

IMPORTANT MESSAGE • ATHERTON COMMUNITY

About your Fire Safety/911 Medical Services

MENLO PARK



FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Dear Atherton Neighbor and Property Owner:

As your Fire Chief, nothing is more important to me than the safety of your family and property.

That's why I'm so concerned about recent political discussions by the Atherton Town Council to potentially seek less experienced, cheaper services for critical fire safety and medical response needs.

For over 100 years, our Fire Protection District has served the unique needs of the Atherton community with highly experienced, 911 rapid response emergency medical and fire safety services supported by a regional network of nearly three dozen firefighters and personnel.

When an emergency occurs, seconds count. 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.

Our Fire Protection District is 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

You expect and deserve the most effective paramedic and fire safety services to keep your family and property safe.

I look forward to keeping you informed as discussions continue with the Town Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harold Schapelhouman".

Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman





Menlo Park Fire Protection District
 170 Middlefield Road
 Menlo Park, CA 94025



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Did You Know?

Q: Which Fire Stations serve the Atherton community?

A: In addition to Local Fire Station 3, stations 1, 4, 5 & 6 serve the Atherton community.

Q: Is the Fire Protection District raising my taxes?

A: NO! For more than 100 years, our Firefighters have honed their fire and medical response skills for the unique needs of the communities we serve: Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and surrounding unincorporated regions. Each community is paying its fair share based on the localized needs of each jurisdiction. Atherton has 8,000 school-age children in town daily, a high percentage of older residents with medical needs, and homes surrounded by vegetation or hillside terrain which is more vulnerable to natural catastrophes like wildfire or earthquake.

Q: So what is the issue?

A: The Atherton Town Council is potentially exploring cheaper services with fire agencies who are not experienced medical/firefighter responders for Atherton's unique community.

