

# Menlo Park Fire Protection District Town of Atherton – Updated Presentation Fire Board Meeting – February 18, 2020



# Menlo Park Fire Protection District Atherton Town Council Joint Meeting – April 29, 2015

## Meeting Objectives

- To maintain and improve relations
- To discuss important issues
- To better understand how the Fire District and Town each operate
- To collaboratively move forward together to better serve the community



**Menlo Park Fire Protection District  
Town of Atherton  
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**April 4, 1874**

**“An effort has been inaugurated  
at Menlo Park to establish a Fire  
Company” – San Mateo Gazette**

**Faxon Dean Atherton – Chief**

**Frank R. Roach - Foreman**

**Deidrich Kuck - Treasurer**

**1896 – Kuck Hotel Fire**





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**1899 - 1920**

**1889 - The carriage house is built**

**1900 – The hose wagon is purchased**

**1916 – The District is formed**



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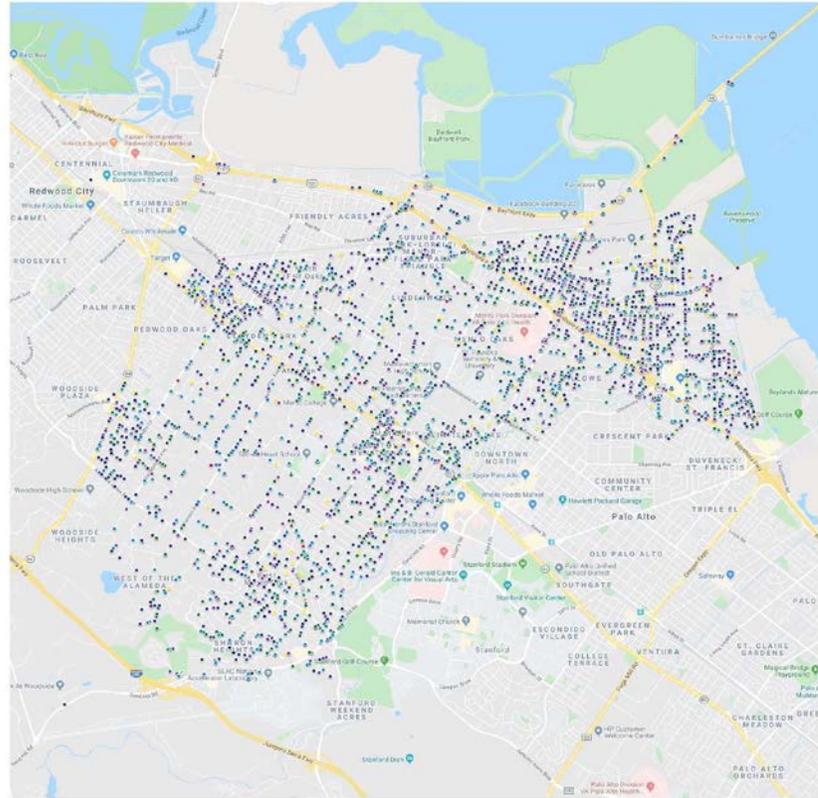


**Town of Atherton/Fair Oaks**

- 1874 Fair Oaks – FD Atherton
- Incorporated 1923
- Population – 7,159 (2013)
- Area – 5.49 square miles
- Elevation 59 ft.
- 2,530 Housing units
- One fire station (In Town)
- **27% of the “area” protected by the Fire District**
- #1 List of most expensive zip codes in the US

# Menlo Park Fire Protection District Town of Atherton Fire Board Meeting – February 18, 2020

9,347 Calls in 2019  
Menlo Park Fire Protection District



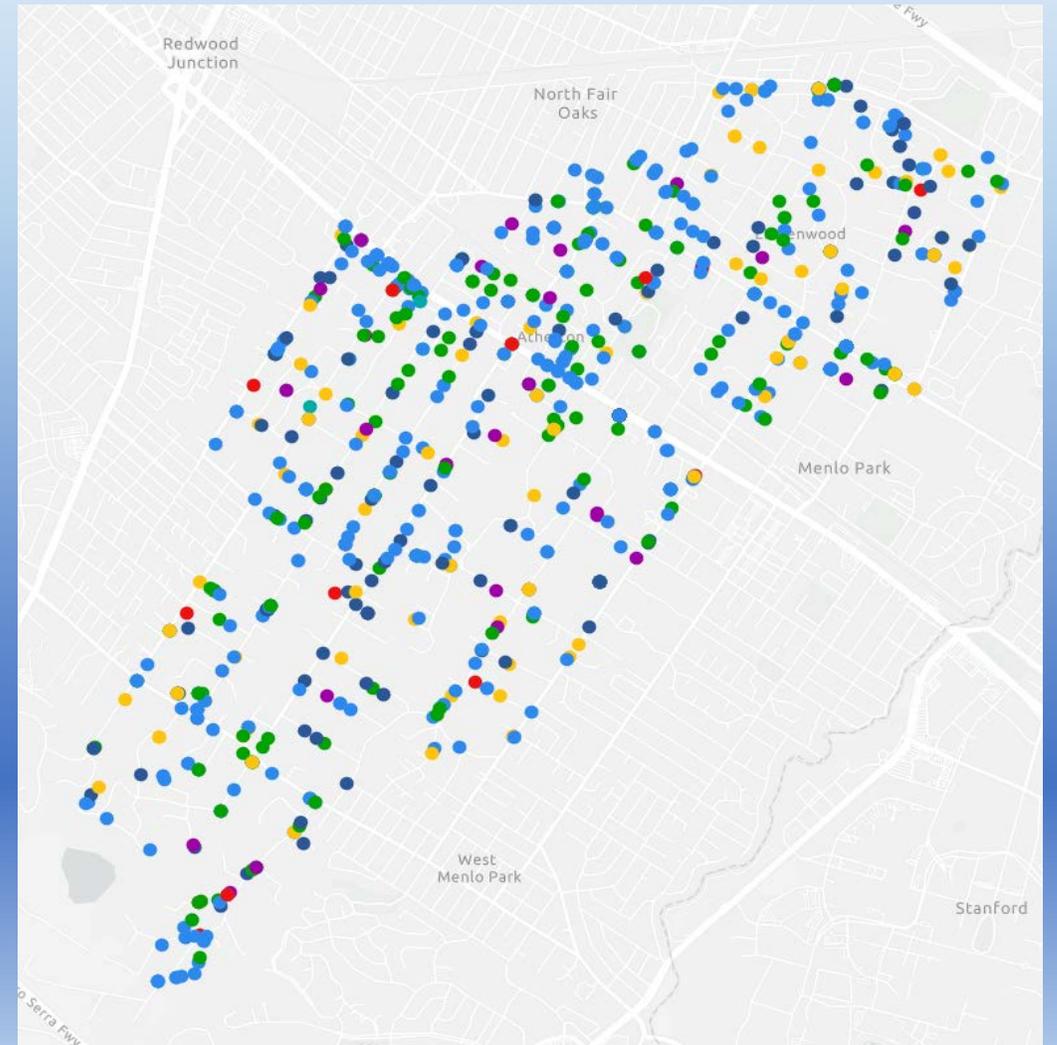
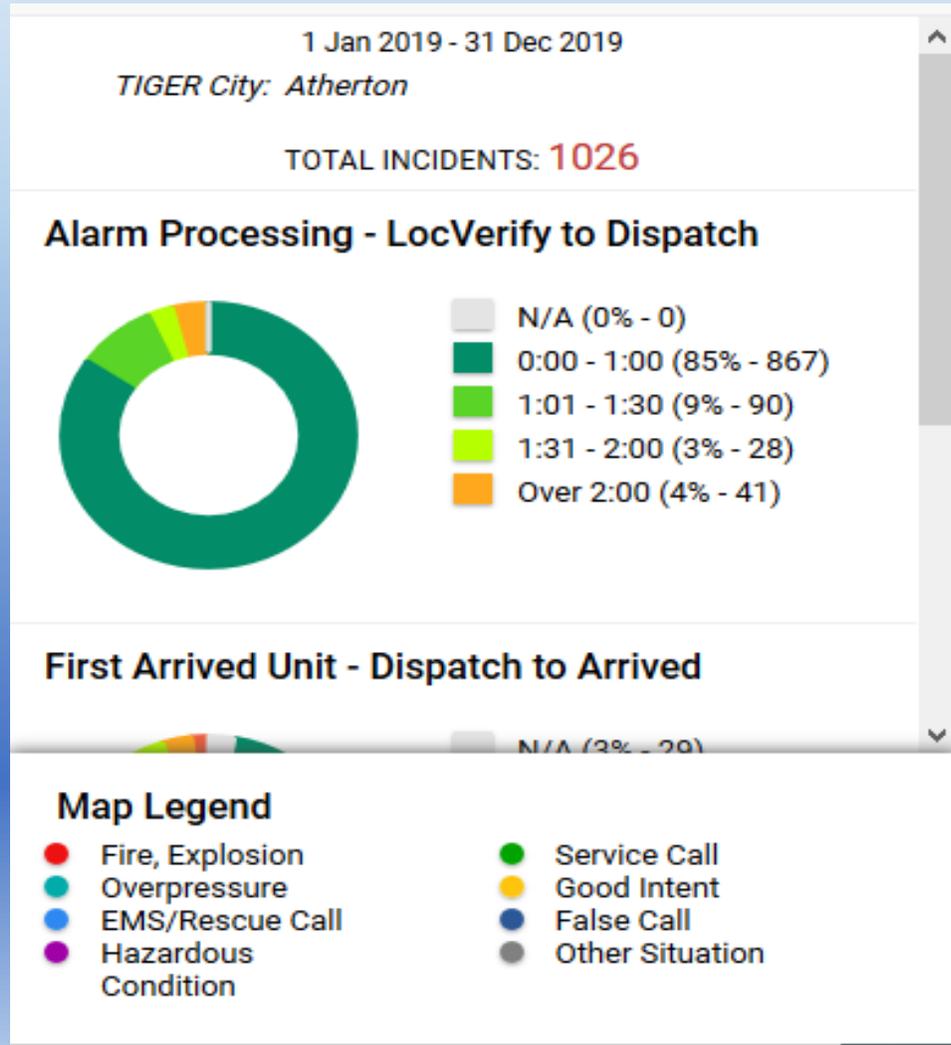
● 174 Fires	● 215 Hazardous Conditions	● 12 Special Incident Types
● 1,142 Service Calls	● 962 False Alarms	● 16 Overpressure Ruptures
● 5,935 EMS Calls	● 890 Good Intent Calls	● 1 Undefined

