



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



SCCFD's Support Services Division is responsible for fleet and facility needs. The team earned a Unit Citation in 2025 for the work completed leading up to the South Santa Clara County Fire District annexation. The team is critically important to ensuring firefighters have the tools and equipment necessary to respond to emergencies.

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is an honor to present Santa Clara County Fire Department's (SCCFD) 2025 Annual Report. This past year has been defined by a historic milestone: the formal annexation of the South Santa Clara County Fire District into our organization. On July 1, 2025, we unified our operations into a resilient, efficient, and cohesive fire protection network that now spans over 420 square miles and serves more than 240,000 community members.

Our mission remains clear — to protect lives, property, and the environment. This mission remains our guiding force as we navigate a changing climate and the unique risks of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Our efforts remain committed to proactive mitigation work. From expanding our Vasona Fire Fuels Crews to issuing PFAS-free turnouts to protect the health of our firefighters, we are investing in the future of public safety and remaining at the forefront of industry best practices.

This report outlines our performance across the diverse jurisdictions we serve, from the high-tech corridors of Cupertino and Campbell to the rural landscapes of San Martin. We remain committed to fiscal transparency and the prudent use of the property tax and contract revenues that sustain our all-risk service model.

The 2025 fiscal year marked a period of strategic transformation for the Santa Clara County Fire Department. As the emergency response landscape evolves, SCCFD has prioritized regionalization to ensure that every community member, regardless of their location, receives the highest standard of emergency services.

I want to thank the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, our city, town, and District partners, and most importantly, SCCFD's dedicated personnel who answer the call 24/7. Together, we are building a safer, more prepared community.

Respectfully,



Suwanna L. Kerdkaew
Fire Chief



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MISSION

The Santa Clara County Fire Department exists to protect lives, property, and the environment from fires, emergency incidents, and disasters through preparedness, prevention, education, and emergency response.

VALUES

TRUST

Advocate collaborative relationships.

Maintain community through reliable professional behaviors and open communication.

Foster effective team environments.

INTEGRITY

Maintain the highest level of ethical standards.

Exhibit prudent use of public resources.

RESPECT

Honor diversity in the workforce and the communities we serve.

Appreciate individual and inherent differences.

EXCELLENCE

Provide outstanding customer service.

Execute timely service delivery.

Promote professional development and innovation.



Financial Excellence

For the 11th consecutive year, the Department was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Recent and historical financial reports including the department's annual operating budget are available at sccfd.org.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Santa Clara County Fire Department, formally known as the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District, is a California special district that provides all-hazard emergency response to the cities and towns of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Redwood Estates, Saratoga, San Martin and surrounding unincorporated communities. Some of these jurisdictions are incorporated into the Fire District, while others contract with County Fire for services.



SPECIAL FIRE DISTRICT DESIGNATION

A special fire district is an independent local government entity that serves a specific geographic area. Unlike municipal fire departments, special fire districts are typically governed by an elected board and funded through a voter-approved property tax levy. SCCFD is a dependent special district, this means it is governed by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, which serves as our Board of Directors.

