



# Coastside Fire Protection District

## Annual Community Report

JULY 2008 - JULY 2009



The Coastside Fire Protection District, located in the San Mateo County coastal area of California, serves the City of Half Moon Bay and communities of Miramar, El Granada, Princeton, Moss Beach, and Montara in addition to the surrounding unincorporated areas with a total District size of 50 square miles and serves a population of 30,000 residents.

### Vision

We will be recognized as a progressive fire organization that is respected and valued by the community, its employees, and other agencies, and is acknowledged as a leader within the emergency services community.

### Mission

The Mission of the Coastside Fire Protection District is to protect the lives, environment, and property of the community through fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical services, rescue services, public education and other related services.

### Values

- Influencing and communicating ethics by example
- Building long-term relationships founded on trust and respect
- Achieving organizational success through recruitment, accountability, development, and promotion of our employees
- Striving continually to conduct ourselves with competency, compassion and uncompromising integrity

Inside you'll find:  
Letter from the Chief  
Message from the Board of Directors  
2008-2009 revenues, expenses & internal  
service funds  
Map of Response Area  
and more . . .



**COASTSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
1191 MAIN STREET HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019  
[WWW.COASTSIDEFIRE.ORG](http://WWW.COASTSIDEFIRE.ORG)

TELEPHONE: (650) 726-5213  
FAX: (650) 726-0132

## Letter from the Chief

Since June 2008, the District and the community have seen some dramatic changes. The District's governing body, the Board of Directors, took actions to combine what was two separate Fire District's and then entered into a cooperative relationship with the State - *CAL FIRE* - to supply the management, command, administrative, and fire-line personnel to provide for planning and emergency services. During the transition to *CAL FIRE* and a new union there were no layoffs and all of the firefighters became part of IAFF Local 2881. As a result, currently there is a combination of Half Moon Bay, Point Montara, and previous and new *CAL FIRE* professional firefighters that are working together to maintain the high level of service that residents, businesses, and visitors to the area expect. This was possible due to the direction of the Board and the support of the community and the professional attitude of the staff. I want to emphasize that the District's Board of Directors has complete control to set policies and the Level-Of-Service, owns all of the District's fire stations and equipment, and retains complete fiduciary responsibility.

A little bit about *CAL FIRE*: Established in 1885 to protect California's "watershed", the Department has evolved into the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest firefighting agency in the country and responds to over 300,000 emergencies a year – only about 2% are wildland fires. 759 local government engine companies with *CAL FIRE* firefighters from 575 local government fire stations in 35 counties provide municipal emergency services throughout the State. About 150 agencies like the Coastsides Fire Protection District take advantage of a *CAL FIRE* Cooperative Agreement to streamline their operations in a cost-effective way.

The important things haven't changed at all. The Half Moon Bay Volunteers are still a very big part of our "total force". Since the

coastside can easily be "cut-off" during a major disaster, we depend on their working alongside us and look forward to increasing our efforts at training and including them in all of our programs. The engine companies are still connected to the rest of the fire services in the County by continuing to use the same communications and response system to assure that the closest resource goes to emergencies. There's still a Paramedic on every engine in the District serving the coastside. Former Coastsides Chief Paul Cole also transitioned to *CAL FIRE* and continues to provide day-to-day management of the District.

The relationship with *CAL FIRE* has brought about many positive changes such as: an enhanced effort at reducing the threat of large fires by inspecting properties for fire safe clearance and initiating vegetation management practices, reduced personnel costs due to the differences in union contracts and State Civil Service standards, the "sharing" of common resources and expertise with other *CAL FIRE* programs, and a decrease in litigation.

I'm very proud of what the Board and the employees have accomplished. We have more to do and I look forward to the community's input. Please attend a District Board meeting, watch a meeting on Montara Fog, and contact me at (831)254-1700 with questions or comments.

Sincerely

**John E. Ferreira, Chief**

**Coastsides Fire Protection District and  
*CAL FIRE* – San Mateo & Santa Cruz Unit**

## Message from the Board of Directors

We are pleased to provide this "Community Report" on the status of the Coastsides Fire Protection District.

