



Menlo Park Fire Protection District

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT ATHERTON FIREFIGHTING & LIFE-SAVING SERVICES

Q: What role does Menlo Park Fire Protection District play in keeping my home safe?

A: For over 100 years, the Fire Protection District has served the unique needs of Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and surrounding unincorporated regions with highly experienced, 911 emergency medical and fire safety services with a force of nearly three dozen firefighters and personnel.

Q: Which Fire Stations serve the Atherton community?

A: Fire Station 3 (*located at 32 Almendral Avenue*), is the local Atherton Fire Station serving residents and property owners. In addition to Station 3, Stations 1, 4, 5 and 6 also serves the Town's 5.2 square miles with rapid 911 response medical and fire safety needs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Q: What is the issue?

A: The Atherton Town Council is exploring potentially terminating the lifesaving services our District provides for cheaper services. Our team of Firefighters and First Responders are committed to the Atherton community – and are very concerned about the Town's proposal to use personnel who are not experienced in addressing Atherton's unique needs.

Q: What are the specialized firefighting services the District provides to Atherton?

A: In 2019, our Firefighters responded to 1,026 incidents in Atherton – with over 56% of these calls for medical emergencies such as stroke, cardiac arrest, or trouble breathing. The Town of Atherton has a high percentage of older residents who may have medical needs, and approximately 8,000 schoolchildren in town daily. Atherton residents expect and deserve a highly experienced firefighting and paramedic team with deep capacity to immediately respond to any type of emergency.

“Excellence In Service”

Changes in our weather patterns also make fire hazards deadlier. We are highly experienced in providing specialized service for unique Atherton firefighting and safety access challenges such as:

- ✓ High security fences or walls and gated access issues
- ✓ Longer driveways, surrounded by trees and vegetation
- ✓ Longer distances between fire hydrants needed for emergency water supply for sustained fire suppression
- ✓ Large homes and/or basements – the largest Atherton home is 31,900 sq. ft; the largest local basement is 9,400 sq. ft

Q: What is the process?

A: Our Board, Firefighters and First Responders value our service to the Atherton community and know that residents and property owners expect the highest level of quality paramedic and fire safety services. These professional, life-saving services should not be politicized. The Atherton Town Council is currently in the process of submitting an application to leave the District through a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) process to pursue the Town’s proposal. Please stay informed about these important discussions by visiting www.menlofire.org/atherton.

Q: Is the Fire Protection District raising my taxes?

A: Absolutely not! Each community the District serves is already paying its fair share based on the unique fire safety needs of every jurisdiction and the assessed value of your property. But the Town’s proposal could have the effect of redirecting your taxpayer dollars for other uses. Every dime of taxpayer money currently used by the District is spent solely on your 911 Fire Safety and Emergency Response services and cannot be used for other purposes.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Visit www.menlofire.org/atherton to learn more and stay informed about this issue.