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6. Fire Protection

In Lake County there are six county Fire Protection Districts (FPDs), as well as one state and one federal fire protection agency:

- Kelseyville FPD
- Lake County FPD
- Lake Pillsbury FPD
- Lakeport FPD
- Northshore FPD
- South Lake County FPD
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit
- US Forest Service, Mendocino National Forest (MNF)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS REGARDING FIRE PROTECTION

In order to best continue their effective service, Fire Protection Districts and other fire agencies need all Lake County residents to provide safe access to properties in the event of an emergency. A clearance of 20-ft. wide by 15-ft. high is needed along roads and driveways. Additionally, they need a turnaround of a minimum 45-ft. radius, or a Hammerhead Turnout (or “T”) measuring 60-ft. long, 10-ft. wide, and facing perpendicular to the driveway.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER—THE NUMBER TO CALL TO REPORT A FIRE IS ALWAYS 911.
Calling a Fire Departments’ number (as listed below) only causes delays. Every second counts in an emergency!

In order to ensure that fire agencies operate in an efficient and cost-effective manner, these agencies have “mutual aid” and “auto aid” agreements, as well as one “Amador” agreement in place. (*Information regarding Lake County mutual aid, auto aid, and Amador Plan agreements are described in each agency’s section below.*) Mutual aid means that a fire department can request the services of another nearby fire department based upon predetermined agreements to provide such services. Mutual aid agreements exist among the agencies for backup in large or multiple-fire scenarios as well as for general emergencies.

Auto aid means that participating agencies will be automatically dispatched to respond to incidents outside their regular district or jurisdiction. One or multiple parties (e.g. Fire Projection Districts, US Forest Service, CAL FIRE) are automatically dispatched at the same time.

Many rural fire departments around the state find it financially beneficial to contract emergency services outside of fire season (generally the rainy season) with CAL FIRE. The purpose is to provide sufficient services during winter, when CAL FIRE reduces its workforce. These “Amador Plans,” such as the one between CAL FIRE and the South Lake County Fire Protection District, help increase the overall protection in the district. CAL FIRE provides emergency personnel to certain stations all year long under a “Schedule A Contract.” Under these “Amador Plans” a local agency will contract with CAL FIRE to staff local facilities and use local equipment. This is a cost effective way for counties to provide extra fire (and other emergency) services to citizens.

Areas that are not within a “district” boundary, such as those west of Lakeport FPD boundaries, are within a “Sphere of Influence.” They are covered by CAL FIRE, as well as local FPDs. Kelseyville FPD, Lake Pillsbury FPD, and Lakeport FPD each have a Sphere of Influence (SOI), as shown on Map 6-1 (at the end of this chapter.).

There is also a contract agreement between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and CAL FIRE. When there is a wildland fire on BLM property, CAL FIRE will provide fire-fighting services.

Map 6-1 also shows Local Responsibility Area (LRA) boundaries as defined by CAL FIRE, State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), and Federal Responsibility Areas (FRAs). CAL FIRE is primarily responsible for wildland fires in the SRA as well as structure fires that threaten wildlands. The Mendocino National Forest is responsible for wildland fires in the FRA.

6.1. Lake County Fire Protection Agencies

Lake County’s Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) originally started as eleven individual fire departments, the first being the Lakeport Fire Department, originating in 1894. These fire departments were later consolidated, beginning in 1959 with the merger of Kelseyville Fire District with the Big Valley County Fire Department. Since then many departments, as well as the Lucerne Recreation and Park District and the Nice Community Services District, have merged to share resources and responsibilities. The original Middletown Fire Department began in 1925, changing its name in 1985 to the South Lake County FPD. The Lakeport FPD was formed in 2000 with the merger of the Lakeport Fire Department and the Lakeport County Fire Protection District. The Lake County FPD formed in 2001 with the consolidation of the Lower Lake FPD and the Lakeshore FPD. The Lake Pillsbury FPD, originally serviced by the US Forest Service and CAL FIRE, was encouraged to form in 1983 following a letter from the US Forest Service stating that private structure protection was not a priority. In 1998, the Lake Pillsbury Volunteer Fire Department began, becoming a district in 2002 (remaining volunteer). The last merger in the county took place in 2006 when the former Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, and Clearlake Oaks Fire Departments merged into the Northshore FPD (now the county’s largest FPD).

All of the departments take pride in the work they do for the communities they serve. The support given by the approximately 160 volunteers echoes a long tradition of service that makes each department unique and productive. The following FPDs provide emergency fire and medical services in Lake County.

6.1.1. Kelseyville Fire Protection District

The Kelseyville FPD provides first-response fire and medical service to approximately 11,000 residents in their 90-square-mile district in Lake County, which includes the communities of Kelseyville, the Rivas, and the western Cobb Mountain area. Summer populations can rise to approximately 16,000. The district also contains a Sphere of Influence on its southeastern border. CAL FIRE provides emergency services within the SOI although the FPD will respond if needed. Fifteen local residents currently volunteer with Kelseyville FPD, five of which are “active” firefighters, with more volunteers needed. There are twenty paid staff members. The Kelseyville FPD is funded through property taxes, ambulance transport, impact fees, and other miscellaneous sources, totaling approximately \$2.8 million annually.

