

PAID-CALL FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

The Fresno County Fire Protection District (District) employs a professionally trained career workforce, through a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE to administer and staff its facilities. To accomplish the mission and follow the vision established by the BOD and the Fire Chief, the District also employs a cadre of highly motivated, community based, dedicated and well trained Paid-Call Firefighters (PCF), to complement the overall work force. These PCF Company members, working under the leadership of CAL FIRE career staff, serve the Fire District as members of a fire company which most generally serves a specific community within which the Company member resides or works. PCF Company members may staff fire apparatus, water tenders or other support vehicles

While the Fire District maintains a Career staff of professionally trained firefighters at most of its fire stations, some are staffed solely through utilization of a PCF staff.

The general public is unable to differentiate between Career and PCF Company members. Therefore, the responsibility of PCFs is equal to that of all Firefighters who serve in the Fresno County Fire Protection District. All PCF Company members are required to meet and maintain established minimum standards for physical fitness, personal discipline, training and emergency response.

Accepting an appointment as a PCF is the acceptance of responsibility to serve as a Firefighter of the District and expresses a commitment to meet and maintain the minimum standard required by any Firefighter serving in the State of California. Each individual should take pride in the services they are providing to their Community and should strive to perform at the highest level of proficiency and professionalism.

HANDBOOK PURPOSE

The purpose of the PCF Policy and Procedure Handbook is to establish the guidelines under which the PCF program shall operate. It must be kept in mind that this handbook is not intended to be entirely comprehensive or address all the possible applications of, or exceptions to, the general policies and procedures described. If any questions or concerns are raised regarding the individual applicability of a policy, procedure or practice, those should be directed to the attention of the Fire District Division Chief via the chain-of-command.

The Policy and Guidelines within this handbook are intended to protect the health and safety of the firefighters serving the Fire District, and have been developed in the best interest of the Career staff, PCF Staff, and the Public we serve.

It is important for this Handbook to remain a living document, in that it receives regular updates and remains current with Fire District Administration of the PCF Program. As new or alternative ways of managing the PCF Program are established, the policies, procedures and/or practices in the Handbook will be modified or discontinued. Whenever changes occur, written notification and amendments will be provided to each Fire District facility for inclusion in the Handbook as necessary.

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

The Fresno County Fire Protection District is governed by a seven (7) member Board of Directors. Each Director is appointed by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and serves on the Board for four (4) years. The CAL FIRE/Fresno-Kings Unit Chief serves as Fire Chief for the Fire District. A CAL FIRE Assistant Chief, working directly for the Fire Chief manages the daily operations of the Fire District including the Paid-Call Firefighter program, and Battalion Chief Officers manage the operations of each field Battalion. CAL FIRE Career Fire Captains or Fire Apparatus Engineers are responsible for the daily operations at each fire station and supervise the emergency response personnel assigned to each facility located throughout the Fire District. A CAL FIRE Administrative Officer II (AOII) working directly for the Fire Chief, administers the Fire District finances, personnel services, and all human resource's needs. The AOII and support staff maintains a resource and reference library accessible to all personnel, which provides the necessary materials to address questions involving the application and interpretation of human resource policies and procedures specific to Fire District Paid-Call Firefighters.

The Fire District Board of Directors (BOD), in conjunction with CAL FIRE, has developed a comprehensive and cooperative agreement for the deliver of emergency services to the citizens of Fresno County. As the mission of the Fire District, as stated in the Master Plan, is to *“Provide all persons who reside, work or travel within the Fire District, the protection of life, property and environment within those areas where the Fire District has direct responsibility by virtue of law, contract or mutual understanding.”*

Under this agreement, funding for personnel, apparatus and equipment, and specific support services is provided by the Fire District. CAL FIRE provides for the administration of the Fire District and assumes the lead role in emergency incident response within the LRA (local responsibility area) of the Fire District and all SRA (state responsibility area) lands within Fresno County, and maintains a proactive approach in the initiation and cooperative utilization of the broad depth of State, Federal and local government resources for the purposes of emergency incident mitigation.