San Diego County
Fire Protection District

District Background

The San Diego County Fire Protection District (FPD), previously known as the San Diego County Regional Fire Authority, provides structural fire protection, advanced life support-level (ALS) and emergency medical services (EMS) within an approximate 2,495 square miles of unincorporated territory through the county and primarily in East County San Diego.

District Characteristics

Principal Act:	Health and Safety Code § 13800 et seq.
Services:	Structural fire protection Advanced life support EMS
Fire Stations:	35 unincorporated fire stations Fire Stations (sandiegocounty.gov)
Estimated Population:	24,747 (2020 LAFCO)
ISO:	Class 3/3x
Dispatch:	CAL FIRE
Ambulance Transport:	American Medical Response (AMR)
District Area:	2,495 square miles
Sphere: of Influence:	Coterminous with district
Sphere Adopted:	October 5, 2020
Revenue Sources:	Property tax, voter-approved assessment
Governance:	County Board of Supervisors
Board Meeting:	Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 9:00 a.m. 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 310 San Diego, CA 92101
Contact:	Fire@sdcounty.ca.gov 5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92123 858-974-5999
View Map:	sdlafco.org/Webpages/agency_maps_links.htm

The San Diego County FPD was formed in 2008 to unify the administrative support and operations of 15 rural fire agencies across the approximate 1.5 millions unincorporated acres throughout San Diego County. By 2012, the County of San Diego had identified and implemented several policies to expand the services provided to East County residents. Namely, five County Service Areas (CSAs) and two fire protection districts were dissolved and reorganized into the San Diego County Regional Fire Authority in order to consolidate East County fire protection services into one agency. Moreover, emergency medical services as well as fire protection were starting to be provided by Volunteer Reserve Firefighters in a select few County-funded fire stations.

By 2013, the County started to experience a severe shortage of participants in the Volunteer Reserves program, so it struggled to regularly staff stations, which led to the San Diego County Regional Fire Authority adding Advanced Life Support staffing to 10 fire stations. By the end of 2018, the organization had successfully expanded its services to communities that had previously only received part-time, on call protection from Volunteer Firefighters.

In 2020, San Diego County LAFCO approved a reorganization proposal filed by resolution of the County of San Diego to transition fire protection and emergency medical services provided by the County Fire Authority into a new dependent special district. The proposal involved the divestment of CSA No. 135 of its fire protection and emergency medical function, and the San Diego County FPD was concurrently formed as successor agency.

In this 2020 reorganization, two concurrent sphere of influence updates were made. The first amended CSA No. 135's sphere of influence to remove the fire protection and emergency. The second adopted a sphere of influence to compliment the formation of the San Diego County FPD.

The San Diego County FPD is a dependent district, which is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. The FPD is administered and operated by the County Fire Director and Fire Chief. The San Diego FPD also works in unison with State-run CALFIRE, which helps staff County-owned fire stations with personnel and provides services from 17 of their own fire stations in unincorporated East County.