## 2019 Information

### 9,347 Emergency Incidents

- Tracked by category (NFPA)
- Tracked by station and unit
- Tracked by time
- Tracked District wide - Not by jurisdiction
- Tracked by Agency – Aid given and Aid received

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## Fire Station 3

- 32 Almendral Avenue, Atherton
- Built 1937 - Rebuilt 1998
- Single Bay, back-in, three member crew staffing an Engine Company
- 2017 - Purchased 28 Almendral
  - \$4.6 million
  - New Station 2050



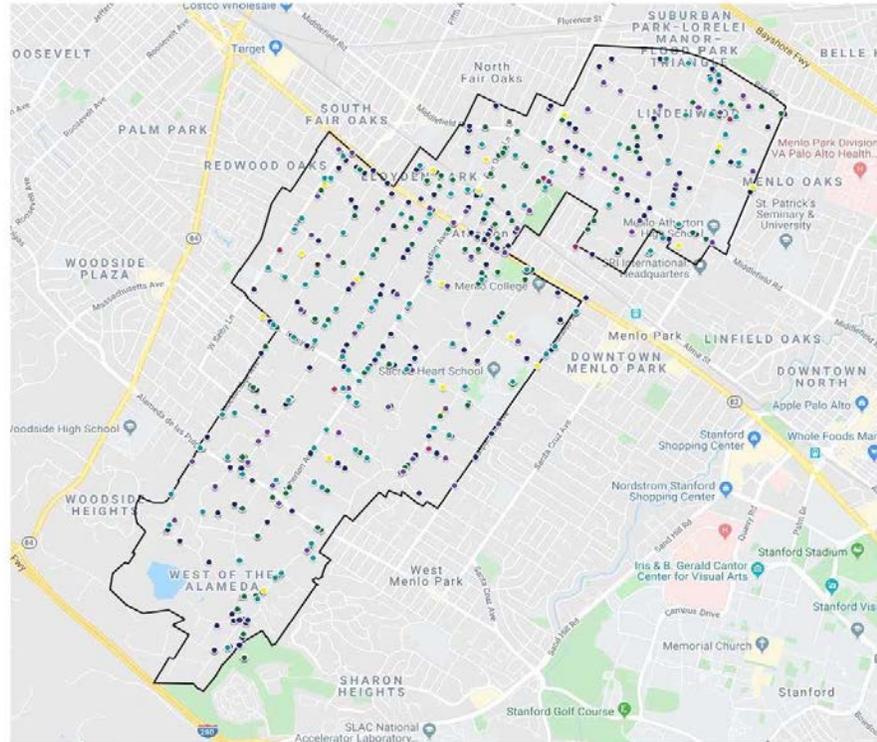
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## Fire Station 3

- 2019 - Responded to 774 emergency incidents
- **EMS 434 (56.07%)**
- Service Calls 133 (17.18%)
- False Alarms 90 (11.62)
- Hazardous Conditions 31 (4%)
- **Fires 19 (2.45%)**

730 Calls in Atherton 2019  
Menlo Park Fire Protection District

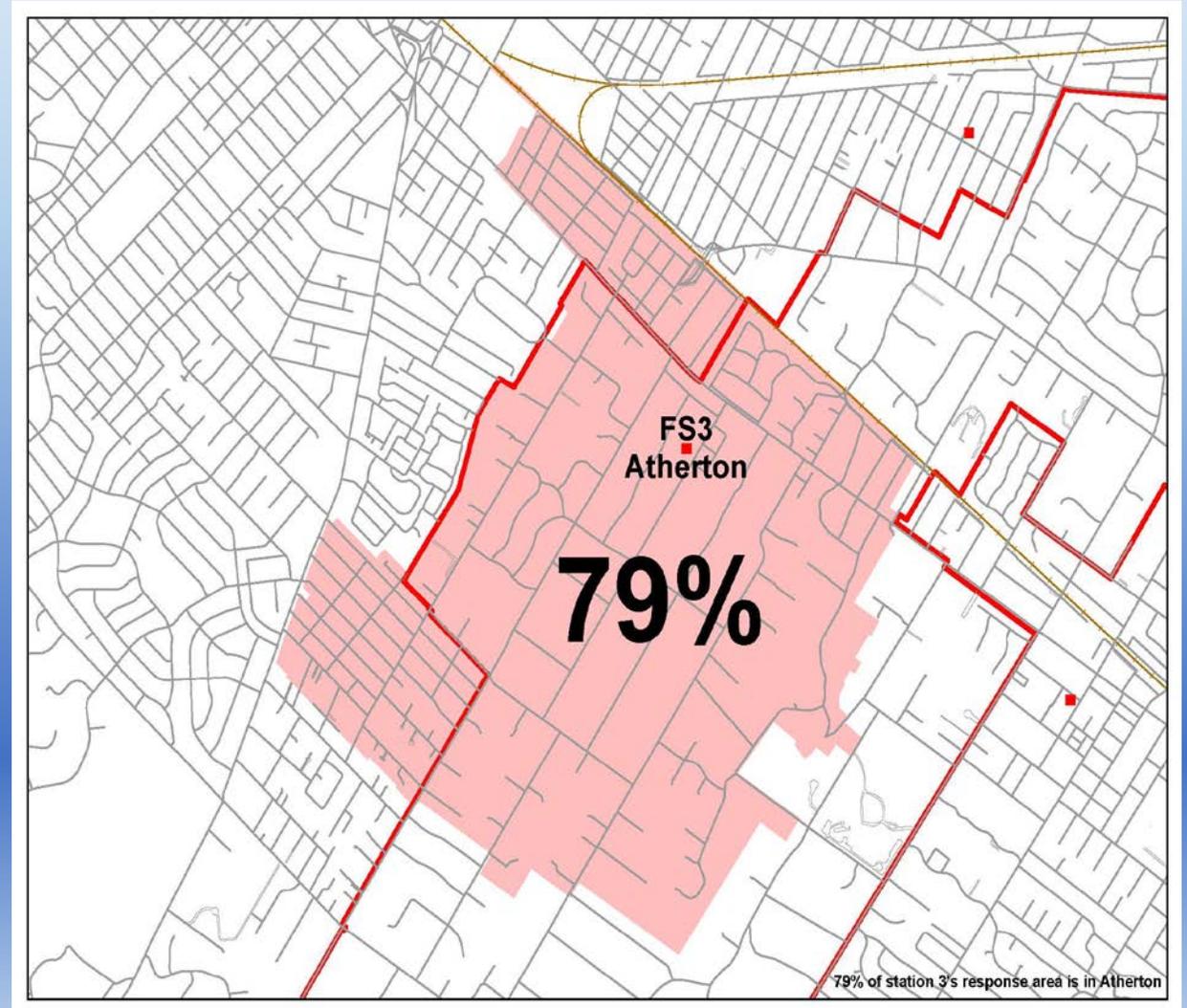


• 11 Fires	• 23 Hazardous Conditions	• 0 Special Incident Types
• 146 Service Calls	• 126 False Alarms	• 4 Overpressure Ruptures
• 335 EMS Calls	• 85 Good Intent Calls	• 0 Undefined