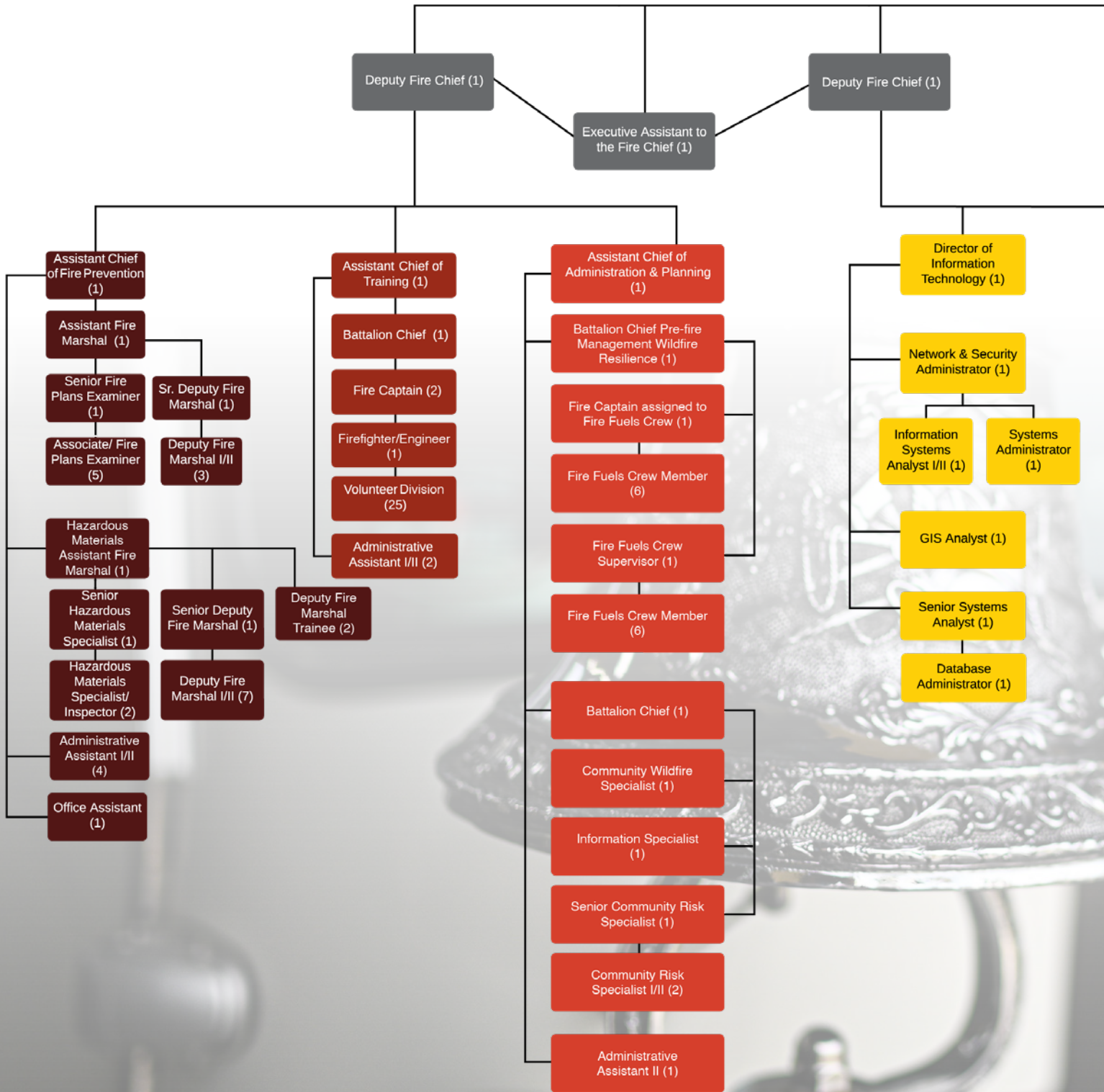
ALL-HAZARD FIRE DEPARTMENT

County Fire is an all-hazard fire department capable of responding to fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, technical rescues, and any other type of emergency. All fire engines are staffed with three personnel including one Fire Captain, one Firefighter/EMT, and one Firefighter/Paramedic. Fire trucks, rescue companies, and the hazardous materials unit are staffed similarly, with one additional Firefighter/EMT for a total of four personnel. Daily staffing includes 79 firefighters who respond from 19 strategically located fire stations.