The purpose of this report is to give Coastsides citizens and taxpayers an update and progress report to enable you to better understand the mission, organization and finances of your fire district.

The CFPD is an independent government entity established under Special District statutes of the State of California. In October 2007 the former Point Montara Fire Protection District and the Half Moon Bay Fire Protection District merged to form the present Coastsides Fire Protection District.

The Fire District is currently governed by nine (9) locally elected officials who are elected and serve staggered four (4) year terms. Over the next two election cycles (2009 and 2011), the Board will be reduced in number to five (5) members.

Financing for the District is from a small percentage of property taxes (approximately .067%) and by parcel tax of \$35.00 in the old Half Moon Bay District and \$144.00 in the old Point Montara District. A small percentage of total revenues comes from building permits and inspections. Additional financial information is available in this report. The District has not had a tax increase since 1979.

The Board of Directors has complete fiduciary responsibility for all operations and financial aspects of the District. The Board establishes the level of service, maintains ownership of all equipment and buildings, and authorizes contracts. The Board serves in the "public trust" to represent the best interest of citizens and taxpayers.

The District ended the recent 08/09 fiscal year within budget and with a sizeable positive fund balance. The preliminary 09/10 budget, as approved, is balanced. The District has achieved satisfactory financial audits each year for the past decade.

The District does have some major liabilities resulting from prior commitments for retirement and lifetime health care for former employees. However, we believe the costs are manageable. Plans are in place to reduce and eliminate this debt over the next decade.

In a somewhat unique situation from most government entities, the District today does not have employees. All services and personnel are hired on an independent contract basis. This includes legal, auditor, administrative, management and union firefighters. This strategic action provides maximum flexibility, efficiency and significant cost advantages as well as avoidance of future employee benefits obligations. All contracts, of course can be amended, expanded or cancelled.

The largest of our contracts today is with Cal Fire, the State of California Fire Department. This contract provides management and union firefighter personnel as well as managing the day-to-day operational responsibilities of the District. Cal Fire is one of the largest fire departments in the Country and provides similar contract services to other cities, special districts, and counties (including San Mateo) throughout California.

In the recent past your Fire District has undergone significant changes; new management is in place, a new financial accounting system implemented, a new website installed, new policies ranging from vegetation management that helps in mitigating wildfire, capital equipment replacement schedule, establishment and funding of a health care trust fund for former employees, and other improvements have been implemented.

While the District has avoided layoffs, cutbacks in services, fire station closures etc. that have impacted so many fire departments and other government services in California, we are not immune from current economic realities. Projected revenues are lower and possible State actions could impact our operations.

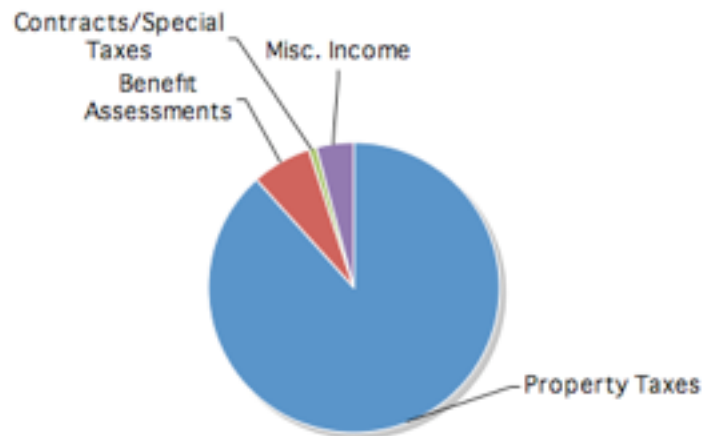
In summary, while your Fire District will continue to face numerous challenges, it is well positioned and committed to provide Coastsides citizens and taxpayers with first-rate service coupled with sound financial stewardship.