Kelseyville FPD has three fire stations located throughout the district, as shown in the following table. Currently the FPD has five fire engines: three structural (those used for homes and structure fires), and two wildland (used for wildland fires). They also have two water tenders, one fire boat, one HazMat (hazardous materials) vehicle, four ambulances, five utility vehicles, and one squad vehicle (this is an engine that has automobile extrication equipment). One of the structural engines is more than 30 years old and needs replacing, as does one of their wildland engines. A table of Kelseyville FPD’s currently available equipment resources follows the station information.

Figure 6-1. Kelseyville Fire Protection District Stations

Station Name & #	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Main Station 55	4020 Main St. Kelseyville, CA 95415	Robert L. “Mike” Stone, Fire Chief	707-279-4268	24/7/365	4
Clear Lake Riviera Station 56	9757 Hwy. 281 Kelseyville, CA 95415			24/7/365	1–2
Riviera Heights Station 57	2816 Riviera Heights Dr. Kelseyville, CA 95415			Seasonal	Special Events & Red Flag days ¹

¹ Red Flag days are announced during high fire-danger conditions, when no burning is permitted.

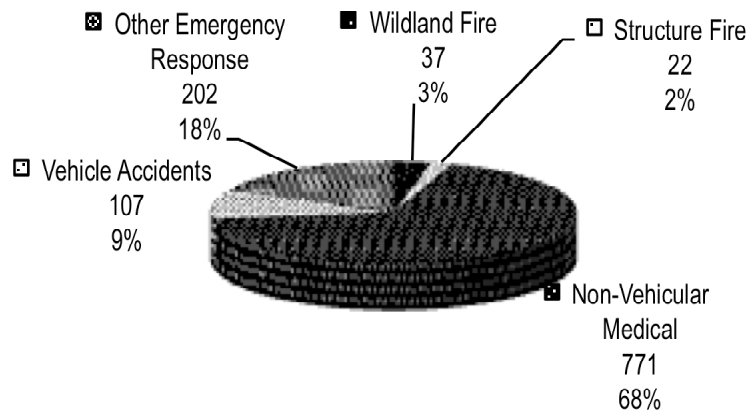
Figure 6-2. Kelseyville Fire Protection District Equipment Resources²

Resources		
Structural Engines Type/ID/Capacity	Wildland Engines	Miscellaneous Capacity (Tankers, Tenders, Aircraft, etc.)
E5511, 750 Gallons	E5522, 500 Gallons	Water Tender 5511, 3600 Gallons
E5521, 600 Gallons	E5731, 250 Gallons	Water Tender 5512, 2000 Gallons
E5621, 500 Gallons		Squad Vehicle, 300 Gallons
		HazMat Vehicle
		Fire boat
		5 Utility Vehicles
		4 Ambulances

The amount of time it takes first responders to arrive at a scene affects firefighters’ ability to save a structure from fire or a person with a medical emergency. Kelseyville FPD can respond to most incidents within the district within fifteen minutes. 75% of the area can be reached within ten minutes, 50% within five minutes, and 25% of the area is within a three-minute response from one of the Kelseyville FPD stations or engines.

In 2008, Kelseyville FPD responded to a total of 1,139 incidents within Lake County. The following chart summarizes the type and frequency of incidents.

Figure 6-3. Kelseyville Fire Protection District, Number of Incidents by Type of Incident in 2008



Kelseyville FPD occasionally responds outside their boundaries, especially to incidents in Lakeport, and to all fire district areas within the county. The district has mutual aid agreements with Lakeport FPD, South Lake County FPD, and CAL FIRE.

Wildland-urban interface training, Arson Investigator I and II course availability, and continuous research into alternative funding sources have been identified as priority needs for Kelseyville FPD. Lack of, or abundance of, tax revenue leads to increases or decreases in the overall FPD budget.

² This table is adopted from: Texas Forest Service, Texas A&M University. *A Guideline for Developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans*. [http://txforestservicetamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRP/UWI/CWPPGuideFinalDraft\(1\).pdf](http://txforestservicetamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRP/UWI/CWPPGuideFinalDraft(1).pdf).

6.1.2. Lake County Fire Protection District

The Lake County FPD provides first-response fire and medical service to approximately 17,955 residents in their 165-square-mile district, which includes the communities of Clearlake and Lower Lake.

Twenty-one local residents currently volunteer with Lake County FPD and all are “active” firefighters. There are an additional 23 paid staff. The Lake County FPD has identified a need for more volunteers. The Lake County FPD is funded primarily through property taxes, development taxes and servicing fees, totaling approximately \$3,772,661 annually.

Lake County FPD has six fire stations located throughout the district. They currently have eight fire engines (four structural, four wildland), a 75-ft. ladder truck, a water tender, 2 type-two ambulances, 2 type-three ambulances, and a rescue vehicle. One of the structural engines is more than 28-years old, and one of the wildland engines is more than 34-years old. Both of these engines are in need of replacement. The following two tables list Lake County FPD station information and equipment resources.

