



# Arvada Fire Protection District

7903 Allison Way, Arvada, CO 80005 • 303-424-3012

August 20, 2018

Dear Resident,

The Arvada Fire Protection District is organized as a special district, meaning we are a stand-alone government entity and independent taxing district (similar to a school district). We are not part of any city government and do not receive funding from either the City of Arvada or the City of Wheat Ridge. We are funded primarily through property taxes collected within the Fire District.

As the Fire Chief and a resident of the Arvada Fire Protection District, I can honestly tell you that it is a privilege to work for such a big-hearted, diverse, and growing community. We have some of the most committed and talented firefighters in the state dedicated to providing rapid, top notch services to keep you and your family safe.

It's a constant challenge to stretch our funding so we can continue maintaining our services at a quality level, but demand for these services is increasing due to the area's rapid growth and aging population. While fire departments face challenges every day, we are about to face one of our greatest funding challenges yet.

Arvada Fire has a disproportionate ratio of residential property, totaling 88% of our overall actual property valuation. Realizing that, there's a provision in the Colorado Constitution that could have an unintended effect of forcing your fire department to collect less and less revenue than projected each year, even as demand for services continues to grow and costs continue to rise. This will result in large reductions for the fire department (more than \$3 million in 2020 alone) in projected revenue.

Allowing cuts to our fire department could endanger emergency response times and could result in a reduction in training for life-saving medical and other emergency response techniques that ensures firefighter and citizen safety. To address this concern, the Arvada Fire Protection District Board of Directors is considering whether to put a measure on the ballot this November that would ask voters for the ability to adjust their current mill levy, down or up, to compensate for a change in the residential assessment rate.

To be clear, if the board does pursue this ballot initiative in November, the district's effective tax rate (residential assessment rate multiplied by the district's mill levy) would not increase for taxpayers of the district.

For more information about this matter, feel free to visit our website at [www.arvadafire.com](http://www.arvadafire.com) or contact me at 303-228-3601.

Sincerely,

Jon Greer  
Fire Chief

Proudly serving our citizens for over 100 years