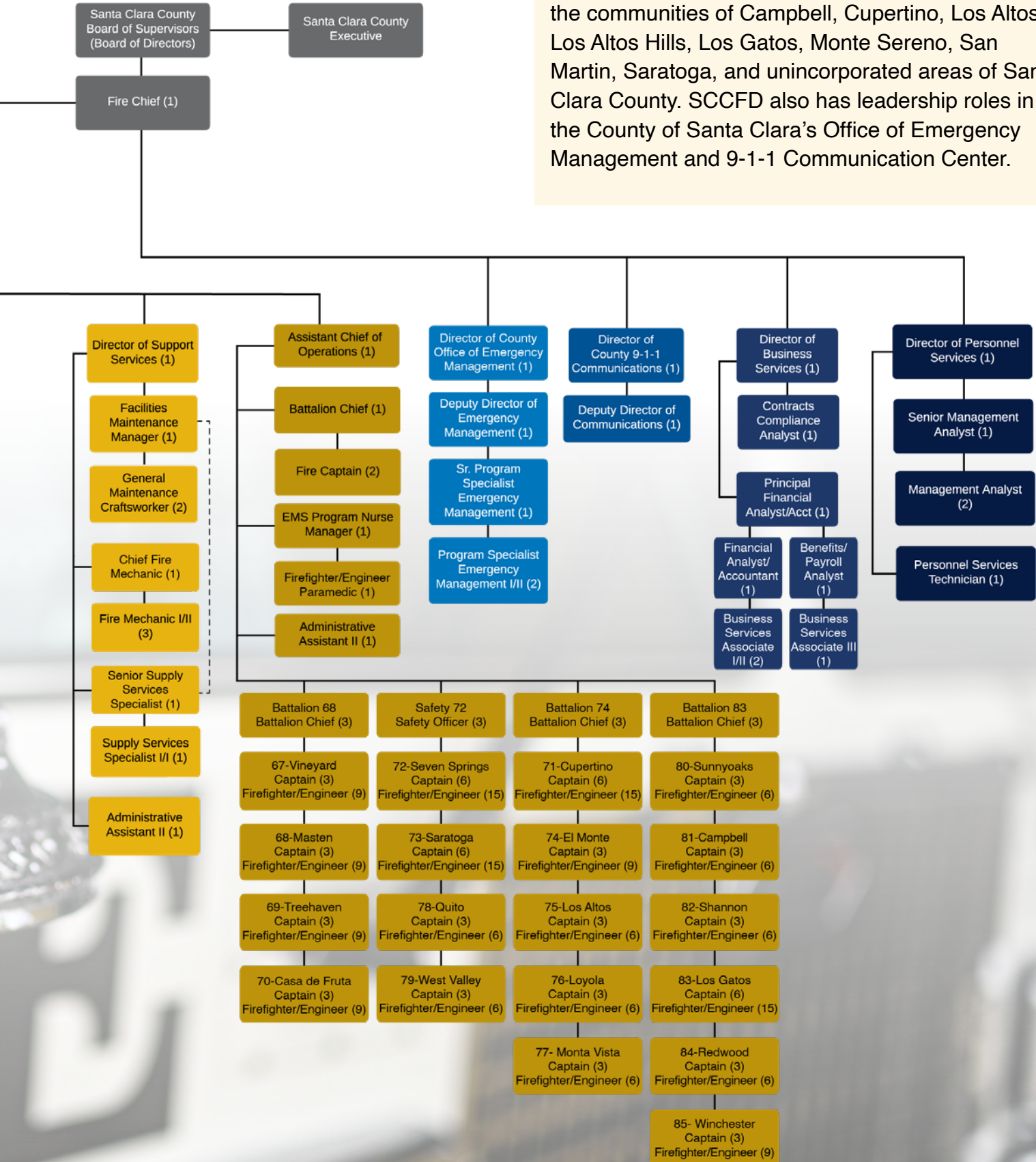


Learn more about our firefighters, staffing, facilities and more in our [Fire Station Spotlight video series](#).