Figure 6-4. Lake County Fire Protection District Stations

Station Name & #	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Clearlake Station 70	14815 Olympic Dr. Clearlake, CA 95422	James McMurry, Chief	707-994-2170	24/7/365	5 Minimum
Lower Lake Station 65	16354 Main St. Lower Lake, CA 95422	Charlie Diener, Battalion Chief	707-994-2531	24/7/365	3 Minimum
Point Lakeview Station 66	13065 Anderson Rd. Lower Lake, CA 95422				Volunteer
Airport Station 71 (at Pierce Airport)	6905 Old Hwy. 53 Clearlake, CA 95422				Volunteer
Park Station 72	13428 Lakeshore Dr. Clearlake, CA 95422				Volunteer
Pinedale Station 73	10682 Lakeshore Dr. Clearlake Park, CA 95424				Volunteer

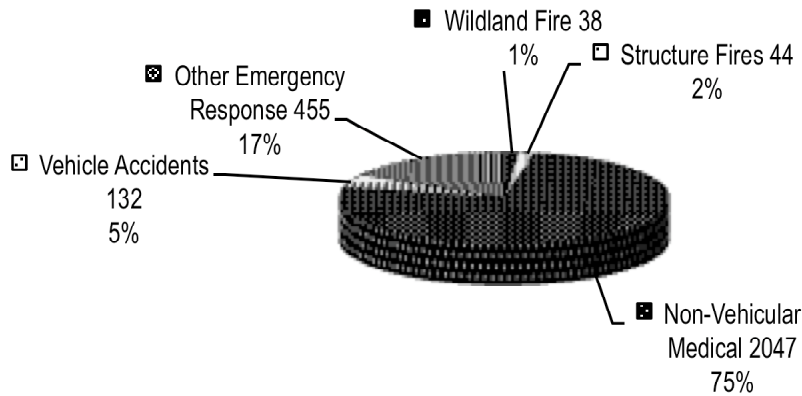
Figure 6-5. Lake County Fire Protection District Equipment Resources

Resources		
Structural Engines Type/ID/Capacity	Wildland Engines	Miscellaneous Capacity (Tankers, Tenders, Aircraft, etc.)
E7011, 750 Gallons	E6531, 500 Gallons	Water Tender 7011, 3000 Gallons
E6511, 750 Gallons	E7121, 1400 Gallons	Ladder 7011 (75 ft.)
E7221, 750 Gallons	E7231, 400 Gallons	Medium Rescue Vehicle
E6521, 500 Gallons	E7021, 500 Gallons	2 Type-Two Ambulances, 2 Type-Three Ambulances

Within Lake County, Lake County FPD can respond to 20% of incidents in the district within fifteen minutes. Thirty percent of the district can be reached within ten minutes, 30% within five minutes, and 20% of the district is within a three-minute response from one of the Lake County FPD stations or engines.

In 2008, Lake County FPD responded to a total of 2,743 incidents within the district. The following chart summarizes the type and frequency of incidents.

Figure 6-6. Lake County Fire Protection District, Number of Incidents by Type of Incident in 2008



In addition to providing service within the district, approximately 3% of the time Lake County FPD will respond to incidents outside its boundaries around the county, or even the state. It has mutual aid agreements with Lakeport FPD, Kelseyville FPD, South Lake County FPD, Northshore FPD, and CALFIRE.

Increased revenue to pay additional personnel has been identified as a priority need for Lake County FPD. This would allow the district to staff additional stations, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

6.1.3. Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District

The Lake Pillsbury FPD provides first-response fire and medical service to approximately 300–500 residents in their 14,329-square-mile district/SOI in Lake County; however, summer populations can range from 500 to 3,500 people, with peaks up to 12,000.

Twenty-two local residents currently volunteer with Lake Pillsbury FPD, 21 being “active” firefighters. An additional four volunteers are support personnel. None of the volunteers are paid, and more are needed. This FPD is funded primarily through property taxes, totaling approximately \$18,000 annually.

Lake Pillsbury FPD has two stations, with six fire engines (two structural, four wildland), two water tenders, two ambulances, and a boat. One of the structural engines is over 34-years old. One of the wildland engines is over 43-years old. Both of these engines need to be replaced. The following two tables list Lake Pillsbury FPD station information and equipment resources.

Figure 6-7. Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District Stations

Station Name & #	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Station 95-1	29501 Fuller Dr., Bldg. B Potter Valley, CA 95469	Mike Josephson, Chief	707-824-9532 707-799-5876	N/A	Volunteer
Station 95-2 (under construction)	2260 Rice Fork Rd. Potter Valley, CA 95469			N/A	Volunteer

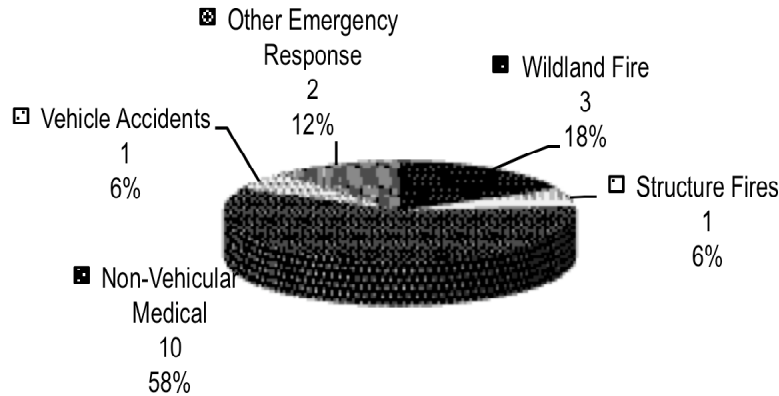
Figure 6-8. Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District Equipment Resources

Resources		
Structural Engines Type/ID/Capacity	Wildland Engines	Miscellaneous Capacity (Tankers, Tenders, Aircraft, etc.)
9521, 1000 Gallons	9532, 500 Gallons	Water Tender 9511, 2500 Gallons
9523, 750 Gallons	9534, 500 Gallons	Water Tender 9521, 1500 Gallons
	9542, 250 Gallons	Ambulance 9521 & 9522
	9543, 250 Gallons	Boat 9511

Within Lake County, Lake Pillsbury FPD can respond to incidents in the Pillsbury Ranch area within three to four minutes. Outside of Pillsbury Ranch there is a five to twenty minute response time.

