

## **Intermountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department Subscription Program**

Dear Neighbor,

We live in a portion of the county that does not currently receive first response medical services or structural fire protection from any government agency. Instead, we receive these essential public safety services from the Intermountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department (IVFRD). Our department is required by law to meet the same training and other regulatory requirements as any paid, government-supported department. IVFRD firefighters are volunteers who provide you with the same level of professionalism as those in any paid fire department. But they can't do their job if we can't pay for the fuel, insurance, vehicle repairs and other costs of training them and maintaining their equipment.

Our homes are spread out over the 120 square mile IVFRD service area, and it is sometimes difficult to think of ourselves as a community. But we are all neighbors, and we do form a community with common issues, concerns and resources. Public safety is a key community issue that must be addressed with community resources. As members of our community we share the civic responsibility of ensuring that the homes and other buildings within our community have fire protection and that first response medical services are available to all members of our community.

As an outgrowth of Proposition 13, funding for fire protection varies significantly throughout the state. For example, residents of San Diego receive emergency services from the Municipal Fire Department. The Ramona Fire Protection District is funded by an annual fee of \$188 which is collected with their water bill. Our homes are not within that district. The California Department of Forestry, which has nearby fire stations, is subject to being called away to other areas of the state and is not equipped to fight structure fires. IVFRD is Your Emergency Response Team – most members of the Department are trained Emergency Medical Technicians. All are trained Firefighters. But these vital emergency services are not free, and the current reality is that we must band together as a community to support our Department.

Although the IVFRD has been fortunate in obtaining grants for equipment and the construction of a fire station, we receive absolutely no government support for the basic operation of our fire department. We are able to recover some of our costs by charging for services, but must largely rely on you, the beneficiaries of the service we provide, to fund that service.

We are asking residences in our service area to subscribe to our department for \$100 per year, which is less than the \$188 that Ramona residents pay for their fire protection. Subscribers are not billed for any responder services that they might require during the subscription year. If you are not already a subscriber, please become one. Think of it as insurance. Think of it as your civic contribution. Support your local fire department. Please send the following information along with your check to

**IVFRD, Post Office Box 1362, Ramona, CA 92065.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

See [www.intermountainfire.org](http://www.intermountainfire.org) for more information.