



Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District Summer 2025 Newsletter

Beckwourth Peak FPD Leadership and Staffing

BPFPD is governed by a Board of Directors that provides financial oversight, strategic direction, and ensures the efficient and effective operation of the fire district, while also representing the interests of the community they serve. The Board works closely with the Fire Chief to ensure accountability and efficient use of taxpayer dollars for fire and emergency services.

Fire Chief Jack Rosevear serves as the “general manager” of the FPD and provides monthly reports and recommendations to the Board. A primary benefit of the new FPD is having adequate staffing including full and part-time paid positions, paid on call positions, and volunteers to provide essential services. As a Hybrid (versus Volunteer) department, BPFPD has a full time Fire Chief, assistant and division chiefs, four battalion chiefs and seven firefighters as part of its staffing structure, in addition to administration support. Volunteer numbers vary and remain a valued and critical component in providing services. View organization chart at bpfpd.ca.gov/organization-chart.

Providing Valuable Services to Communities

Within the first few months of operations, BPFPD responded to 675 incidents ranging from fire and EMS calls, public service duties, vehicle accidents, and residential assistance

calls. EMS accounted for almost 52 percent, or 350 total emergency calls. “One important message stressed repeatedly during the formation effort was the need for quick, reliable response times for medical emergency calls. Our response time is much more efficient with a 24 hour centralized dispatch center, making every second count during medical emergencies,” states Chief Rosevear.

BPFPD’s significant effort in firefighting and support for the Mill and Smith fires protected the Delleker, Portola, Gold Mountain and White Hawk communities. The fires burned over 3,000 acres, yet all structures were saved with round-the-clock firefighting efforts. Additional behind-the-scenes accomplishments included:

- consolidating fire and EMS staffing from the five previous fire protection districts,
- hiring staff and securing volunteers,
- training personnel on safety, new protocol, and responding stations,
- completing an inventory of equipment, fire stations’ resources to consolidate excess or outdated equipment,
- strengthening partnerships with local fire agencies, including Plumas Forestry and CALFIRE,
- participating in community events,
- submitting grants for equipment and supplies, and training, and

- staffing efforts, and
- completing the annexation of Eastern Rural Plumas Fire Protection District’s (ERPFPD) service area.



Photo by Brian Evans

Establishing a Strong Foundation

Since inception, the BPFPD has been establishing policies and procedures to initiate the start of operations. To further strengthen the District’s operations and continue community-building and trust, the District has initiated a strategic planning process. The process is being led by a strategic plan development expert and retired fire chief who will guide a collaborative process between BPFPD personnel, board of directors, community partners, and the public in which it serves. The resulting plan will establish BPFPD’s mission and vision, goals and objectives, timelines and other pertinent details that will set a solid foundation for the District to operate, providing transparency, efficiencies and organization to best serve its constituency.

Important Tasks To Further Establish BPFPD in the Community

The reliability of a FPD to protect property and structures during a fire plays a critical role in a property owner’s ability to secure adequate, reasonable property insurance. Insurance companies rely on the ratings given to FPDs by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), an organization that evaluates how well specific FPDs can protect the communities they serve. The lower the ISO score, the better for property owners.

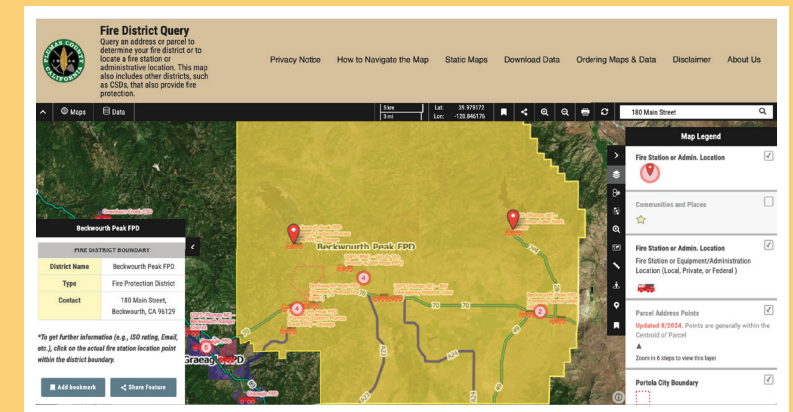
BPFPD completed an extensive evaluation of its operations, training, staffing, equipment, dispatch and water supplies necessary to establish BPFPD as a new entity in the ISO system. The process included combining the various ISO ratings from the previous fire districts into one ISO rating for the areas served by BPFPD. Results and ISO score are expected later in 2025. *Note: BPFPD has no control over actual insurance coverage or rates.*

Another important task was to reopen the South Side Fire Station located at 316 First Ave in Portola and designate it as Station 1 with full-time staffing. This action allows for quicker response time for fire response and emergencies in the City of Portola and surrounding areas.