In 2008, Lake Pillsbury FPD responded to a total of seventeen incidents. The following chart summarizes the type and frequency of incidents.

Figure 6-9. Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District, Number of Incidents by Type of Incident in 2008



Approximately 75% of the time, Lake Pillsbury FPD will respond outside their boundaries to incidents in the Mendocino National Forest, Northshore FPD, Mendocino County and elsewhere if requested. Lake Pillsbury FPD has mutual aid agreements with Northshore FPD and the USFS.

In order to continue effective emergency service, Lake Pillsbury FPD has identified several needs. All of their equipment is old and needs to be replaced. In addition to the equipment replacement they also need three type-one fire engines, another water tender, and one type-three engine. Training needs have also been identified to make the district more effective. These include live fire, rope rescue, swift water rescue, and emergency medical technician (EMT) training. The most important needs for the district are the addition of paid firefighters, radio communications, a receiver for 911 communications, and more money for the general fund.

6.1.4. Lakeport Fire Protection District

The Lakeport Fire Protection District provides first-response fire and medical service to approximately 11,680 residents in their 49-square-mile district in Lake County. The district includes the communities of Lakeport, North Lakeport, Scotts Valley, and Finley. Summer populations can reach 16,000 people.

Twenty-five local residents currently volunteer with Lakeport FPD (with approximately 20 who are “active” firefighters, 13 paid). These 13 volunteers are paid for each fire call they make. More volunteers are needed for the Lakeport FPD. The FPD is funded primarily through property taxes, ambulance fees, and fire benefit fees totaling approximately \$2 million annually.

Lakeport FPD has two fire stations, with a total of seven fire engines (five structural, two wildland), a water tender, and a 5011 air-compressor truck. One of the structural engines is over 30-years old and needs replacing, as does one of the wildland engines. The next two tables list station information and equipment resources.

Figure 6-10. Lakeport Fire Protection District Stations

Station Name & #	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Station 50	445 N. Main St. Lakeport, CA 95453	Kenneth D. Wells, Chief	707-263-4396	24/7/365	4 Minimum
Parkway Station 52	3600 Hill Rd. East Lakeport, CA 95453			N/A	Volunteer

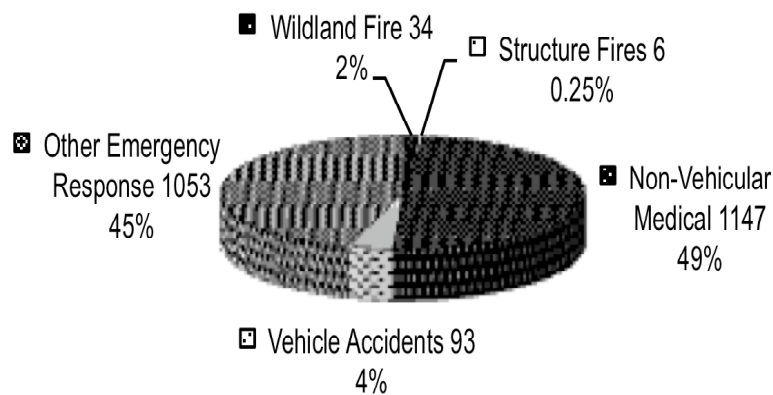
Figure 6-11. Lakeport Fire Protection District Equipment Resources

Resources		
Structural Engines Type/ID/Capacity	Wildland Engines	Miscellaneous Capacity (Tankers, Tenders, Aircraft, etc.)
E5011, 1500 Gallons	E5021, 500 Gallons	Water Tender 5211, 3000 Gallons
E5012, 1250 Gallons	E5031, 300 Gallons	Air 5011 Truck
T5011, 1500 Gallons with 75-ft. Ladder		
T5012, 1500 Gallons		
E5211, 1000 Gallons		

The ability for Lakeport FPD to respond to emergencies can vary greatly within the district. Variables such as season of year (e.g. tourist season), weather, road conditions, and more will affect the ability for emergency personnel to respond to a call. Within the average remote areas, response time is approximately eight minutes.

In 2008, Lakeport FPD responded to a total of 2,333 incidents within Lake County. The following chart summarizes the type and frequency of incidents.

Figure 6-12. Lakeport Fire Protection District, Number of Incidents by Type of Incident in 2008



Within the countywide mutual aid agreement, Lakeport FPD responds outside of their boundaries to incidents in Kelseyville, Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, Clearlake Oaks, Clearlake, and the South Lake area, as well as areas within Lakeport FPD’s own Sphere of Influence (SOI). The SOI is an area not directly funded, although it is covered by the FPD. For Lakeport FPD this area is located west of the district boundaries to the county line. Both Lakeport FPD and CAL FIRE service these SOI areas in a coordinated effort. They both respond to emergencies there. Lakeport FPD has mutual aid agreements with Kelseyville FPD, CAL FIRE, and USFS.

Replacement of one structural engine and one wildland engine as well as the addition of another wildland engine are priority needs for Lakeport FPD. The engines that need replacing are over 30-years old. The addition of another wildland engine will help Lakeport FPD respond more effectively to wildland fires.

6.1.5. Northshore Fire Protection District

The Northshore FPD provides first-response fire and medical service to approximately 13,000 residents in their more than 350-square-mile district in Lake County. The district includes the communities of Blue Lakes, Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, Paradise Valley, Kono Tayee, Glenhaven, Clearlake Oaks, Spring Valley, and Double Eagle. Populations can be over 20,000 during peak seasons.