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**Response Area**

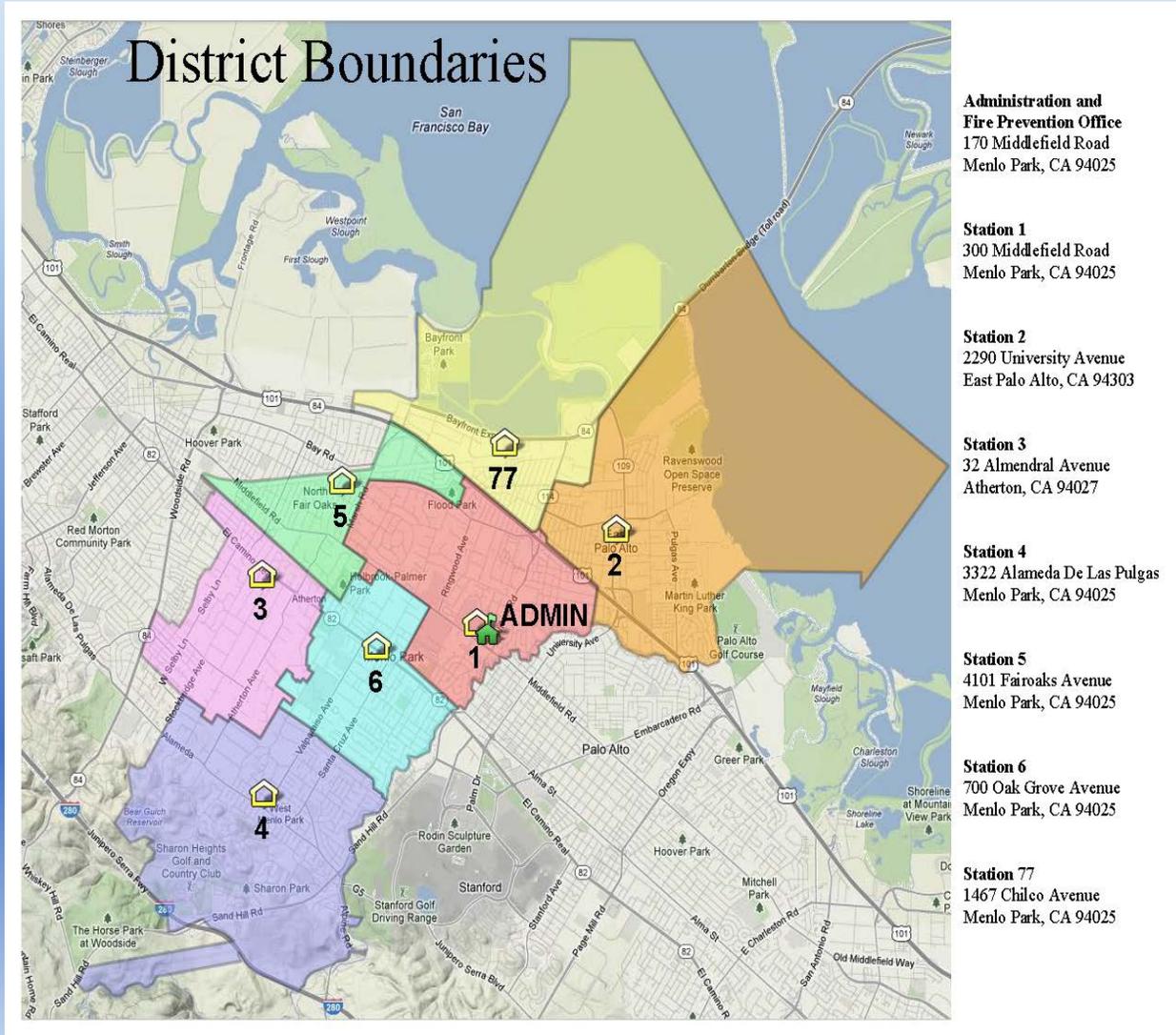
- 79% of Fire Station 3's response area is in Atherton
- The Fire District "network" covers the rest
- 5 Fire Stations directly cover the Town



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## Response Areas

- Station driven
- Geographically situated
- Time based
- Goal
  - 1 minute call handling
  - 1 – 2 minute turn-out time
  - 4 – 7 minute response time
  - 8 – 11 - minutes all units on-scene



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Figure 102: Fire Growth versus Reflex Time

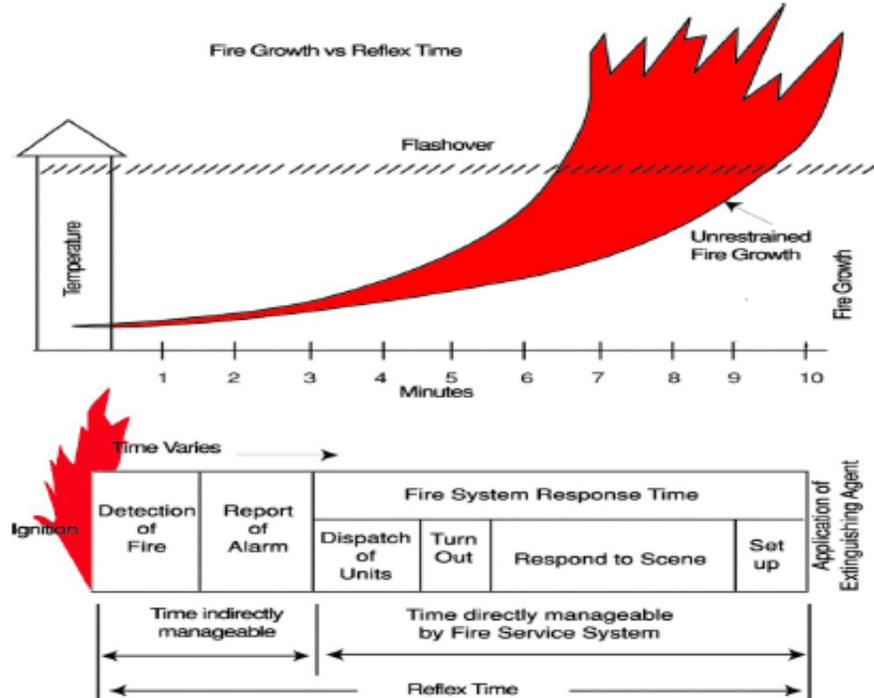


Figure 104: Cardiac Arrest Event Sequence

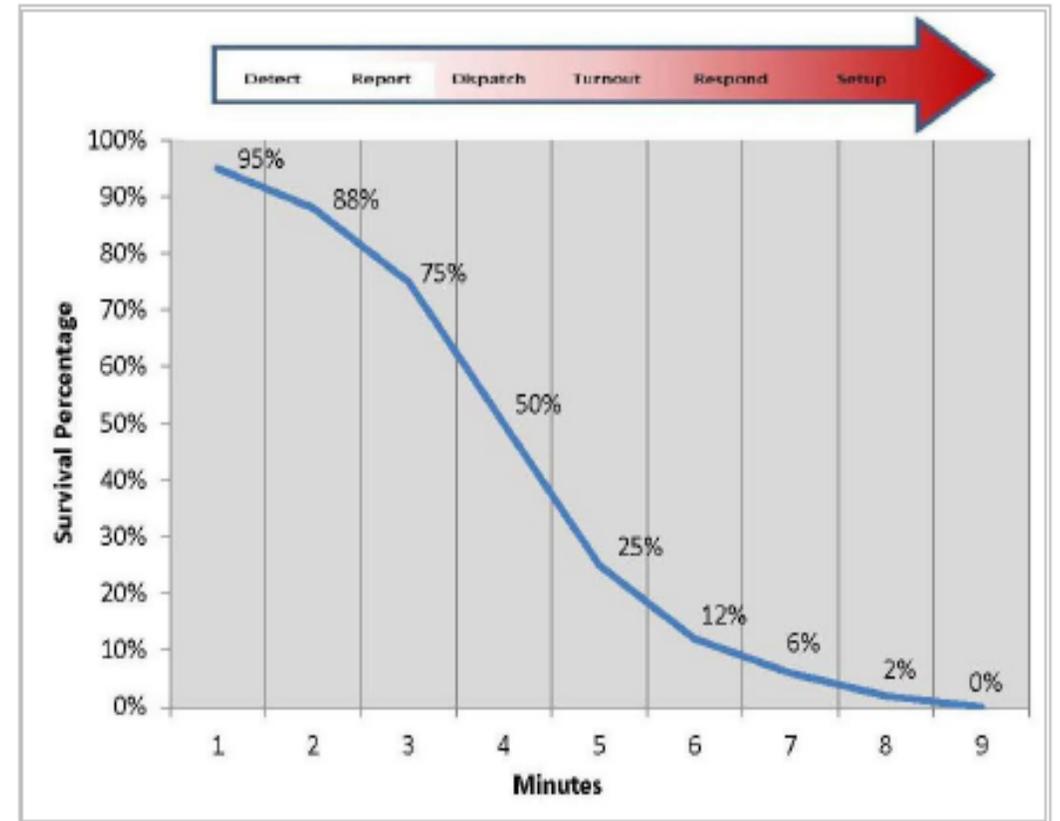


Figure 103: Consequence of Fire Extension in Residential Structures—United States, 2011–2015

