

**NEVADA COUNTY CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICT NEEDS  
THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE BANNER MOUNTAIN HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION  
ON THE FIRE MEASURE**

The ongoing economic meltdown has created lots of pain in Nevada County -- including job loss, reduction in wages, and a drastic devaluation of local property values.

For many, the decline in property values has resulted in sizeable reductions in property taxes. Although good for the property owner, this devaluation has resulted in millions of dollars of lost revenue to fund desperately needed basic services, including fire protection, medical and multi-hazard emergency responses.

Nevada County Consolidated Fire District (NCCFD) is responsible for providing emergency services within 150 square miles of Western Nevada County serving about 35,000 residents. **Last year, NCCFD's personnel responded to over 5,200 emergency calls for help!**

Because of property reevaluation, **NCCFD HAS LOST \$260,000 IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUE PER YEAR SINCE 2009.** Additionally, annual revenues from new home construction and commercial **MITIGATION FEES HAVE DROPPED \$320,000 SINCE 2006.** At the same time that revenues have substantially decreased, the District's workman's compensation, health insurance, and other major cost items have dramatically increased.

To maintain emergency services, all of the District's personnel have worked diligently with the District's elected Board of Directors to reduce costs everywhere possible. This includes District employees voluntarily eliminating salary increases and other concessions, which results in a 7% cut in salaries as well paying for a larger portion of their medical benefits. Many other cost saving initiatives have been aggressively implemented during the past three years to reduce operating costs throughout the District.

Two years ago the District opted not to replace emergency personnel lost to attrition, which included one Battalion Chief and three firefighters. Unfortunately, by August of this year, it became impossible for NCCFD to consistently staff emergency personnel twenty-four hours a day on all of our first-out fire engines. This resulted in rotating station closings ("brown outs") of three of fire stations and a decrease of available emergency resources.

In November, the NCCFD Board of Directors reluctantly decided they had to ask the citizens of the District to help restore the revenues lost over the past years and tell us what level of emergency services they would like the District to provide in the future. In early February, all registered voters within the District will receive a mail-in ballot asking them to support a small, additional assessment on their property. The size of this new assessment varies by the type of property as outlined below:

PROPERTY TYPE		RATE
Residential Dwelling Unit	\$52.00	for the first dwelling unit
Residential Dwelling Units (if more than 1 unit)	\$39.00	for each additional dwelling
Mobile Homes	\$39.00	per unit
Unimproved Property	\$26.00	per parcel
Commercial, Industrial, Office, Recreational Property	\$00.04	per square foot
Commercial with sprinklers installed	\$00.02	per square foot

**Ballots will be received in the mail around February 8<sup>th</sup>, and must be returned by mail by March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to be counted. THIS MEASURE WILL ONLY BECOME LAW IF 67% OF THE VOTERS APPROVE IT. YOUR YES VOTE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, if you want the District to maintain its existing level of emergency services.**

**Without the passing of this Fire Measure, further cuts of existing emergency personnel will be implemented immediately. Such cuts will significantly reduce the number of emergency personnel responding to 911 calls and increase the overall time it takes us to get to you. In an "extremely high fire danger area" like Nevada County, minutes can make the difference between a minor house fire and a raging wildland fire. In a Medical Emergency, such as a heart attack or stroke, fast response times dramatically help us in saving the lives of your loved ones.**

For less than a cup of coffee a week, voters can secure and maintain the existing, quality emergency response service they desire and deserve. **All monies raised from this Fire Measure will stay within the District and can only be used for local Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Response Services. Neither the County nor the State can appropriate this money for any other purpose.** In addition, annual financial audits are required with annual public hearings held by the District for its Constituents.

Nevada County Consolidated Fire District has consistently provided “excellence in emergency services” to our County Residents. We strongly urge you to **VOTE YES ON THE TAX MEASURE, which will enable us to continue to provide the vital services we all need.** Additional information is available on our website at: [nccfire.com](http://nccfire.com) or contact us by phone at 273-3158. We look forward to answering any and all questions you may have regarding the Fire Measure.

David Hanson has been Chairman of the Board of the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District for the past year. Together, he and the other elected Directors of the District have over 100 years of combined experience managing Fire Districts.