**Board of Directors  
Coastsides Fire Protection  
District**



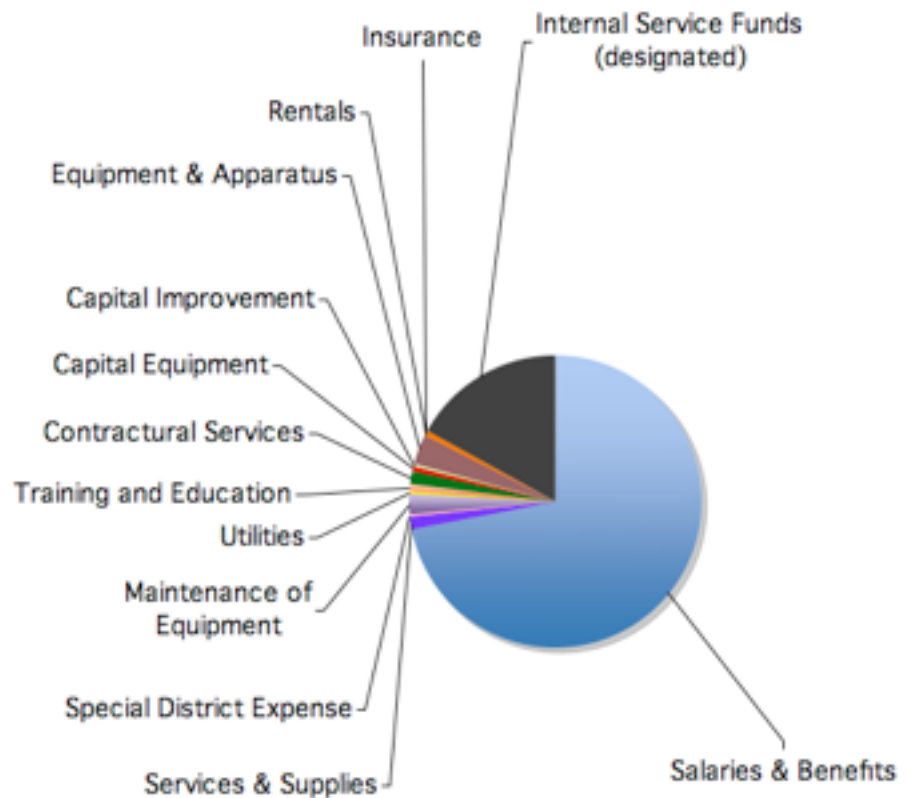
## Revenues

Property Taxes	7,860,862
Benefit Assessments	581,103
Contracts/Special Taxes	94,677
Misc. Income	360,659
	8,897,301



## Expenses & Internal Service Funds

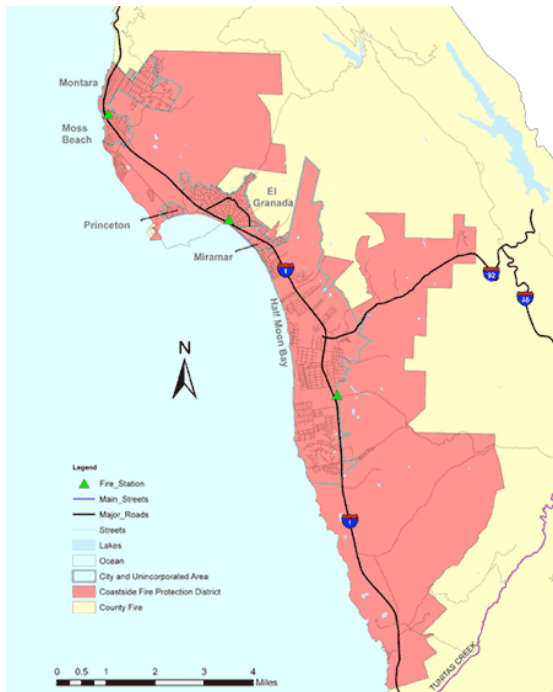
Salaries & Benefits	6,404,576
Services & Supplies	118,862
Special District Expense	18,057
Maintenance of Equipment	201,157
Utilities	34,934
Training and Education	59,717
Contractual Services	141,679
Capital Equipment	41,068
Capital Improvement	31,373
Equipment & Apparatus	283,595
Rentals	12,934
Insurance	44,509
Internal Service Funds (designated reserves):	1,504,840
a. Automotive, b. Facilities, c. Tools & Equipment, d. Previous Employee Healthcare (PARS), e. Current Employee Post Retirement Healthcare	
	8,897,301