Extension	Rates per 1,000 Fires		
	Civilian Deaths	Civilian Injuries	Average Dollar Loss Per Fire
Confined to the room of origin or smaller	1.8	24.8	\$4,200
Confined to floor of origin	15.8	81.4	\$36,300
Confined to building of origin or larger	24.0	57.6	\$67,600

Source: National Fire Protection Association

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**Atherton's Unique Challenges**

- Fences and walls with gated access
- Long driveways
- Long distances between fire hydrants for water supply
- Very large homes
- Very large basements
- Commercial and unique construction issues
- Reminder – We are a standby emergency service 24/7/365



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**Atherton Homes and Basements**

**2008 – 2017 (April)**

224 New homes built

Largest home – 31,900 square feet

Largest basement – 9,400 square feet





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## Size of the effective force

Figure 53: Staffing CFAI Recommendations Based on Risk

Incident Type	High Risk	Moderate Risk	Low Risk
Structure Fire	29	15	6
Emergency Medical Service	12	4	2
Rescue	15	8	3
Hazardous Materials	39	20	3

Figure 54: Structure Fire

Task	Number of Personnel
Command	1
Safety	1
Pump Operations	4
Attack Line	4
Back up Line	4
Search and Rescue	2
Ventilation	2
RIT	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>



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Figure 86: MPFPD 4-Minute Travel Coverage

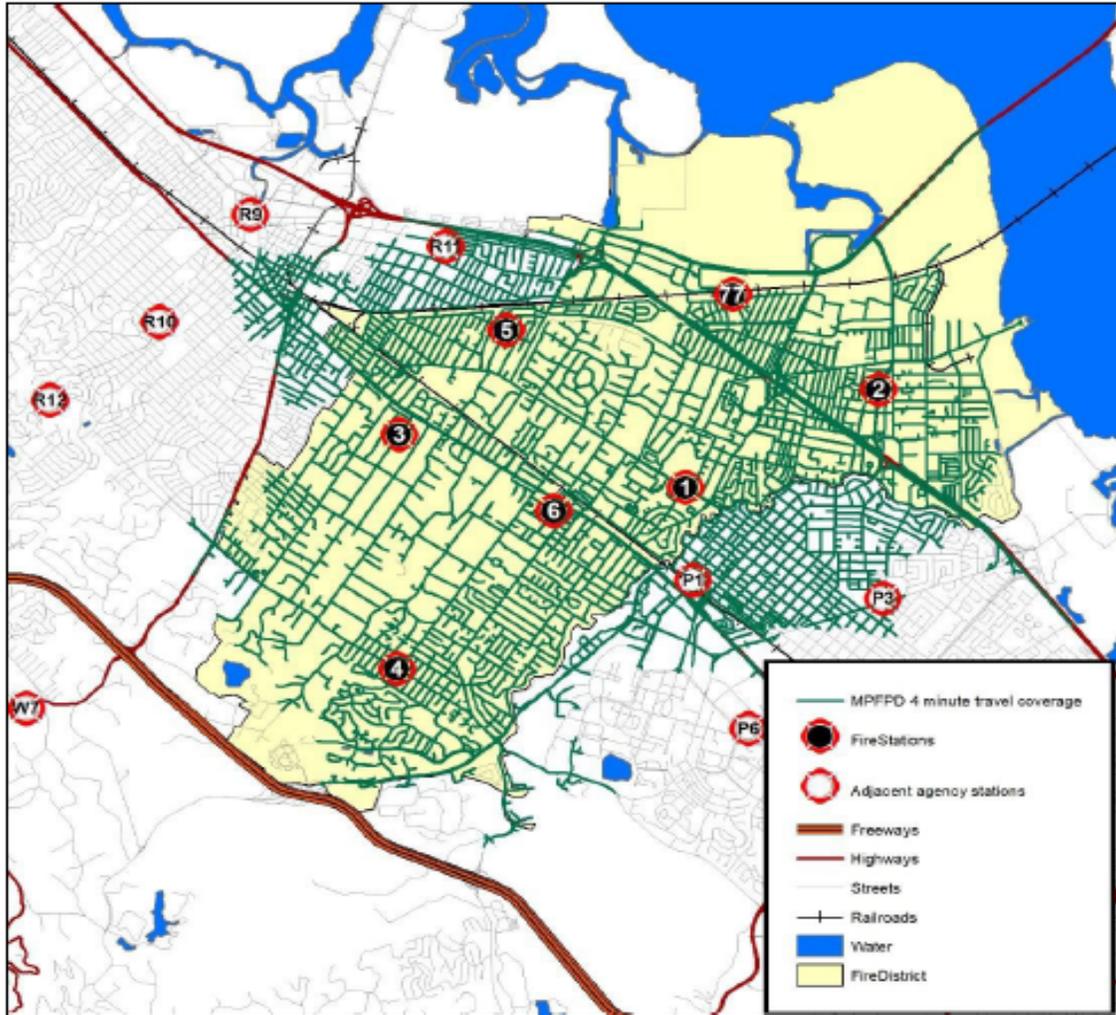
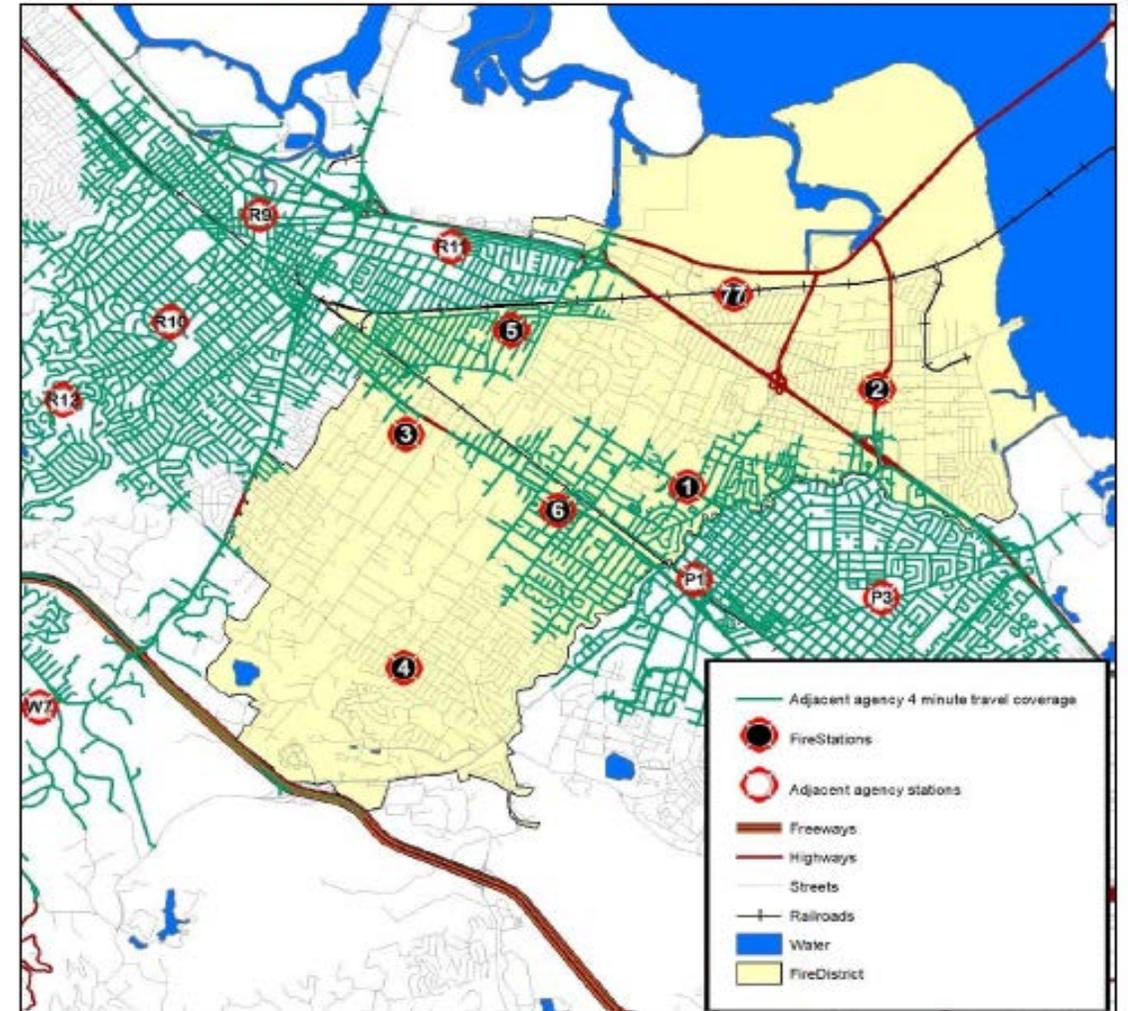
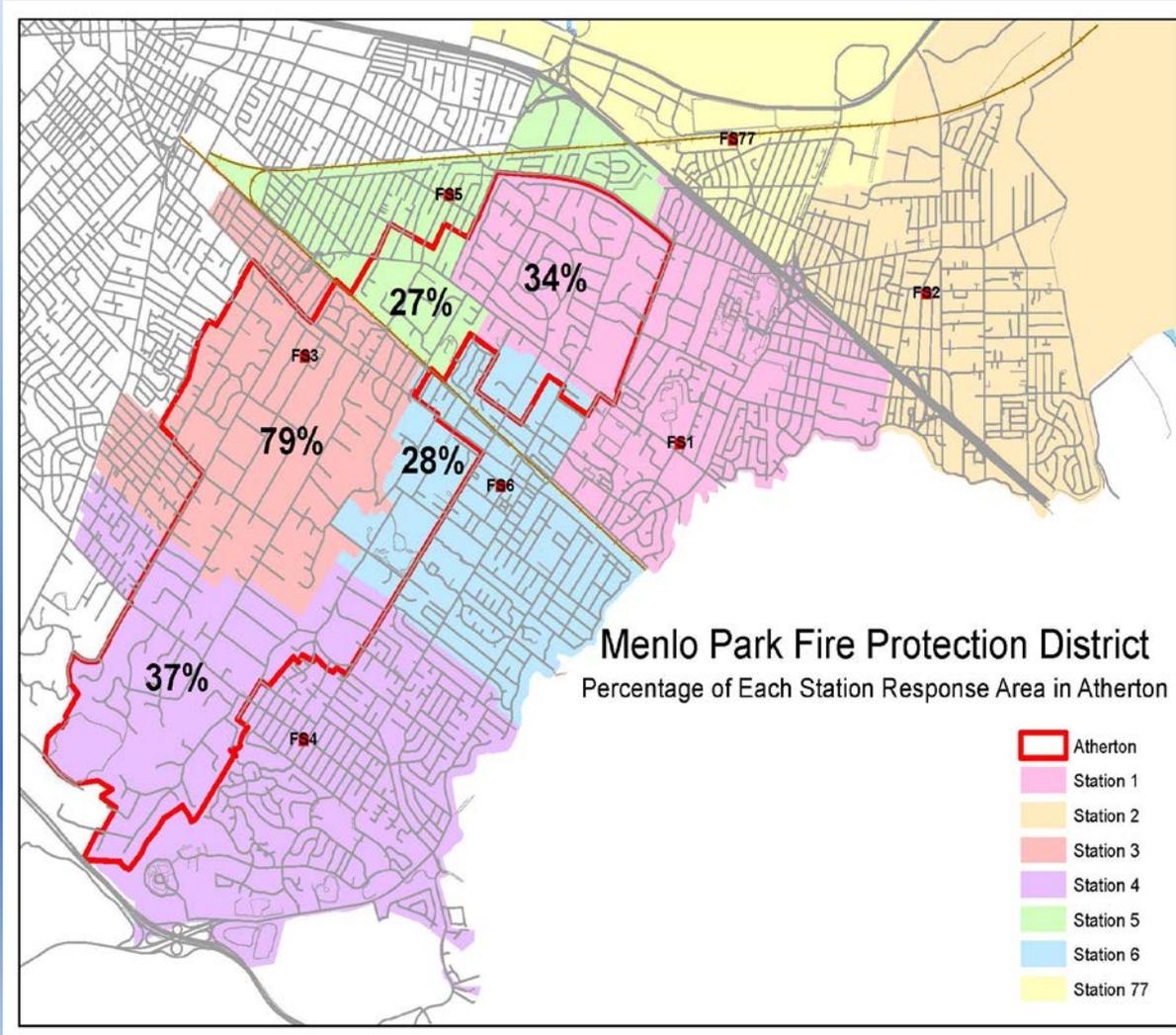


