



# FUNDING FIREFIGHTING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

## Lakeside Fire Protection District Always Available. Always Ready.

Lakeside Fire Protection District provides firefighting and paramedic service to **more than 65,500 people** in unincorporated San Diego County adjacent to El Cajon and Santee. We serve the communities of Lakeside, Johnstown, Blossom Valley, Flinn Springs, Pepper Drive, Eucalyptus Hills, Wildcat Canyon, and other areas of unincorporated El Cajon.



Lakeside Fire Protection District maintains four fire stations and a **full-time staff of 57**. Last year, Lakeside Fire Protection District responded to **9,611 calls** for fires, medical aid, traffic collisions and more. Lakeside Fire Protection District is a community partner, hosting a reserve firefighter program, a logistics volunteer group, and a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Lakeside Fire Protection District is funded primarily through property taxes and a benefit fee. A small percentage of Lakeside Fire Protection District's revenue comes from mitigation fees, pass-thru revenue from the County for debt services, grants, interest, first responder reimbursement, and leases.



### Rising costs of service

Lakeside Fire Protection District **has not increased its benefit fee in 40 years**. The initial benefit fee supplanted the loss of revenue as a resultant of Prop-13. Lakeside Fire Protection District had to lay off firefighters post Prop-13. Then the State implemented ERAF (Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds) and Lakeside Fire Protection District lost another 24% of its property tax revenue to schools which continues to today.

Over these 40 years, the inflation that has impacted the fiscal stability of the Lakeside Fire Protection District, coupled with the significant increase in service demands and emergency responses, has created a situation where Lakeside Fire Protection District **will NOT be able to meet its service and fiscal demands** in the very near future.

### Generating revenue through a fire protection assessment

Property owners served by Lakeside Fire Protection District will be asked to vote on an amended special tax (benefit fee) in the **November 3, 2020**, general election.

If two-thirds of voters approve the measure, the existing benefit fee of **\$10 per benefit unit** per year would be replaced with a benefit fee of **\$25 per benefit unit**, generating enough revenue to cover the costs of fire protection services and capital improvements.

### What is a benefit unit?



A benefit unit is the unit of measure used to define the ability to produce 200 gallons per minute on the fire ground with the associated personnel, equipment, apparatus, and resources necessary to do so in compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 recommendations. Benefit units are assigned to each assessor's parcel based on its use and potential impact to the fire protection system. For example, a single-family residence is four benefit units.



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## How would an assessment raise revenue?

If approved by voters, a benefit fee would be collected on property tax bills for all parcels in the Lakeside Fire Protection District. It would be adjusted for cost of living **up to 2% per year**.



## How would this change impact me?

Subject to approval by voters, the benefit fee would appear on property tax rolls as early as fiscal year 2021-2022.

PARCEL TYPE	CURRENT ANNUAL (\$10 per benefit unit)	PROPOSED (\$25 per benefit unit)
Single-family residence (per dwelling unit)	\$40	\$100
Unimproved (per acre)	\$20	\$50
Farm	\$40	\$100
Multi-family/mobile homes (per dwelling unit)	\$30/\$20	\$75
Commercial	\$100	\$250
Industrial	\$200	\$500

## Quick facts



At least **50% of the annual revenues** raised by the benefit fee would be earmarked for capital projects such as fire station improvements, purchase of apparatus and equipment.



Lakeside Fire Protection District is anticipating a **shortfall of nearly \$453,000** this fiscal year due to projected revenue decreases from the COVID-19 pandemic. Lakeside Fire Protection District transferred money from its reserve fund to cover expenses for 2020-2021.



Revenues would be used for **fire prevention services and programs, firefighting, rescue, ambulance, and emergency medical services, hazardous materials incident response, and staffing.**



The benefit fee would raise **\$2.48 million annually** (an additional \$1.56 million annually) to maintain and improve services.



## Community meetings

Lakeside Fire Protection District is interested in hearing from the public about this issue. Three community meetings will be held to answer questions about the proposed benefit fee and gather input on capital project priorities.

### Dates + Times:

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 • 2 p.m.  
Thursday, September 10, 2020 • 6 p.m.  
Saturday, September 12, 2020 • 11 a.m.

### Zoom meeting log-in info:

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88390328815?pwd=TTQ0cHZLN0l1NXJmTmQ5b0tGdXhXQT09>

Meeting ID: 883 9032 8815  
Passcode: Lakeside20

**One tap mobile:**  
+16699009128

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/krHK5DdqA>

Meeting ID: 883 9032 8815  
Passcode: 3939307389

**WE WELCOME YOUR QUESTIONS!** If you have additional questions or would like to set up a one-on-one meeting with District staff, please contact Janise Bocskovits at [jbocskovits@lakesidefire.org](mailto:jbocskovits@lakesidefire.org) or call (619) 390-2350 ext 002.