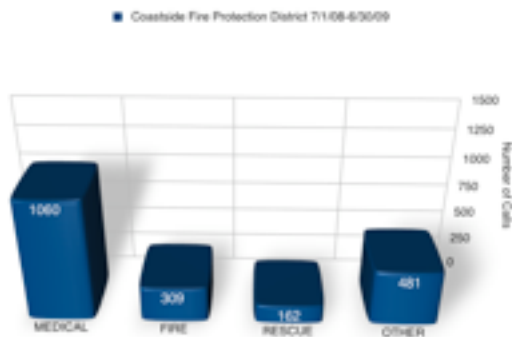
# Response Area

The Coastside Fire Protection District provides the fire protection services for the City of Half Moon Bay and the Communities of Montara, Moss Beach, Princeton, El Granada and Miramar in addition to the surrounding unincorporated areas with a total District size of 50 square miles and serves a population of 30,000 residents. The Coastside Fire Protection District responds to approximately 2,300 calls for service each year. These incidents include emergency medical service, water rescue, cliff rescue, traffic accidents, odor investigations, fires, hazardous materials and public service assists.

**The District operates three fire stations to provide the emergency services:** Fire Station 40 is located within the downtown area of the City of Half Moon Bay, Fire Station 41 is located within the unincorporated area of El Granada, and Fire Station 44 is located within the Moss Beach Area of the District.