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE









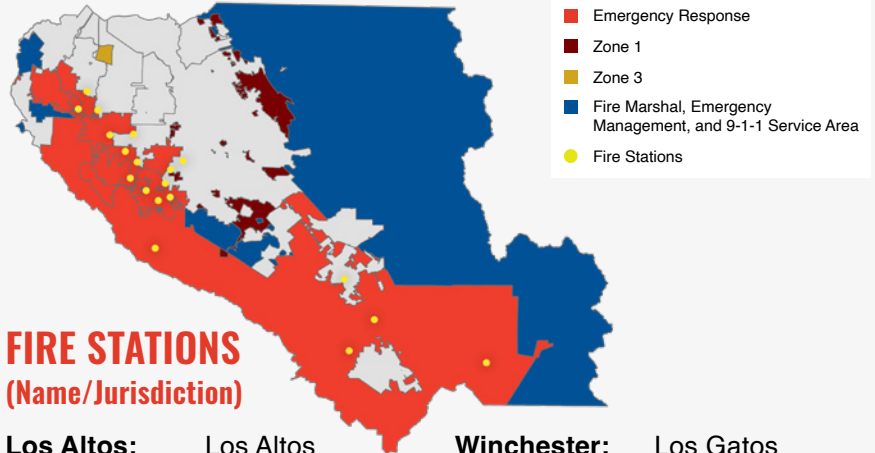
County Fire had 341 budgeted positions in 2025, with 297 sworn and 41 civilian positions filled. Personnel are organized into eight divisions that proudly serve the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, San Martin, Saratoga, and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County. SCCFD also has leadership roles in the County of Santa Clara's Office of Emergency Management and 9-1-1 Communication Center.



COUNTY FIRE AT A GLANCE

SERVICE AREA

-  **19** Fire Stations
-  **270,706** Acres
-  **244,531** Population
-  **423** Square Miles
-  **88,509** Residences
-  **1,716** Miles of Roads



FIRE STATIONS (Name/Jurisdiction)

Los Altos:	Los Altos	Winchester:	Los Gatos
Loyola:	Los Altos	Quito:	Los Gatos/ Monte Sereno
El Monte:	Los Altos Hills	Shannon:	Los Gatos
Cupertino:	Cupertino	Los Gatos:	Los Gatos
Monta Vista:	Cupertino	Redwood:	Redwood Estates
Seven Springs:	Cupertino	Vineyard*:	Unincorporated
West Valley:	Saratoga	Masten*:	Unincorporated
Saratoga:	Saratoga	Treehaven*:	Unincorporated
Campbell:	Campbell	Casa de Fruta*:	Unincorporated
Sunnyoaks:	Campbell		

**New fire stations added in 2025 serving unincorporated South Santa Clara County. Learn more on Page 11.*



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

County Fire has been Accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for over 20 years. The designation exemplifies our commitment to continual self-assessment and transparency. As we strive for continuous improvement, we measure our efforts through established organizational performance indicators.

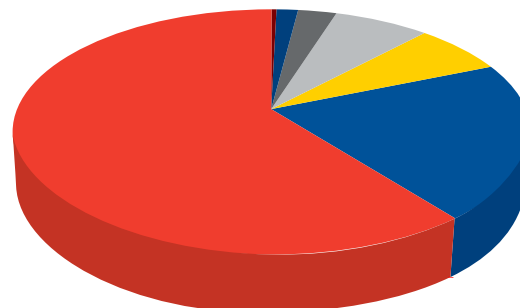
BASELINE PERFORMANCE	
Average time for a unit to arrive at a moderate risk emergency medical services (EMS) incident (urban/rural)	6:06/8:11
Average time for the first unit to arrive at a moderate risk fire incident (urban/rural)	7:08/9:49
Average turnout time for an urgent emergency medical service (EMS) incident	1:26
Average turnout time for an urgent fire incident	1:40
Contain fire to room of origin 50% of the time	61%
Maintain a fund reserve balance of 10-15%*	25%
STRATEGIC INITIATIVE GOALS AND RESULTS	
Keep vegetation fires to 3 acres or less 90% of the time	95%
Maintain a citizen satisfaction rating at or above 95%	97%
Community education: Make contact with 29% or more of the population served	31%
Maintain annual employee injury rate below 20% of all employees	21%

*The District's general fund unassigned fund balance was 25% of general fund expenditures of \$174,495,979. This amount exceeds the 10 – 15% corridor that the District has set for budgetary and planning purposes.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

24,150	Total Calls
14,610	Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
5,044	Customer Service Calls
1,605	Fire Alarm Calls
1,722	Other
704	Fires
370	Hazardous Conditions
95	Rescues ¹

2025 INCIDENTS



■ EMS 60%	■ Fire 3%
■ Customer Service 21%	■ Hazardous Conditions 2%
■ Fire Alarm 7%	■ Rescues <1%
■ Other 7%	

¹An incident classified as a rescue indicates a victim was extricated or otherwise removed from an entrapped position or location.



