



NEWSLETTER

KUNA RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

SUMMER 2022

Message from the Chief By Chief T.J. Lawrence

The Kuna Rural Fire District (KRFD) provides fire suppression, life safety, and emergency medical services to 33,390 people across 110 square miles. Our fire district operates under a balanced budget, is debt free, and has passed all its independent audits per state law.

Population growth and call volume increases are straining our resources. Fifteen full-time firefighters responded to 2,007 calls in 2021 – a 72.42% increase compared to 10 years ago. EMS accounts for 63% of all calls, and overlapping calls occur almost 25% of the time.

Our community is expected to grow another 74% in the next 10 years. Specifically, we require more emergency personnel to staff a second fire engine, and a fire station to meet the emergency service needs of residents.

The KRFD is considering asking voters for a small operations levy increase to fund additional personnel, and a facilities bond for a fire station. A bond is temporary, paid back over time, and reduces the annual amount required of property owners to fund these needs.



There will be public meetings to discuss this further. We hope you will take part and learn more about this important issue. I am also available to answer questions anytime. Contact me at chief@kunafire.com or (208)922-1144, ext. 2.

Thank you for supporting the KRFD and its firefighters. We couldn't save lives and property without you.

Stay Safe This Summer!

The sunny summer weather is something we can all be thankful for! As you enjoy the season and all the outdoors have to offer, please consider these tips to keep you and your family safe and healthy.

- **Hydration** | Drink water every 20 minutes when out in hot temperatures to keep your body hydrated and your core cool.
- **Sunscreen** | Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen for both UVB and UVA rays. Wearing sunscreen is important even if it's not a hot sunny day.
- **Boating** | Wear a life vest at all times – even if you can swim.
- **Swimming** | Never swim alone in a pool or any other body of water. Use the buddy system! If someone is struggling, have a floatation device to throw to them before jumping in to help. Lifejackets save lives!

- **Grilling** | Keep children and pets at least three feet from the cooking area. Never leave your grill unattended and locate it away from the house or anything that could catch fire. Remove grease buildup.
- **Fireworks** | Never allow young children to handle fireworks. Older children should use them only under close responsible adult supervision. Find an area to light off fireworks that is away from people, buildings, and flammable material. Keep a charged hose or fire extinguisher and a bucket of water nearby. Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.

For additional safety tips, please visit our website (www.kunafire.com) or follow us on Facebook @kunafire.



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Find Us on Facebook

Kuna Rural Fire District has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KunaFire/.

Board of Fire Commissioners

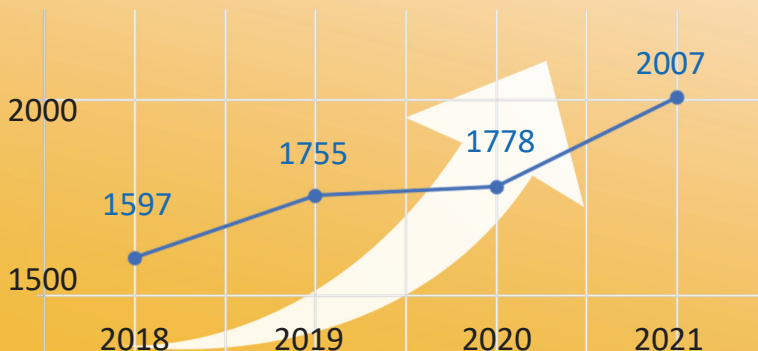
Fire District Commissioner Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Kuna City Hall at 1:00 pm. Meetings are open to the public and we strongly encourage community members to attend.

Call Volumes on the Rise

Idaho is seeing a large influx of people who want to retire, or set down roots in our great state. With this population growth, call volumes are increasing and we want to be able to provide an effective emergency response.

In the past year alone, emergency call volumes have increased 17.3%. Emergency medical calls account for 63.15% of all calls in the same time period.

Overlapping calls, or emergencies that occur at the same time, are occurring almost 25% of the time.



Our fire district has stopped transporting patients in order to have personnel respond to immediate emergencies. The way a fire district funds additional personnel is through an operating levy increase. The KRFD is considering an operations levy increase for additional personnel to staff a second fire engine to improve community safety and the safety of its firefighters.

Most capital items, such as fire stations and engines, are funded through bonds. The KRFD is proposing to build and equip one additional fire station through a facility bond this fall. Bonding for capital projects reduces impacts to taxpayers by financing costs over a period of time for needed improvements.

These proposals may be on your fall ballot. There will be a public process as we discuss our funding needs. We welcome your input and questions!