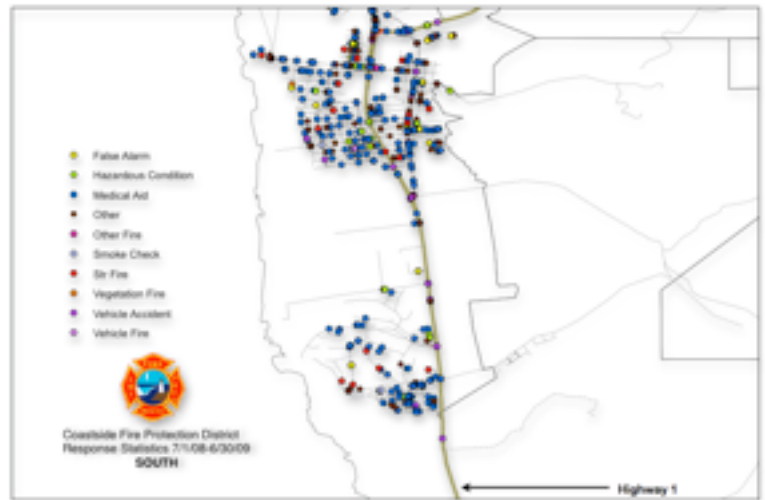


Coastside Fire District's Response Area

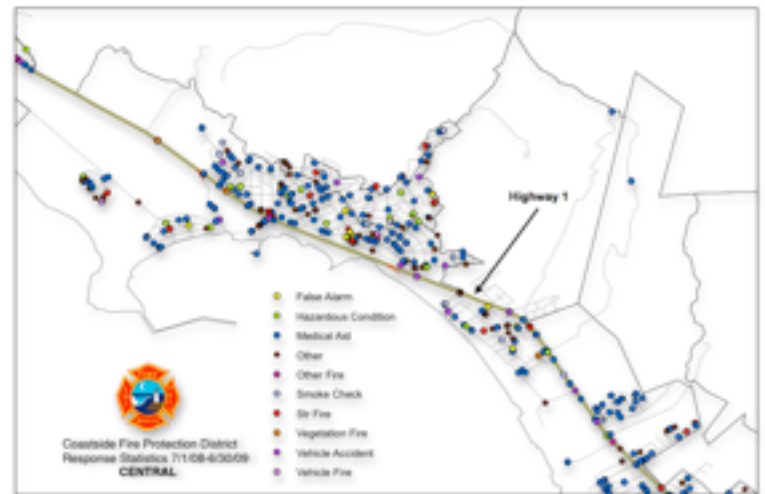


TOTAL CALLS - 2012 ALL ZONES

## District 40 calls for service



## District 41 calls for service



## District 44 calls for service





## District Headquarters & Station 40 equipment assigned



1191 Main Street, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
Built in 1998/ Painted July 2009



Engine 40 2002 Central States/HME Type 1



Quint 40 1991 Pierce Type 1



Patrol 40 1997 Ford pick-up Chassis  
Type 3 (Chassis currently being  
exchanged as Mechanic 40)



Utility 40 1998 Ford F150



Rescue 40 1994 Chevy

## Station 41 equipment assigned



531 Obispo Road, El Granada, CA 94018  
Built 1963



Engine 41 1999 Pierce Type 1



Engine 141 1989 Beck Type 1

## Station 44 equipment assigned



501 Stetson Street, Moss Beach CA 94038  
Built 1961/ Painted June 2009



Engine 144 1989 FMC Type 1



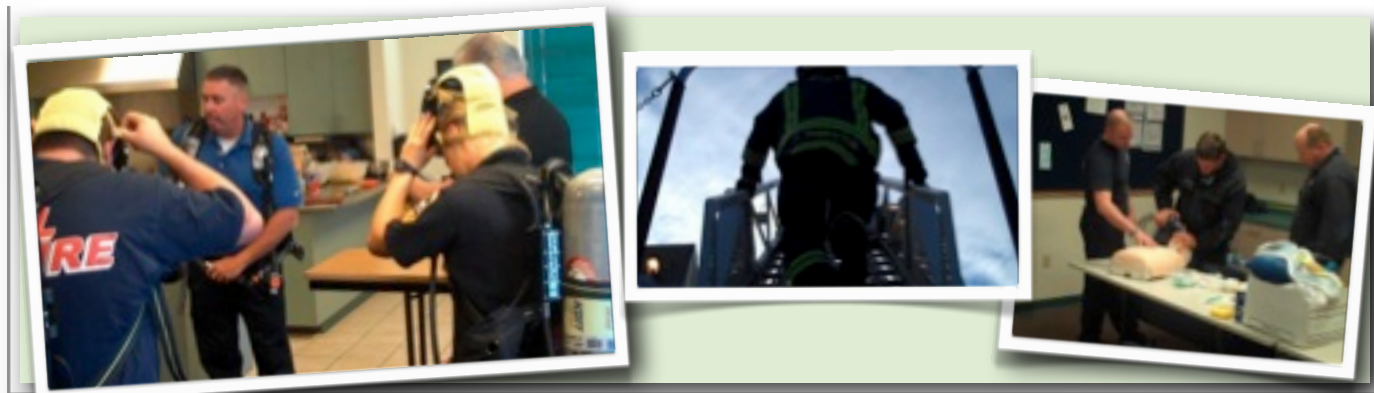
Engine 44 2002 Central States/HME Type 1



Patrol 44 2007 Ford P/U Chassis Type 3

# Training Accomplishments

- The companies have completed 2,462 hours of single company training
- The companies have completed 3,484 hours of multi company drills
- The companies have completed 1,237 hours of other training (i.e. self-study, EMS)
- The Volunteers have completed State Fire Marshal Volunteer Firefighter Certification
- The Volunteers are working towards qualifying six new Apparatus Operators



## Fire Prevention Bureau

Log of Activities recorded:

Plans Reviewed	Inspections completed	Consultations	Investigations	Permits
204	346	12	4	14

## Engine Companies

Log of Inspections recorded:

Business	Smoke Detectors	LE-100	Fire Hydrants
100	33	264	170

### Public Education Events:

- Pumpkin Festival- First Aid booth
- Station Tours
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)





# Half Moon Bay Volunteer Fire Department

The Half Moon Bay Volunteer Fire Department began its long history of service in 1879 and remains an integral part of the District after 130 years. Volunteers respond to structure and wildland fires, cliff and water rescues, requests for help during storms, vehicle accidents and medical emergencies, and staff additional fire apparatus during large-scale emergencies or when several incidents occur simultaneously.