As lithium-ion battery sparked fires continue to rise across our community, incidents like this garbage truck fire highlight the extreme danger of improper disposal. Protect your home and family by only using manufacturer-approved chargers and never placing batteries in household trash or recycling bins. Schedule a free drop-off with the County of Santa Clara Household Hazardous Waste Program: hhw.org or 408-299-7300

SOUTH SANTA CLARA COUNTY



On July 1, 2025, Santa Clara County Fire Department assumed fire, emergency medical service delivery, and all-hazards emergency response in areas previously served by the South Santa Clara County Fire District (SSCCFD). This includes San Martin and portions of unincorporated Gilroy and Morgan Hill.

The consolidation comes at the direction of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, which serves as SCCFD's Board of Directors. This action addresses longstanding financial challenges faced by SSCCFD and ensures continued, uninterrupted services to the community.

The expansion more than doubles County Fire's service area and includes four additional fire stations serving unincorporated South Santa Clara County. Recruitment and training have been key areas of focus over the past year as the Department sought to fill 39 additional safety-qualified positions to cover the expanded area.

NEWLY PURCHASED SYCAMORE SITE

SCCFD recently purchased a 10.5-acre parcel located along Highway 101 in San Martin. Known as the Sycamore site, our vision for this facility represents the next step in ensuring that our fleet maintenance, logistics support, and training capabilities grow in pace with our operational footprint.



WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

Wildfire prevention is a major focus area for SCCFD with wildfire mitigation projects being the primary objective of our seasonally staffed Vasona Fire Fuels Crew. The Crew also responds to vegetation fires, weather-related incidents, and other emergency incidents within the County.

VASONA FUELS CREW SEASON SNAPSHOT

- 4** Fire fuel reduction projects completed
- 9** Control burns with partner agencies
- 262** Fuel piles prepped and burned
- 29.5 ACRES** Acres shaded fuel break and fuel reduction
- 78** Hazardous trees removed
- 6** Trainings hosted for partner agencies



WILDFIRE EDUCATION

As the Vasona Fuels Crew works on wildfire mitigation projects throughout the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), our Community Education and Fire Prevention divisions have supported efforts to educate the public about wildfire resilience and preparations.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & RISK REDUCTION SERVICES

SCCFD invests in a robust community education program to build safer communities through expanding fire-safety knowledge, emergency preparedness, and basic first aid and CPR skills. View available programs and course offerings at sccfd.org.



INDIVIDUALS REACHED

44,081	Community Events
24,167	School Fire Drills
4,131	Fire & Life Safety
1,499	Fire Station Tours
958	CPR Training
810	Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training
409	Wildfire/Disaster Preparedness
19	Safety Information & Resident Resource Assistance
76,074	TOTAL



TAKE ACTION NOW

REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

AlertSCC is the platform used to provide emergency alerts and instructions following a disaster. Make sure you are signed up to get the right information at the right time. Register now to receive alerts via phone, text or email: AlertSCC.org

NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIFIC INFORMATION






Genasys Protect is used to provide timely geo-targeted safety information including evacuation details and instructions. Visit and bookmark the website today, or download the app to receive instantaneous alerts when updates are issued in your selected zone(s): Protect.Genasys.com

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRESAFE COUNCIL

SCCFD partners with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council to offer a Community Chipping program in the spring and fall each year. This program is free for those residing in the WUI to encourage and support homeowners in creating and maintaining defensible space around their homes. Two hundred and twenty-five residents were served, and 26,471 cubic yards and 5.3 acres were treated in 2025. Learn more at SCCFireSafe.org

