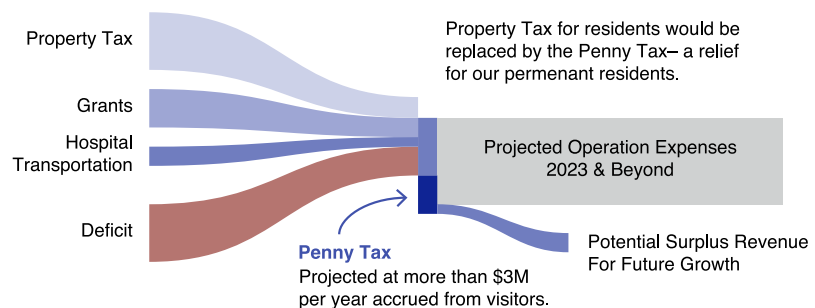


The District supplements its budget by providing emergency medical services and transportation to hospitals (rather than outsourcing the service to another company). When the patient's insurance is billed, the District is paid for the transportation and medical services administered while on route to the hospital. This has been an important source of revenue for our District and we plan to continue the program indefinitely.

Proposed new model: "Give a Penny" Sales Tax

For only a penny on the dollar of purchases made within the District (excluding groceries and fuel), the cost of protecting the community will be shared with the millions of visitors that fuel our economy. This will help provide the financial resources needed to ensure the quality of emergency care our residents and visitors need.

Revenue & Spending



Potential Impact

Statistics show:

For every minute between a 911 call and the arrival of an ambulance, the average risk increases:

Death **+7%**

Traumatic Injury **+8%**

Heart Attack **+10%**

(medlineplus.com)

What is the impact of visitors on emergency services?

Visitors account for 20% of all District emergency calls and 44% of the rural emergency calls in 2022. The Give a Penny sales tax would ensure visitors help pay for the services and ease the financial burden on residents.

How much do visitors spend?

Washington County reported that in 2022, domestic visitors spent \$1.17B and the return of international travel brought in \$27.96M to the county!

Within the Hurricane Valley Fire District, the Give a Penny sales tax would have raised over \$9M in 2022. If that continues in 2024, and adding in grants and medical services income, the District would be able to restore their reserves and fund necessary projects for the safety of our community.

How else will improved coverage and funding changes benefit our communities?

- Lower cost per-household for emergency services
- Lower property taxes
- Limited fire damage and loss of life
- Statistically lower homeowners insurance prices
- Statistically lower crime rates around the fire stations
- Earlier response to medical emergencies can reduce overall medical costs

Help us help you!

The Hurricane Valley Fire District selflessly risks their lives for the men, women, and children of our communities everyday. We are here to serve.