Fifty-one local residents currently volunteer with Northshore FPD, and all are “active” firefighters, with 14 as paid staff. The Northshore FPD needs more volunteers to cover its large district. It is funded primarily through local taxes and charges from ambulance calls, totaling \$2,715,140 annually.

Northshore FPD has seven fire stations. Currently it has 18 fire engines (ten structural, eight wildland), two water tenders, three utility vehicles, seven ambulances, four command vehicles, and two rescue vehicles. The next two tables list Northshore FPD station information and equipment resources.

Figure 6-13. Northshore Fire Protection District Stations

Station Name & #	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Lucerne Station 85 (and District Office)	6257 7 th Ave., Lucerne, CA 95458	James Robbins, Chief	707-274-3100	24/7/365	Min. 1, but usually 2
Clearlake Oaks Station 75	12655 E. State Hwy. 20, Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423	Pat Brown, Battalion Chief	707-274-3100	24/7/365	2
Nice Station 85	3708 Manzanita Ave., Nice, CA 95464		707-274-8834	24/7/365	Min. 1, but usually 2
Upper Lake Station 90	9420 Main St., Upper Lake, CA 95485		707-275-2446	Mon.– Fri. 8–5 PM	1, with volunteers or another paid staff
Glenhaven Station 76	9458 E. State Hwy. 20, Glenhaven, CA 95457			N/A	Volunteer
Spring Valley Station 77	3178 Tamarack Way, Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423			N/A	Volunteer
Blue Lakes Station 91	5200 W. State Hwy. 20 Upper Lake, CA 95485			N/A	Volunteer

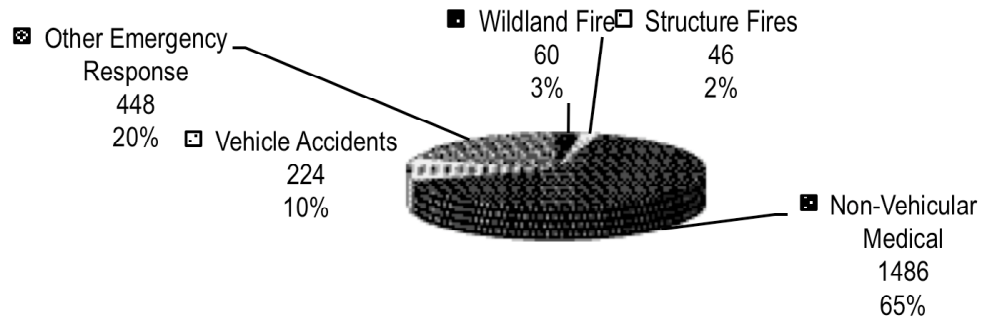
Figure 6-14. Northshore Fire Protection District Equipment Resources

Resources		
Structural Engines Type/ID/Capacity	Wildland Engines	Miscellaneous Capacity (Tankers, Tenders, Aircraft, etc.)
E9132, 500 Gallons	E9131, 350 Gallons	Water Tender 9011, 3200 Gallons
E9011, 650 Gallons	E9031, 300 Gallons	Water Tender 7511, 3000 Gallons
E9021, 500 Gallons	E8531, 300 Gallons	Utility 8011
E8511, 1000 Gallons	E8031, 300 Gallons	8 Ambulances
E8512, 500 Gallons	E7631, 300 Gallons	4 Command Vehicles
E8011, 750 Gallons	E7631, 300 Gallons	Boat 7511, Fire and Rescue
E8021, 500 Gallons	E7531, 300 Gallons	Utility 8511, Pickup Truck
E7511, 650 Gallons	E7741, 300 Gallons	Utility 7511, Pickup Truck
E7521, 1250 Gallons		Res. 9011, Drive Truck
T8011, Pump Truck with 50-ft. Ladder		Res. 7511, Rescue Vehicle

Within Lake County, Northshore FPD can respond to most incidents in the district within fifteen minutes. Fifteen percent of the district can be reached within ten minutes, 15% within five minutes, and 65% of the area is within a three-minute response from one of the Northshore FPD stations or engines.

In 2008, Northshore FPD responded to a total of 2,264 incidents within Lake County. The following chart summarizes the type and frequency of incidents.

Figure 6-15. Northshore Fire Protection District, Number of Incidents by Type of Incident in 2008



Approximately two percent of the time Northshore FPD will respond outside their boundaries to incidents at Lake Pillsbury. Northshore FPD has mutual aid agreements (auto aid agreements during Red Flag days) with all Lake County FPDs, as well as CAL FIRE.

Replacement of a 2,000-gallon water tender, SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses), turnouts, radios, and personnel training have been identified as priority needs for Northshore FPD.

6.1.6. South Lake County Fire Protection District

The South Lake County FPD provides first-response fire and medical service to approximately 16,000 residents year-round (up to 30,000 in summer), throughout their 289-square-mile district. Communities here include Loch Lomond, Cobb, Anderson Springs, Middletown, Hidden Valley, Coyote Valley, and The Geysers.

All of South Lake County FPD’s staffed stations are serviced by CAL FIRE personnel. Twenty local residents currently volunteer with South Lake County FPD, approximately twelve of which are “active” firefighters; eleven are paid staff. In order to meet staffing needs there are 22 paid South Lake County FPD part-time employees. These 22 part-time employees receive an hourly rate for calls. More volunteers are needed. The district is funded through county secured and unsecured tax rolls, parcel assessments, plan inspections, burn permits, and transportation fees, totaling approximately \$2.78 million annually.