2026 WILDFIRE WORKSHOP DATES

Learn how to prepare your home and family ahead of wildfire season at one of our 2026 Wildfire Workshops:

-  **Thursday, April 23, 6-8 p.m.**
Pavilion at Redwood Estates
21450 Madrone Drive, Los Gatos
-  **Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**
San Martin Lions Club
12415 Murphy Ave, San Martin
-  **Tuesday, June 2, 6-8 p.m.**
Joan Pisani Community Center
19655 Allendale Ave, Saratoga
-  **Wednesday, July 15, 6-8 p.m.**
Cupertino Community Hall
10300 Torre Ave, Cupertino
-  **Thursday, August 27, 6-8 p.m.**
Los Altos Community Center
97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos



Scan the QR code or visit sccfd.eventbrite.com to register.

ADAPTING TO WILDFIRE



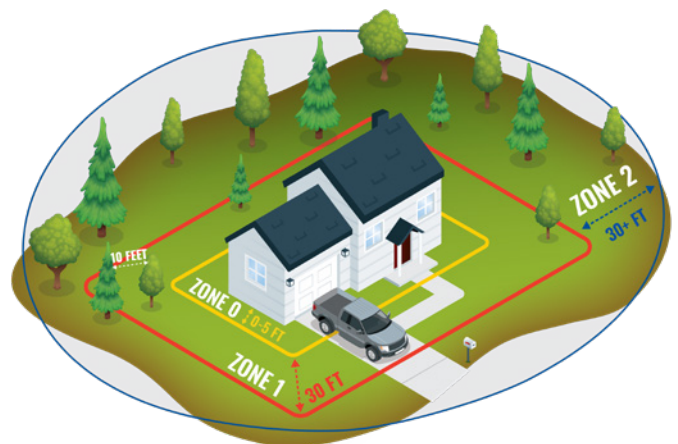
Following devastating wildfires across the country over the past several years, experts at the local, state, and federal levels have been working to identify ways to reduce risk and increase community safety. This has resulted in significant updates to how risk is assessed and recommendations on mitigation efforts.

STATEWIDE WILDFIRE UPDATES

Leveraging updated data and key findings, the state established new criteria to reassess wildfire risk across California. In February 2025, this resulted in updated Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps. In our service area, this impacted portions of Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and unincorporated areas of County land. The new LRA maps were required to, and have been, adopted by the local governing bodies.

These lessons have also resulted in updates to defensible space recommendations. Zone 0: Ember Resistant Zone is the first 5 feet from your home, which is now seen as the most important area you can clear to protect against wildfire embers known to be the leading cause of fire spread.

Please learn more and take steps to protect against wildfire at sccfd.org/rsg.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHENING THE FIRE DISTRICT

County Fire holds strategic leadership positions in two safety-related departments of the County of Santa Clara – its Office of Emergency Services and 9-1-1 Communications Center. Both County Departments provide key resources in our operational area, enhancing our regional strength and service.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The County of Santa Clara Office of Emergency Management (OEM) works year-round to strengthen preparedness, prevention, response, and risk-reduction capabilities of the public, government agencies, volunteers, and service workers throughout the County.

2026 MAJOR EVENT PLANNING

OEM worked closely with the NFL, FIFA, as well as local, state, and federal partners to develop scalable emergency operations plans to address public safety, resource management, transportation coordination, and crisis communications ahead of Super Bowl LX. This work continues as the region prepares to host the FIFA World Cup Games this summer.



9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS

Santa Clara County 9-1-1 Communications (County Communications) coordinates and dispatches resources for County Fire, as well as the County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Services, and Parks and Recreation departments. They are a critical lifeline between the public and emergency responders.

BY THE NUMBERS

386,792 Total inbound calls

134,479 Total outbound calls

76,129 Total 9-1-1 calls inclusive of wireless, wireline, VOIP, text and TTY



RESPONSE TIME IMPROVEMENTS

Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) dispatching was implemented in 2025 following an upgrade of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system the year prior. AVL technology allows dispatchers to locate and assign the fire company that has the quickest response time to your emergency call, because every second counts.



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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