Annexation of Eastern Rural Plumas Fire Protection District

In summer 2024, BPFPD was approached to annex ERPFPD’s service area amid many factors that rendered ERPFPD unable to continue to provide necessary fire protection and emergency medical services, placing parcels within its boundaries at risk. The BPFPD and ERPFPD Boards of Directors worked with Plumas LAFCo and Plumas County Board of Supervisors to complete the annexation process. The annexation included a tax-sharing agreement with Plumas County to secure the required financial support to provide services to the extended areas. BPFPD acquired three fire stations and apparatus previously owned by ERPFPD.

Those parcels that were served by ERPFPD will be subject to the voter-approved special tax established to fund BPFPD. This includes the parcels who received service from ERPFPD but were not officially in the FPD’s boundaries (referred to as “no man’s land” parcels) and therefore were not paying taxes. These parcels are now within BPFPD’s boundaries and will pay the special tax*. The special tax is placed annually on the Plumas County tax roll and collected along with property taxes per Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District Ordinance 2024-01. Not sure if your parcel is within BPFPD boundaries? Go to Plumas County’s Fire District Query interactive map <https://bit.ly/BPFPD>. Enter your address in the address search bar and see if it is the BPFPD zone color-coded tan boundary area. You may also call (530) 832-1008 or email admin@bpfpd.ca.gov.



*C-Road properties who were serviced by ERPFPD but not in ERPFPD’s boundaries were not annexed into BPFPD. The C-Road properties now receive fire and EMS services by Graeagle FPD.

Funding Beckwourth Peak FPD

The District is primarily funded through annual property tax sharing and the special parcel tax agreements with Plumas County. Reimbursements are also provided by the Office of Emergency Services (OES) for providing firefighting services (Strike Teams) in areas outside of the District's jurisdiction (such as sending personnel to the recent fires in the Los Angeles area), and Prepositioning Assignments during hazardous weather conditions within the district. The District also actively pursues state and federal grants to fund activities, training and equipment purchases. Other monies are collected through fundraising activities and donations. The District operates based on a fiscal year – July 1-June 30 – budget. BPFDP started its first fiscal year July 1, 2024, and is beginning to receive the first payments collected through property taxes.

Understanding the Annual Property Tax Assessment

The BPFDP Board knows that there will be questions about the assessment collected through the District's new Special Parcel Tax, especially this first year. If property owners believe a mistake has been made, for instance, the parcel is not in the BPFDP service area, or believe the property should be exempt, please contact BPFDP. The District allows two exemptions for qualified owners: Low income and continuous parcel.

Low-income parcel owners may submit an exemption application if the property owner falls within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income limits for "very low" or "poverty level" income.

The contiguous parcel exemption applies to Plumas County Assessor's parcels which are contiguous (share a common border), undeveloped (no habitable structure on property), held under identical ownership and used solely for timber production or agricultural grazing. A parcel map and proof of title or deed are needed to review the exemption request. For more detailed information and forms go to <https://bpfpd.ca.gov/additional-documents>, call (530) 832-1008 or email admin@bpfpd.ca.gov.

About the Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District

The Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District (BPFDP/District) was created following a voter-approved initiative in November 2023 to 1) form and 2) fund the new District. The initial service boundaries included areas previously served by Beckwourth FPD, Sierra Valley FPD, Gold Mountain Community Services District, and the City of Portola, and over 400 parcels that had previously not fallen within the boundaries of any local fire provider. Events in 2024 led to the annexation of areas previously served by Eastern Plumas Rural FPD (see related article). BPFDP officially began operations July 1, 2024, providing Fire Protection, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Hazardous material emergency response, and other services relating to the protection of lives and property to a population of about 3,100 within its service area boundaries.

Beckwourth Peak FPD is thankful for the trust the community placed in its efforts to form and serve its communities. As the District builds and further establishes itself, the community is encouraged to be an active part of the process! Please attend board meetings, give us a call or send an email. We are here to serve you!

- Bpfpd.ca.gov (General information and board meeting calendar)
- (530) 832-1008
- admin@bpfpd.ca.gov
- Follow Us on instagram @bpfpd and Facebook at Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District

Board of Directors

President: Cary Curtis (12/5/2025)

Vice President: Larry Smith (12/5/2025)

Treasurer: Rich McLaughlin (12/5/2027)

Directors: Melissa Klundby, Nick Marques (12/5/2027)

Board Clerk: Jack Rosevear

Administration and Finance: Rose Comstock

Regular meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at 180 Main Street in Beckwourth. Check the website to confirm meeting schedules.

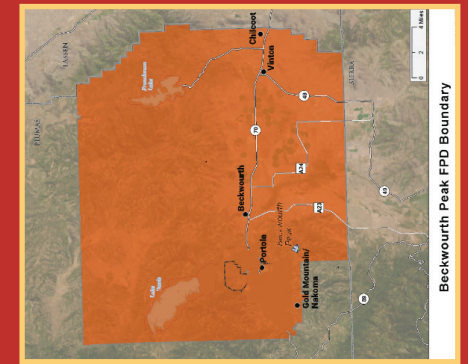


180 Main Street,
Beckwourth CA 96129



Photo by Ben Harris

Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District Expands Boundaries! Read about changes to service areas and new tax assessment information.



Beckwourth Peak FPD Boundary