South Lake County FPD has four fire stations located throughout the district. The FPD’s equipment currently includes seven fire engines (five structural, two wildland), two water tenders, a rescue vehicle (this vehicle carries equipment for auto extraction, flood lights, generators, and other emergency equipment that cannot fit on the fire engines), four ambulances, five utility vehicles, and a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) trailer. This MCI trailer contains items for multi-casualty incidents (e.g. bus crashes or multi-car accidents). It also has a Snow Cat, used primarily for the snow-covered areas around The Geysers. The snow cat is available for any FPD under a mutual aid agreement. One structural engine is over 20-years old, but still in working condition. One of the wildland engines is more than 25-years old, also still in working condition. The FPD’s station information and equipment resources are found in the next two tables.

Figure 6-16. South Lake County Fire Protection District Stations

Station Name & #	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Main Station 60 (and Training Ground)	21095 Hwy. 175 Middletown, CA 95461	Jim Wright, CAL FIRE, Fire Chief David Miinch, Fire Inspector	707-987-3089 EXT. 3	Mon.–Fri. 8–5 PM	Not Staffed with Fire Fighters
Hidden Valley Station 63	19287 Hartmann Rd. Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467		707-987-2953	24/7/365	2 Minimum
Cobb Station 62	16547 Hwy. 175 Cobb, CA 95426		707-928-5411	24/7/365	2 Minimum

Station Name & #	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Loch Lomond Station 64	10331 Redwood Rd. Loch Lomond, CA 95461			N/A	Volunteer

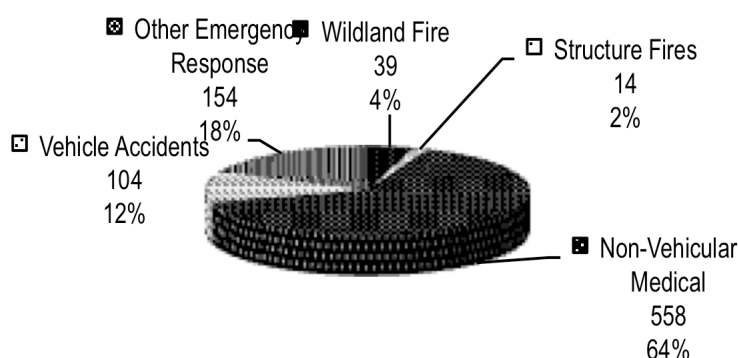
Figure 6-17. South Lake County Fire Protection District Equipment Resources

Resources		
Structural Engines Type/ID/Capacity	Wildland Engines	Miscellaneous Capacity (Tankers, Tenders, Aircraft, etc.)
E6221, 500 Gallons	E-6031, 500 Gallons	Rescue Vehicle
E6321, 500 Gallons	E-6032, 500 Gallons	2 Water Tenders (3500 and 2000 Gallons)
E6421, 500 Gallons		Snow Cat, MCI Trailer, 5 Utility Vehicles
E6011, 600 Gallons		4 Ambulances
OES359, 850 Gallons ³		

Within Lake County, South Lake County FPD can respond to most incidents in the district within fifteen minutes. Fifteen percent of the district can be reached within ten minutes, 65% within five minutes, and 30% of the district is within a three-minute response from one of the South Lake County FPD stations or engines.

In 2008, South Lake County FPD responded to a total of 869 incidents. The following chart summarizes the type and frequency of incidents.

Figure 6-18. South Lake County Fire Protection District, Number of Incidents by Type of Incident, 2008



South Lake County FPD responds outside their coverage areas to incidents in Napa and Sonoma counties 8% of the time. The district has mutual aid agreements with Napa County, Kelseyville FPD, Lake County FPD, and CAL FIRE. There are no auto aid agreements. The district has an Enhanced Services Agreement with Calpine Corporation (who operates most of The Geysers area) to provide fire, emergency medical services, and safety training to The Geysers area, and to Calpine Corporation’s 350 employees.

South Lake County FPD pays for two Amador contracts. One is in the community of Middletown and the other is located at the Kelsey-Cobb Forest Fire Station serving the communities of Loch Lomond and Cobb. This agreement requires South Lake County FPD to pay the expense for staffing two CAL FIRE “Firefighter I” positions for seven months during the non-fire season period, and a small expense for use of the type-three engine. In addition, CAL FIRE provides the station as well as three additional operators to staff the type-three engine. The total cost amounts to approximately \$100,000 annually per contract. Without this contract, it would

³ This engine stays at Station 60 and is owned by the Office of Emergency Services (OES). The engine is provided to the SLCFPD at no cost, with the understanding that it will be staffed with at least four people to respond to emergencies within California if needed.

cost approximately \$500,000 to provide non-CAL FIRE staffing, not including benefits. This provides an engine to the fire district 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week. During the winter months the engine is usually staffed by at least two individuals, and in summer by at least three. These engines respond to all incidents within the South Lake County Fire Protection District, and can be called on to cover mutual aid requests anywhere in the county, as well as in the state, should the need arise.⁴

Continued support from the Board of Supervisors in the adoption of Fire Codes and a fire sprinkler ordinance, development of emergency water supplies, ongoing funding, and continued commercial and wildland fire training have been identified as priority needs for South Lake County FPD. Additional staffing and an addition of two more stations within the district is a high priority for this district.