Figure 87: Adjacent Agency 4-Minute Travel Coverage



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## Direct Coverage

### The Atherton Response Network

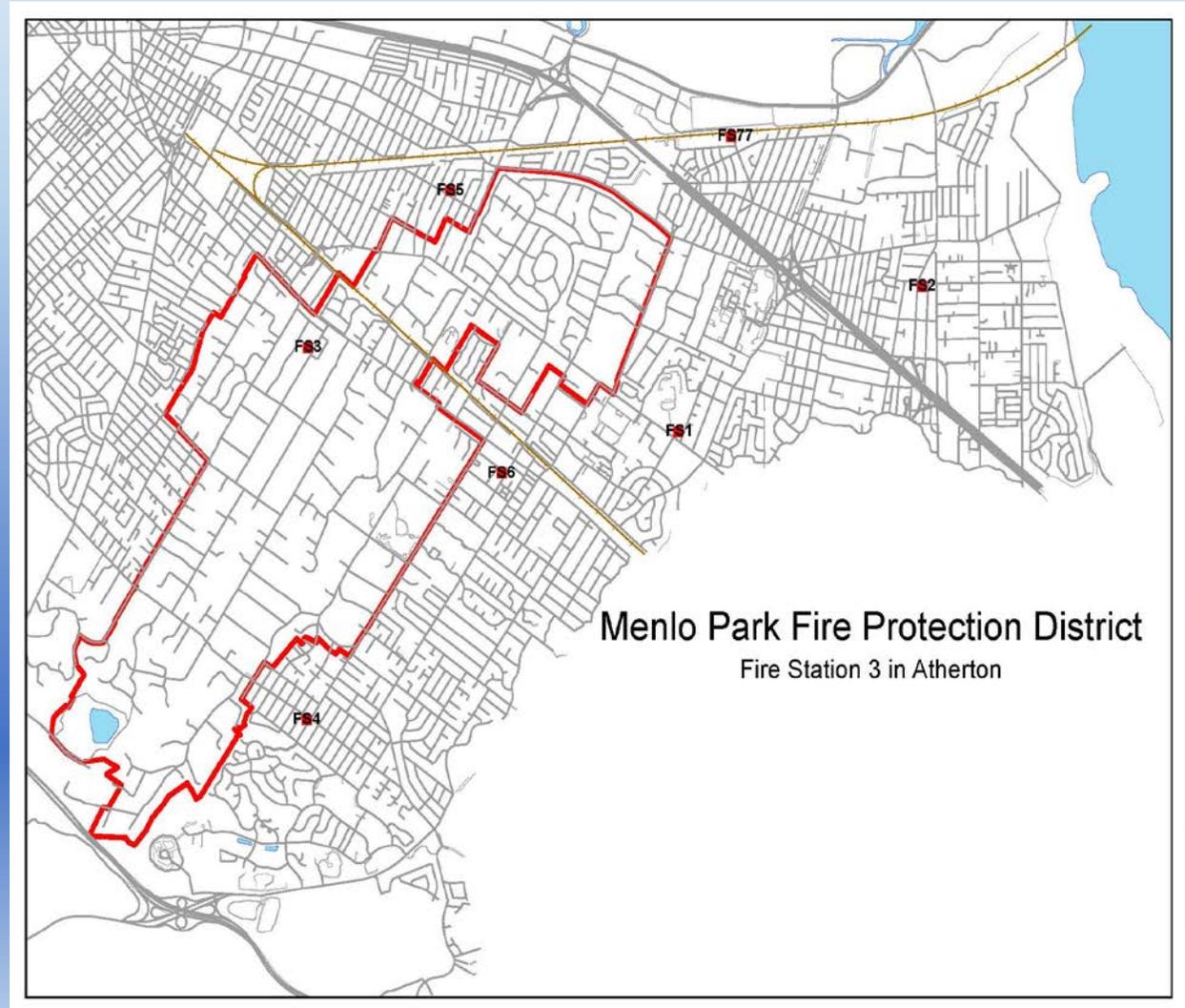
- Station 1 – 34% of response area
- Station 3 – 79% of response area
- Station 4 – 37% of response area
- Station 5 – 27% of response area
- Station 6 – 28% of response area