Volunteers train at least once a week on many aspects of firefighting, including fire suppression, confined space and high angle rescue, emergency management and communications, hazardous materials training, and numerous other rescue and safety skills. Volunteers also serve as apparatus drivers and operators, and all members receive medical first responder certification. Many volunteers choose to complete Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) training, and some volunteers have received paramedic certifications in preparation for full-time firefighting careers.

While members can use their experience to prepare for a career in firefighting, many volunteers serve as a way of actively supporting

Coastside public safety; the current volunteers have served from a few years to well over 30. The volunteers also maintain an active community service program by supporting local organizations such as 4H, Coastside Little League, the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation, and providing multiple scholarships to Half Moon Bay High School students.

Volunteer membership is open to residents of the Coastside Fire Protection District who are at least 18 years of age and are high school graduates or possess a G.E.D. For an application, contact the District office at (650) 726-5213 or see us on the web, [coastsidefire.org](http://coastsidefire.org). The Half Moon Bay Volunteer Fire Department is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

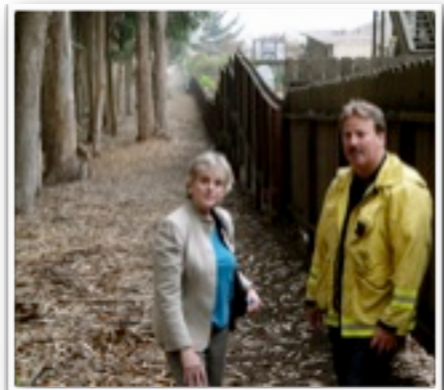
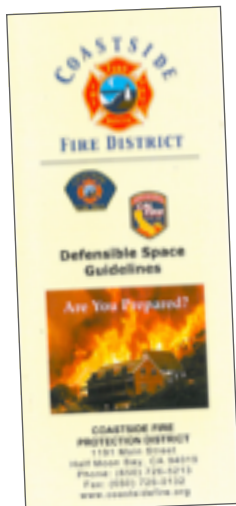
**photo above- OP #3 1946 White Antique HMB Volunteer Fire Dept. Engine**

## Vegetation Management FireSafe Clearance

### Weed Abatement Program inspections conducted:

- Total number of lots in the Weed Abatement Program - 720
- Number of lots found not in compliance with District Standards - 145
- 145 lots mowed by District contractor and re-inspected after mowing
- Total Weed Abatement inspections - 1,010
- Vacant lots inspected in Montara and Moss Beach - 679
- Lots identified for Weed Abatement Program next year - 172
- Inspections from Citizen Complaints - 16

The goal of the District's Vegetation Management Program is to reduce the amount of wildland fuels by eliminating underbrush thinnings, and reducing ladder fuels to provide a Defensible Space around structures.



Director Ginny McShane and Chief David Cosgrave inspect the Coral Reef Project

# Contact us:

## Board of Directors

Gary Burke, President  
Ginny McShane, Vice-President  
Bruce MacKimmie, Secretary  
Chris Cilia  
JB Cockrell  
John Draper  
Gregg Hosfeldt  
Lane Lees  
Doug Mackintosh

## Management

John Ferreira, Unit Fire Chief  
Paul Cole, Assistant Fire Chief  
David Cosgrave, Battalion Chief  
Ari Delay, Battalion Chief  
Clayton Jolley, Battalion Chief

Coastside Fire Protection District  
1191 Main Street  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
Phone (650) 726-5213  
Fax (650) 726-0132

San Mateo/CZU Headquarters  
6059 Highway 9  
Felton, CA 95018  
Phone (831) 335-5353  
Fax (831) 335-4053  
Mailing address:  
P.O. Drawer F-2, Felton, CA 95018



We're on the Web!  
See us at  
[www.coastsidefire.org](http://www.coastsidefire.org)



1191 Main Street  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

First-Class  
Postage &  
Fees Paid  
CFPD  
Permit #  
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To Our Coastside Fire District Neighbors