**6.2. State Fire Protection Agency:
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**

CAL FIRE provides wildland fire protection for private, industrial, county, state, and municipal forestlands. It provides wildland fire protection to approximately 20,290 residents in their 753-square-mile service area in Lake County, within its Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit. CAL FIRE provides wildland fire protection within State Responsibility Area (SRA) land surrounding the communities of Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, Clearlake Oaks, Clearlake, Lower Lake, Kelseyville, Lakeport, Cobb, and Middletown.

CAL FIRE’s Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit has two battalions within Lake County. Battalion 1417 includes the SRAs around Middletown, Cobb, Loch Lomond, Hidden Valley Lakes, Jerusalem Grade, Lower Lake, and extending south and east to the Napa County line. Battalion 1418 includes the SRA lands around Clearlake, Spring Valley, Clearlake Oaks, Nice, Lucerne, Upper Lake, Lakeport, Kelseyville, and Clear Lake Riviera, extending out to the Colusa County line on the east and the Mendocino County line to the west. Battalion 1418 also provides direct protection to the BLM properties at Cow Mountain, Black Forest, and Cache Creek. Staffing within Lake County has 23 year-round personnel with up to 85 crew members during fire season, including nine Fire Captains, eleven Fire Apparatus Engineers (six permanent), 54 Seasonal Firefighters, four Heavy Equipment Operators, two Pilots, and two Battalion Chiefs.

CAL FIRE is primarily funded by the state’s General Fund (GF). The GF is budget revenue not specifically designated or accounted for by any other fund. Primary GF sources are income, sales, and corporate taxes.

There are four CAL FIRE stations located within Lake County, along with a fire lookout on Mt. Konocti and a Conservation Camp. Currently CAL FIRE has seven wildland fire engines, two bulldozers, two bulldozer tenders, two bulldozer transport vehicles, five utility vehicles, one helicopter, and one helitender. CAL FIRE’s station information and equipment resources are listed in the following two tables.

Figure 6-19. CAL FIRE Stations

Station Name & #	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Kelseyville-Cobb Station 34	8948 Hwy. 175 Kelseyville, CA 95453	Linda Green, Battalion Chief 1418	707-279-4924	24/7/365	Minimum 2 (winter) & 3 (summer)
Clearlake Oaks Station 40	140 Spring St. Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423	Linda Green, Battalion Chief 1418	707-998-3711	Seasonal	No staff in winter, Min. 3 in summer
Middletown Station 31	15522 Lake St. Middletown, CA 95461	Rich Boehm, Battalion Chief 1417	707-987-3089	24/7/365	Min. 2 (winter) & 3 (summer)
Boggs Mountain Helitack Base Station 32	500 Forestry Rd. Cobb, CA 95426	Rob Sonsteng, Battalion Chief 1403	707-928-5484	Seasonal	Minimum 9 during summer

⁴ Miinch, Dave. South Lake County Fire Protection District. Personal Communication. February 17, 2009.

Station Name & #	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Konocti Conservation Camp	13044 Hwy. 29 Lower Lake, CA 95457	Jim Wright Division Chief 1403	707-994-2441	24/7/365	Minimum 11 Also ~110 Inmates
Konocti Lookout	Top of Mt. Konocti on Konocti Rd. Kelseyville, CA 95453	Linda Green, Battalion Chief 1418			Not Staffed

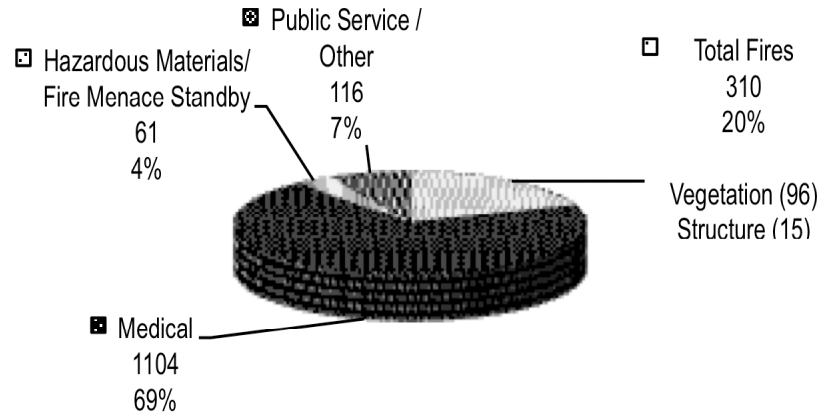
Figure 6-20. CAL FIRE Equipment Resources

Resources			
Facility Name / #	Wildland Engines	Dozers and Tractor Plows Type/ID/Capacity	Miscellaneous Capacity (Tankers, Tenders, Aircraft, etc.)
Kelseyville-Cobb Station 34	E1468, 500 Gallons		Battalion Utility 1418 (pickup for B.C.)
	E1478, 500 Gallons		Utility 1459
	E1498 (reserve), 650 Gal.		
Clearlake Oaks Station 40	E1458, 500 Gallons	Dozer 1444	Dozer Tender 1444
	E1473, 500 Gallons	Dozer Transport 1444	
Middletown Station 31	E1451, 500 Gallons	Dozer 1448	Battalion Utility 1417
	E1452, 500 Gallons	Dozer Transport 1448	Utility 1450
			Dozer Tender 1448
Boggs Mountain Helitack Base Station 32			Helicopter 104
			Utility 104
			Utility 1461
			Helitender 104

CAL FIRE maintains stations within approximately 30 minutes of reaching a fire within SRA, a system that was established in the 1940-50's. This helps to ensure a quick response to wildfire within their jurisdiction.

