

"I've served as Ripon Fire Chief for over 20 years and am seeing hiring challenges like never before."



- Our firefighter salaries are some of the lowest in the region. We are losing staff to outside agencies that offer higher salaries. A step 1 firefighter starts at \$21.13 per hour.
 - We are short staffed and have few firefighter applicants due to our low pay.
 - We are operating on 1985 revenue: \$0.03/sq ft. single family, \$0.04/sq ft. commercial, and \$0.05/sq ft industrial and costs have tripled.
 - The RCFD serves:
 - 22,000 people and is growing; &
 - 56 square miles, which includes the City of Ripon.
 - With structure fires, OSHA requires 2 firefighters in and 2 outside. We have to wait for outside agencies to arrive to meet this quota before we can enter a burning building.
 - With the last structure fire we had, we waited 7 minutes for another outside agency fire engine to arrive before entering the burning building.
- The Prop 218 measure will open Station 3, add additional staffing, and help improve response times for the entire community.

-Chief Dennis Bitters



WithRiponFire.com
209-924-0977
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www.withriponfire.com

Still living on 1985 income? It isn't easy; nearly impossible. It's what the Ripon Consolidated Fire District (RCFD) has faced for the past several years.

It's time for change. We are asking for a **Yes** vote to support RCFD.

Under the CA Government Code Section 50078 et. seq. & the CA Constitution Article XIID ("Proposition 218"), the RCFD Board of Directors are putting forth a ballot seeking funds through an additional parcel assessment to sustain local fire response.

Please vote YES and mail in your ballot.

Property Type	Size (Sq Ft)	Estimated Annual Cost	Estimated Month Cost	
Single Home	Up to 3,600	\$250	\$21	
	Up to 4,526	\$264	\$22	
	>4,526	\$278	\$23	
Multi-Unit Living	5-20 units; 10,200 sq ft	\$1,535	\$26/unit	
	21-40 units; 29,631 sq ft	\$3,320	\$13/unit	
	100 units; 153,722 sq ft	\$16,124	\$13/unit	
Commercial	Up to 2,200	\$245	\$20	
	Up to 5,106	\$314	\$22	
	71,275	\$801	\$67	
Agriculture Winery 20 ac Winery 46 ac	All Row/Orchard	\$143	\$12	
	15,673	\$314	\$26	
	71,275	\$801	\$67	
Timeline	April 11	April 18-29	Late April -May	Early May-June 13
	Prop 218 resolution RCFD Board Meeting @ 2 pm	Ballots mailed to property/ parcel owners	Property/parcel owners vote and mail ballot back.	Ballots tallied results announced RCFD Board meeting 2pm

Please vote YES and mail in your ballot.



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We have 30 years of service together and are seeing challenges at Ripon Fire like never before.

- We had 2,000 annual calls for 1 fire station.
- There were 500 concurrent calls last year; calls that happen near or at the same time.
- During a concurrent call, if you call 911, you have to wait for an outside agency to respond.
- Our staff are working twice as much overtime because we are short-staffed. This leads to burnout.
- We ask you to vote **“YES”**

Medic Captain Josh Bodeson & Engineer Pedro Avalos
 Longtime Ripon Fire personnel & Ripon residents

Ripon Resident Testimonials

“My neighbor’s garage caught on fire while they were cooking. With prompt response, RCFD contained the fire within the garage area.”
 Ripon Neighbor-Santos Avenue

“My husband is with me today because RCFD was at our house within 3 minutes when experienced sudden cardiac arrest. Had they been on another call at the same time, I believe it would have been a different outcome. We need to staff another station.”
 -Annette Schroen, Milgeo Avenue

“We just lost our home and everything in it to fire! \$23/month on taxes is nothing compared to the loss we are going through.”
 -Merry Waddell-Wilkerson, Cindy Drive (RCFD Facebook Post)

In a random sample survey conducted in Nov. 2023, by a third-party entity, 80% of Ripon property owners ranked Ripon Fire response as one of two highest priorities; along with law enforcement.

Find out why Ripon Fire’s Levels are slipping; check the QR Codes below.



3 Minutes
 longer to get to
 your door
 2016-2023



“Ripon Fire has not had a funding increase since the 1985 Special District tax.”

Sheri Coburn, EDD, RN
 Ripon Fire Board, Chair



Our Commitment:

At Ripon Fire, we strive to provide the best possible care and service from highly-trained, compassionate personnel. Lives depend on the speed and efficiency of our firefighter’s response. We need your support to address the growing needs of sustaining Ripon fire services. The average career firefighter per 1,000 capita is 1.54-1.84; for Ripon it is **0.65** per 1,000 residents. This spring, under Proposition 218, the Ripon Consolidated Fire District Board will propose an equitable, additional property parcel assessment. This equitable solution will require a majority **“Yes”** vote from property owners that **mail in their ballots.**