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## Atherton Deployment

### The Fire District is:

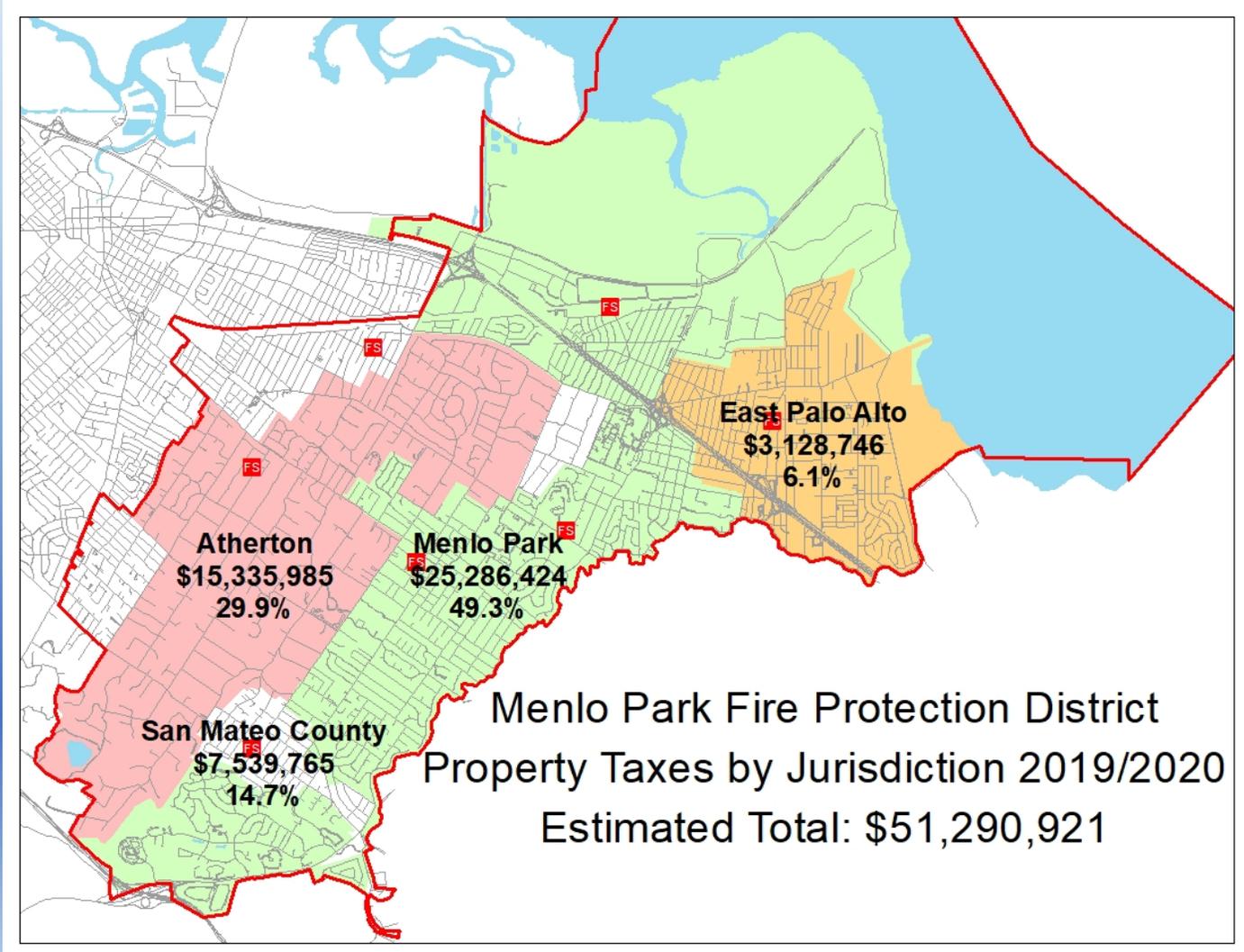
- A ‘network’ of Fire Stations
- A configuration of response units (12)
- Uses a staffing model (33)
- Not specific to the Town (District)
- Uses a priority “must cover” model
- Has a large enough “effective force”
- Has an elected Fire Board who appoints the Fire Chief and is responsible for policy and budget decisions



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## How we use tax dollars

How we use tax dollars:		
	FY2019-20 Adopted budget	% of
<b>Revenues</b>		
Property taxes	\$ 52,565,931	87.2%
Other operating revenues	\$ 7,699,115	12.8%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$ 60,265,046</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Wages and benefits	\$ 41,104,237	66.3%
Other operating expenditures	\$ 12,331,938	19.9%
<b>Extra-ordinary expenditures</b>		
CalPERS Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL)	\$ 3,500,000	5.6%
Overtime - BC training	\$ 628,771	1.0%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 57,564,946</b>	
<b>Operating Transfers</b>		
Transfer Out - Debt Service	\$ 950,100	1.5%
Transfer Out - Capital Improvement Projects	\$ 3,500,000	5.6%
<b>Total expenditures including operating transfer out</b>	<b>\$ 62,015,046</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Transfer In - GF reserve to GF operating</b>	<b>\$ 1,750,000</b>	
<b>FY2019-20 Adopted balanced budget</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	



- Deficit Reserve \$18,128,125
- PERS Stabilization \$3,600,000
- CIP Fund Balance \$22,313,582

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## Direct Coverage

### Fire Station 6

### Downtown Menlo Park

- 28% of response area - Atherton
- Rebuilt 2018 - \$ 11.2m
- Hoover House \$1.5m
- Standards of Cover Recommendation to add Rescue 6

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## Direct Coverage

### Fire Station 4

- Station 4 – 37% of response area
- Built 1949
- Replacement cost \$22m est.
- 2018 - Valparaiso House \$3.25m
- Breaking ground this year - 2020



Chief

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**Direct Coverage**

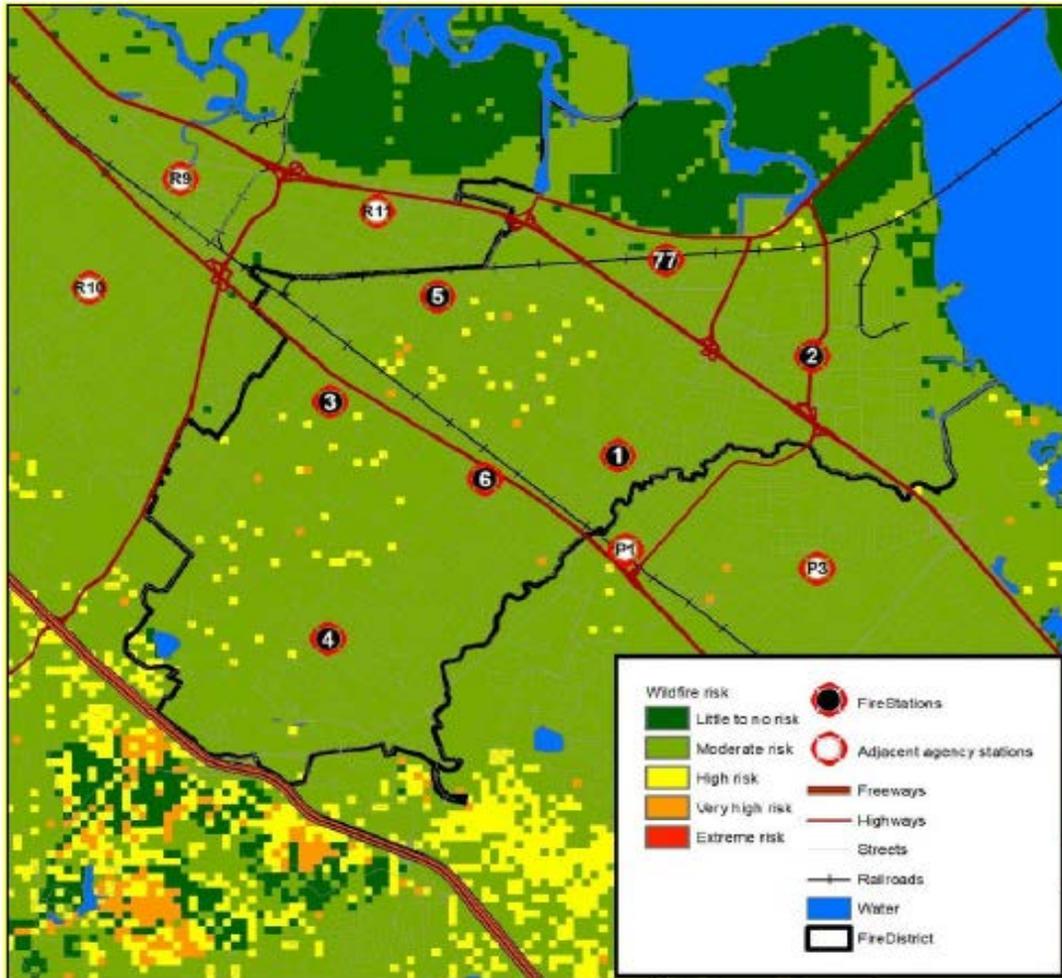
**Fire Station 1**



- 34% of response area - Atherton
- 1955 - Station 1 - \$25m
- 2017 – 1 acre land purchase \$6m
- New training tower
- New classroom and meeting room
- New joint Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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Figure 18: MPFPD Study Area Wildland Fire Risk