At times, CAL FIRE responds to more than just wildland fires. This occurs when a structural fire threatens wildlands, and usually during fire season. The following table summarizes the type and frequency of the 1,591 incidents that CAL FIRE responded to in Lake County in 2008.

Figure 6-21. CAL FIRE, Number of Incidents by Type of Incident in Lake County in 2008



In addition to providing service within Lake County, CAL FIRE responds to incidents all over the state, which means staffing can change quickly during fire season. CAL FIRE has mutual aid agreements with all the Lake County FPDs except for Lake Pillsbury, and an automatic aid agreement with Northshore FPD.

CAL FIRE provides fire suppression services to BLM within Lake County. BLM does not maintain fire suppression resources within the county. During a fire on, or which threatens, BLM lands, CAL FIRE will notify BLM and work with their managers regarding suppression tactics. This ensures that appropriate and planned tactics will be applied to the landscape. For example, BLM may request that certain tools not be used in areas of sensitive habitat. The relationship of CAL FIRE and BLM is part of the statewide 4-Party Agreement (AKA Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement).

CAL FIRE identified a need for additional funding for training, equipment replacement and upgrades, and repair, maintenance, and staffing of the Konocti Lookout. Establishment of stronger mutual-aid agreements and cross training with Fire Protection Districts were also identified.

6.3. Federal Fire Protection Agency: USDA Forest Service, Mendocino National Forest

Within Lake County, the US Forest Service provides wildland fire protection on Mendocino National Forest (MNF) lands and private in-holdings within the boundaries of the Forest. MNF’s service area includes the community of Lake Pillsbury. The MNF provides wildland fire protection to approximately 20,000 residents in their 256,725-square-mile service area in Lake County.

The MNF Upper Lake Ranger District has 20 permanent fire staff, and 35 seasonal firefighters from March to November. All are paid through federal government funding. These fire personnel make up a 22-person Hotshot (hand) crew, and four engine crews (each engine crew has a minimum of 5 personnel when responding to a fire).

MNF Upper Lake Ranger District has two fire stations in the county. MNF’s current local equipment includes four wildland fire engines, one water tender, and two crew carriers (crew transport vehicles). One of the engines is in need of replacement. The following two tables list MNF’s station information and equipment resources.

Figure 6-22. Mendocino National Forest Fire Protection Stations

Station Name	Station Address	Contact & Title	Phone	Hours	Staffing
Upper Lake Ranger Station	10025 Elk Mtn. Rd. Upper Lake, CA 95485	Joe Koschik, Fire Prevention	707-275-1400	Winter 7–5:30 Summer 9:30–6	Winter, 5 Min. Summer, ~10 & 20-person Hand Crew
Soda Creek Ranger Station	27355 Road M1 Potter Valley, CA 95469	Maggie Prochazka, Engine Cptn. 43	707-743-1582	Winter N/A Summer 9:30–6	5 Minimum

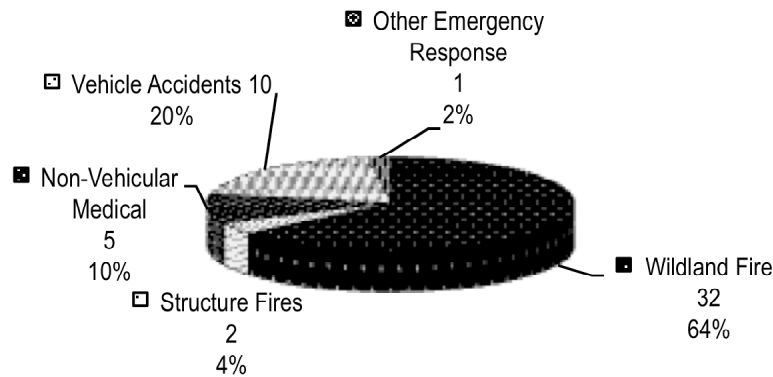
Figure 6-23. Mendocino National Forest Fire Protection Equipment Resources

Resources	
Wildland Engines	Miscellaneous Capacity (Tankers, Tenders, Aircraft, etc.)
MNF42	Water Tender 45, 1500 Gallons
MNF43	2 Crew Carriers
MNF44	
MNF45	

Overall, it will take more than fifteen minutes for emergency personnel to respond to approximately 90% of the district area within Lake County. This is due to the remoteness of the area within and surrounding the MNF.

In 2008, the MNF responded to approximately fifty incidents within their local service area. At times, the MNF does respond to more than just wildland fires. For instance, they will respond to vehicle fires because such incidents have the potential to become wildland fires, and these vehicle fires often require medical response. The following table summarizes the type and frequency of incidents responded to by MNF in 2008.

Figure 6-24. USFS Mendocino National Forest, Number of Incidents by Type of Incident in 2008



The MNF has mutual aid agreements with other federal agencies, CAL FIRE, Lakeport FPD, and Northshore FPD. The MNF is also signatory to the statewide OES "California Fire Assistance Agreement," which has access to all resources that are in the "California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System."

In order to provide efficient emergency fire services, the MNF has identified the need to replace Engine MNF43, as well as to add a bulldozer and some transportation vehicles to the fleet. Cross training with other FPDs and filling fire-fighting positions with qualified personnel will help MNF provide efficient emergency fire services. MNF also requests to be utilized more often as first responders to emergencies within the county.

Map 6- 1. Lake County Fire Protection Resources