



MEDIA RELEASE: May 13, 2021

Chaffee County Fire Protection District to provide Fire Emergency Services for the Town of Buena Vista

BUENA VISTA, CO - On May 12, 2021, the Town of Buena Vista (Town) entered into a service agreement with Chaffee County Fire Protection District (Chaffee Fire) to provide Fire Emergency Services for all properties within the town limits. The Town is looking at this new partnership as a way to better utilize our collective resources to create a sustainable fire emergency service for in-town residents, businesses, schools and visitors.

“The Town has entertained this concept in the past. The time was not right. With the growth we are experiencing and to maintain the level of safety and service to the citizens of Town we see this as a very viable option,” says Duff Lacy, Mayor for Buena Vista. “We look forward to the combined efforts of Chaffee Fire and the Town to provide for the citizens of Buena Vista.”

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the Town and Chaffee Fire making this change?

The cost to operate a properly staffed, trained and equipped fire department is substantial and continues to increase with our growing community and new regulations. The Town and Chaffee Fire realize a mutual benefit by working together by reducing duplication of resources.

What services will Chaffee Fire provide in town?

Chaffee Fire will provide all of the fire emergency services that they currently provide for their protection district. The Town will integrate Chaffee Fire into other operations and functions including special events, fire drill and emergency preparedness at the schools, public education and local emergency management. The core fire emergency services include:

- Emergency Services
- Fire Code Interpretation and Enforcement
- Arson Investigation
- Development Plan Reviews, Permits, Inspections
- Prevention Services

What will this service agreement cost the Town?

Town will pay the equivalent amount as if all in-town properties were within the Chaffee Fire District. Assessed values for dual protection properties (those already in Chaffee Fire District) will be subtracted from the compensation from the Town to avoid duplication. This compensation model is a fair amount to Town, residents and Chaffee Fire District.

What happens to the Buena Vista Fire Department?

BV Fire will cease to operate as a separate entity. Chaffee Fire will be the sole provider of Fire Emergency Services within the town limits.

Will my taxes change?

No, sales taxes and property taxes will not change as a result of this service agreement. The Town will pay for these services through the General Fund using existing tax revenues.

Will fire or emergency services change for me, my family or my property?

No, people should expect the same levels of service from emergency providers. We do expect this partnership with Chaffee Fire to increase consistency and reliability for related services such as fire inspections.

Which Fire Stations will serve the Town and where are they located?

- Fire Station 1 - 499 Antero Circle, Buena Vista, CO 81211, <https://www.chaffeecountyfire.org/about-us/pages/station-1>
- Fire Station 3 - 15326 County Road 306, Buena Vista, CO 81211, <https://www.chaffeecountyfire.org/about-us/pages/station-3>
- Buena Vista Fire Station 7 at 111 Linderman Ave is closed effective May 13, 2021.

What will happen to BV Fire historic items (photos, equipment, documents)?

The Town will retain all important historic items and will partner with Chaffee Fire and local historic preservation groups to preserve and showcase these items.

For questions about Chaffee Fire and the services provided, please visit <https://www.chaffeecountyfire.org/> or contact Robert Bertram at (719) 395-6545, rbertram@chaffeecountyfire.org