## Wild Fire Risk:

Figure 53: Staffing CFAI Recommendations Based on Risk

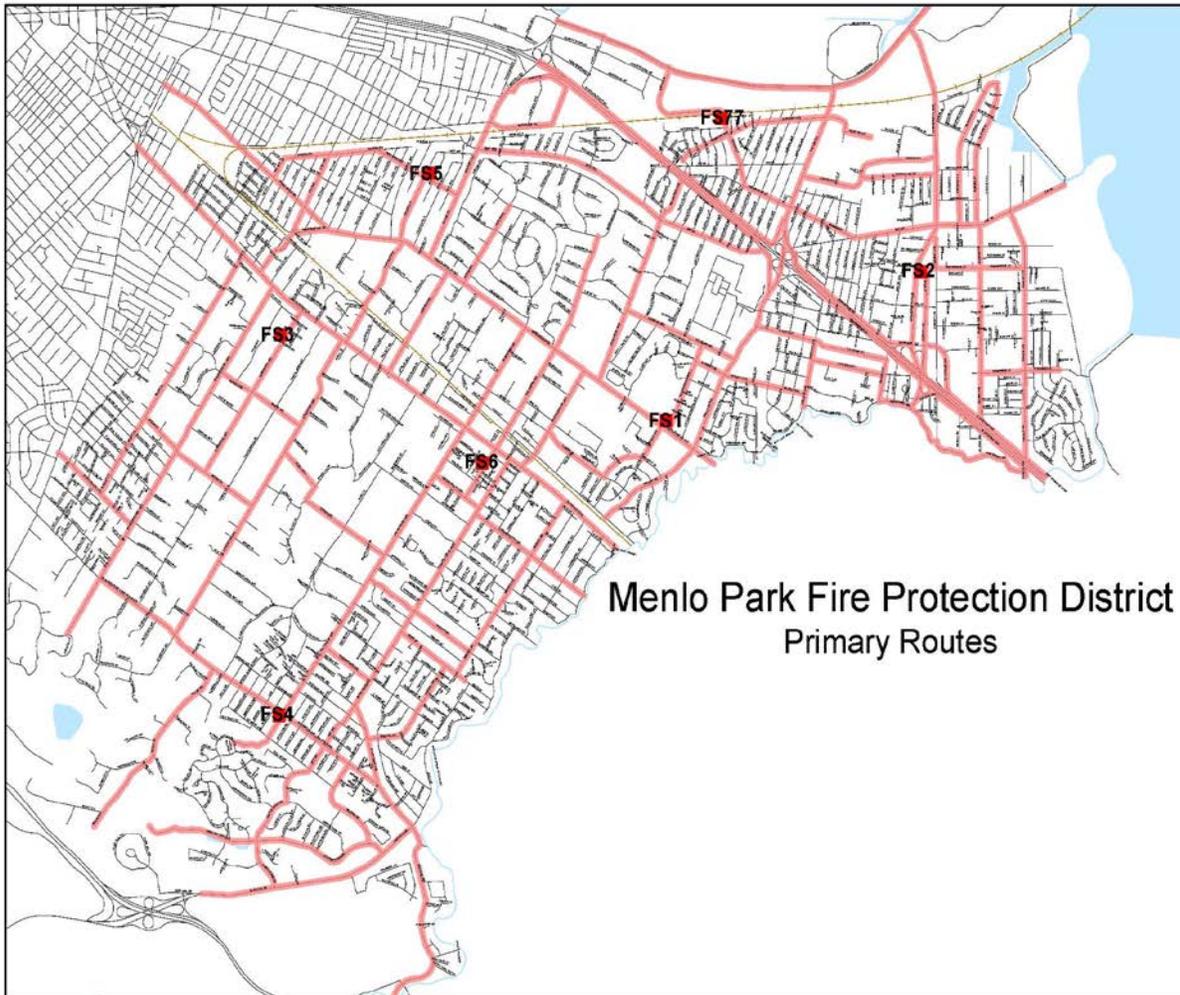
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**Primary Response Routes**

**Why they are important**

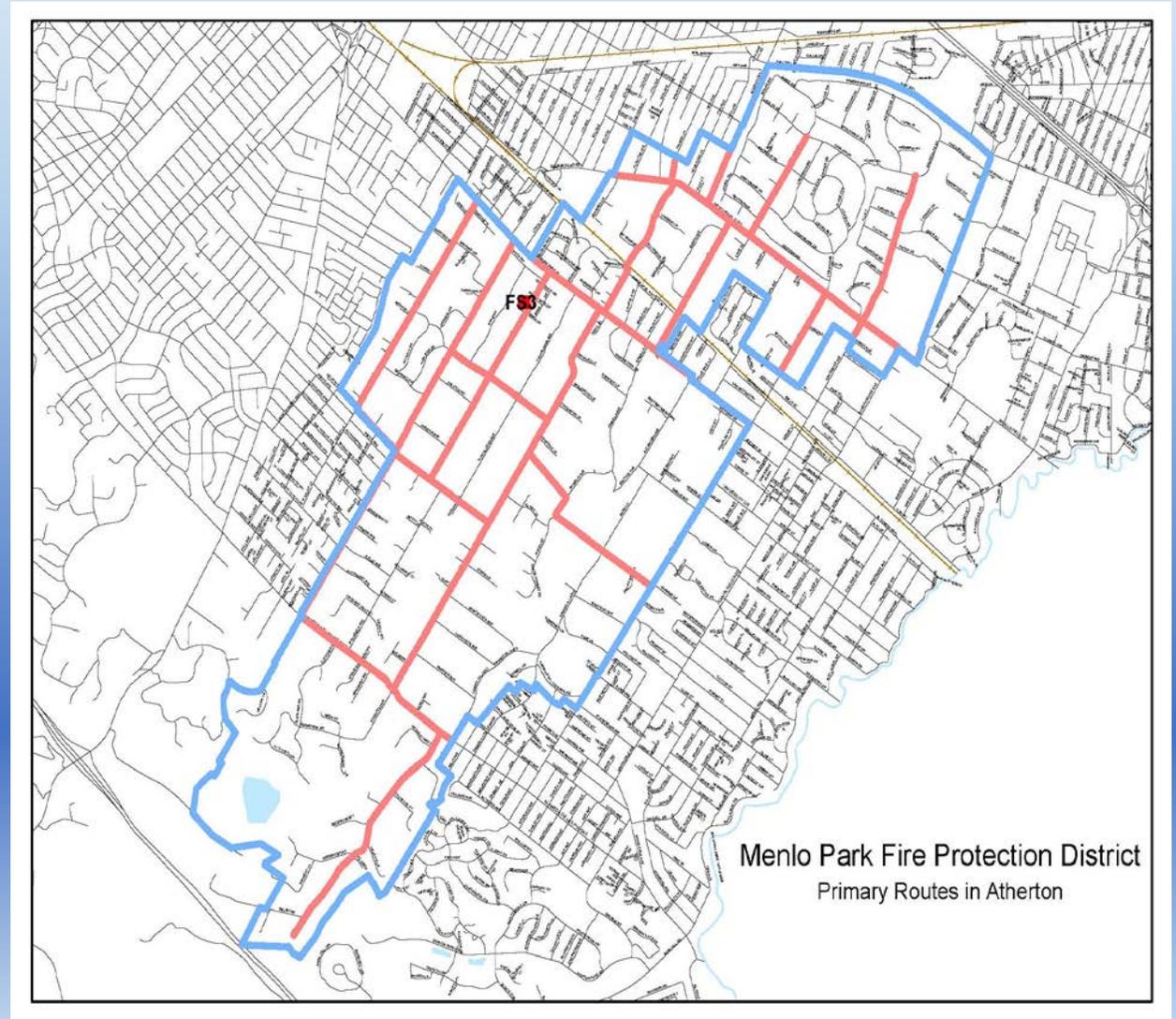
- Our Mission - Protection of Life, Property and the environment
- Response Times are critical
- Movement is key
- Reflex time is important and dynamic (Turnout and Travel)



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## Primary Routes in Atherton

