



# Considering Consolidation: A Plan To Ensure A Safe, Sustainable Future

The Elk Creek, Inter-Canyon, and North Fork fire districts serve over 400 square miles in some of the highest-risk wildfire areas in the state.

The three districts are talking to the community to explore consolidation and a property tax increase to improve service and create a new fire protection district.

The districts will continue to rely on volunteer firefighters, but given the resource deficit, additional revenue is necessary to hire more staff, replace engines, update stations, and provide ongoing critical training to safely and efficiently serve the community.



## What's The Issue?

1

We regularly have to rely on back-up response from neighboring local fire districts, which can slow emergency response time.

2

As wildland fire risks increase, we need to better position our existing staff and resources, and add updated technical, medical, and safety equipment.

3

Each district is experiencing annual increases in the types and number of calls for service while seeing a continued decline in volunteerism.

4

New equipment is needed and replacements are getting more expensive. Three years ago a new fire engine cost \$600,000; today the cost is nearly \$1 million.



Right now, **NONE** of our districts have the personnel to cover a large-scale structure or wildland fire alone.

**Together, we can change that!**

## How Can We Solve It?

The fire districts face a shortfall in emergency staffing and equipment that is projected to worsen over time. Consolidating the three fire districts into one new fire protection district allows us to share and invest in additional staff, volunteer recruitment, and replace aging equipment.

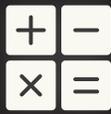
**Raising the local property tax** to 16 mills would provide over \$1 million annually to be spent on:

- 24-hour dedicated crews at one station in each district over the next 2 years
- Upgrade existing stations over the next 5+ years
- Recruit and retain additional volunteer personnel
- Replace emergency response equipment as it reaches the end-of-life over the next 10 years

Residents in each district are paying a different mill levy, so the increase to you will depend upon where you live and the value of your property.



The average homeowner of a \$650,000 home would add between \$8-14 per month in property taxes



Use our Property Tax Calculator online to see exactly what it would cost based on your home and location.

Visit Us At: [mountainfireresources.com](https://mountainfireresources.com)

## What Would Consolidation Look Like?

It will not look or feel much different for the community other than a new name, plus more career staff and volunteers. The same local fire stations and friendly faces would include:

- ✓ Career Staffing To Provide 24-hour Support To A Station In Each District
- ✓ Streamlined Emergency Dispatch System
- ✓ Standardized Hiring & Training Practices
- ✓ Increased Career Staffing & Volunteer Recruitment
- ✓ Shared Knowledge, Resources, & Equipment

## So What's Next?



### Community Meetings

Each fire district will each be hosting community meetings this spring to hear from the community.



### Visit Our Website

Learn more about consolidation, sign up for updates, and ask questions of your local firefighters at: [mountainfireresources.com](https://mountainfireresources.com)



### Following Community Input

If the proposal moves forward, there would be a question on the Nov 2023 ballot asking voters to approve consolidation and a mill levy increase.

Visit us at [mountainfireresources.com](https://mountainfireresources.com) for more info