



## Maintaining Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Response Services in Ukiah Valley

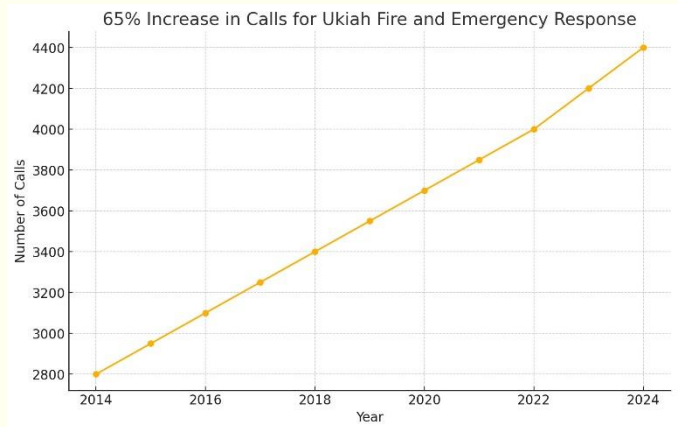
The Ukiah Valley Fire District faces significant challenges in maintaining and enhancing its emergency response capabilities. Our firefighters are fighting bigger and more dangerous fires, and our paramedics are responding to record numbers of 911 medical calls.

**Increased Demand for Emergency Response Services:** Since 2004, 9-1-1 calls for medical and fire emergencies have nearly doubled, while the number of firefighters on duty has remained about the same. Firefighters are often overworked, but resources are inadequate to hire and train additional firefighters and paramedics.

**High Fire Hazard Risk:** CalFire ranks the Ukiah area as a “very high” fire hazard risk, with increasingly common large fires like 2017 Valley Complex Fire and 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire.

**Firefighter Safety Concerns:** Stations do not meet current earthquake safety standards and have no backup power generation, and no sprinklers or modern alarm systems.

**Measure V – Proposed Local Funding Measure:** To address these challenges, the Ukiah Valley Fire District has placed Measure V on the November 2024 ballot which, if approved by local voters, would authorize a special tax to maintain rapid emergency response. Measure V would raise approximately \$987,000 per year through a \$33.50 per unit annual parcel tax (or \$67 for single-family homes) with an annual adjustment tied to the Consumer Price Index not to exceed 2%. The measure would require a 2/3rds vote for approval.



### Measure V funds would be used to:

- Hire, retain, and train firefighters and paramedics, ensuring fast response times for emergencies like housefires, heart attacks, strokes, and car accidents and to meet the challenges presented by more frequent wildfires and rising 9-1-1 calls.
- Upgrade aging firefighter safety equipment, vehicles, facilities, and life-saving rescue tools.
- Update fire stations to meet current safety standards
- Maintain basic fire operations and provide Ukiah firefighters/paramedics the resources they need to do their jobs protecting communities and saving lives every day.

**Local Control and Fiscal Responsibility:** By law, all Measure V revenues would be placed in a separate fund to be used exclusively for fire protection and emergency medical services in our local community and could not be taken by the State. Annual public reporting of expenditures would ensure funds are spent properly.