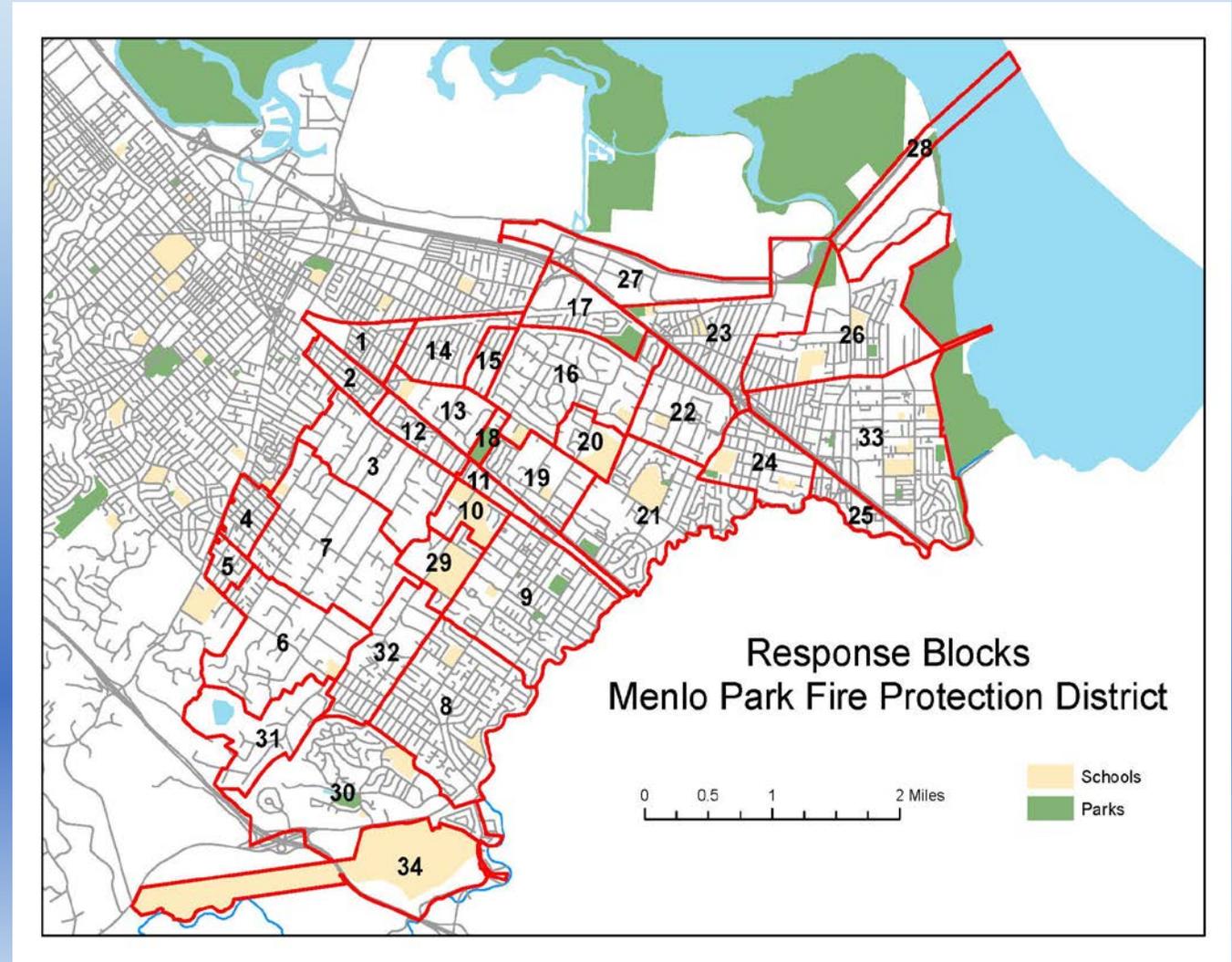
- 20 Routes or Roadways
- Critical to maintaining response times
- Important for secondary units, backfill and movement of Ambulances and Law Enforcement
- Atherton has excellent routes with minimal problems



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## Response Blocks

- Computer Aided Dispatch
- 34 Response Blocks
- 340 Dispatch Type Codes
- Various unit response profiles and configurations
- Coming soon – AVL
- SOC - Recommendations



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**Station Ordering**

Holbrook Palmer Park

Response Block 18 (50 Deep)

- FS-05, 1, 3, 6, 11, 77, 9, 4, 2, 10,  
PAF-1, 12, 7, 16, 13, 18, 14, PAF-3,  
8, 19, 20, 15, 26, 23, 28, PAF-6, 25,  
24, 21, 27, 17, 32, 34, 58, 33, 35,  
37, 38, 51, 52, 40, 64, 61, 63, 62, 41,  
44, 94, 65, 71





## Response Category Examples:

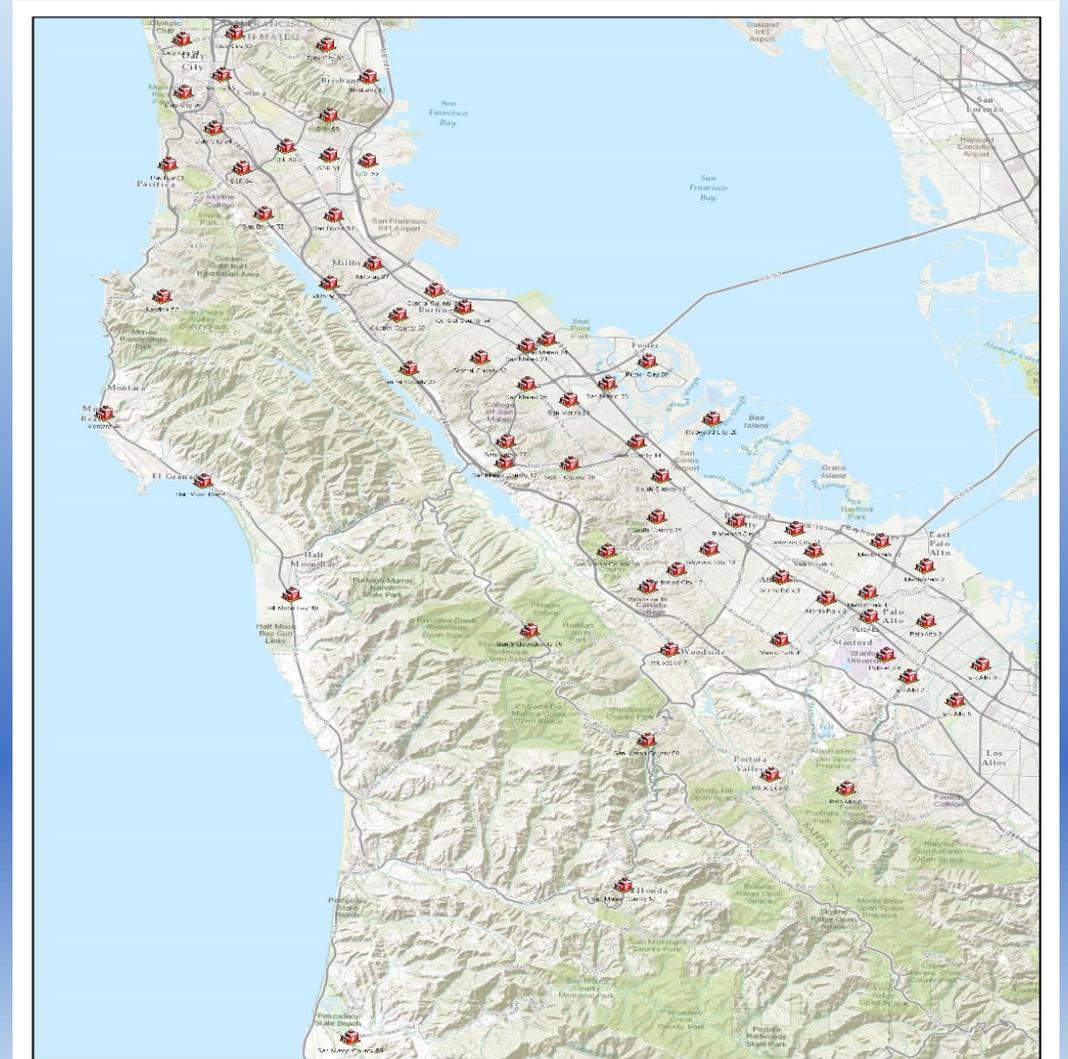
- Single Engine (Medical Incidents, Alarm Soundings, Odor call, Investigations)
- Traffic Accident – Two Engines, Truck and a Battalion Chief
- Full Assignment – Three Engines, Truck and a Battalion Chief
- Structure Fire – Five Engines, one Truck, Two Battalion Chiefs
- Greater Alarm – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, (Eight Engines, Two Trucks, Four Battalion Chiefs) 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Alarm
- Other Response Packages – Haz-Mat, Water Rescue, Air Craft Down, Shooting, etc.

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San Mateo County Fire Services

How it works

- Common Dispatch - PSC
- Automatic Aid Agreement
- ALS Engine Companies (Medics)
- Move and Cover
- Greater Alarm Plan
- Strike Teams – Out of County
- Palo Alto Fire – Auto/Mutual Aid





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**Structure Fire**

**Response Block 3**

- Shearer Drive
- April 1, 2015 @ 4.52 am
- 3000 Square foot home fully involved in fire
- Response time 2.50 minutes
- Engines 3, 6, 5, 1, 11 Truck 1, Battalion 1 and 2
- Defensive Fire, vacant home, cause suspicious



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Vehicle vs Train

Response Block 12

- Station Lane, Atherton
- December 16, 2014 (7.31 pm)
- Response time 4.24 minutes
- Engine 3, 6, 5 Truck 1 & Battalion 1
- Non-injury, vehicle was drug 1500 ft. and vehicle and locomotive were on fire upon arrival





**Questions?**

**Presented by**

**Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief**