

## Letter from The Board Chair

On behalf of the Board, staff, and volunteers of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District, we would like to present the following annual report to the community. It is important that the Estes Valley Fire Protection District keeps its community members informed about the budget, operations, strategic planning and other facets of the district.

Our volunteer-based fire department was formed in 1907. The recognition of the need for fire protection in our valley predates both Rocky Mountain National Park and the formation of the Town of Estes Park, and our dependency on the willingness of volunteers to protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors to our District continues today.

We are proud to report to the community that the District is in a strong financial position. We work hard to be accountable and transparent stewards of your tax dollars and then we work to maximize every dollar toward protecting residents, local businesses and visitors. We are a debt free District that also maintains a high level of training for our staff and the most state-of-the-art equipment for responding to emergencies such as structure fires, wildfires, vehicle crashes, health issues and many other situations.

Our community is growing, and over the past 10 years, population growth, increases in visitors and changes in wildfire risk have put pressures on the District to keep pace and maintain its high level of preparation, prevention and response. To address these challenges, the District has been working on its Strategic Plan. An important part of this annual report is information about the Strategic Plan and how we are working to continually evolve and improve the District.

Looking forward to 2023, we will be asking voters to approve sustainable funding through a mill levy to fund the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan. A key part of this process has been gathering feedback from the community to understand your priorities for the District. We look forward to this process and continuing to engage our community members in the District's future.

We are lucky to have an excellent staff and a highly trained and dedicated group of volunteers that stand ready. Your support for the Estes Valley Fire Protection District makes us all safer and is very much appreciated.

Thank you again for reviewing this annual report. And please, go thank a firefighter.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

  
**Jon Hodde**  
**Board President**



## Letter from The Fire Chief

I am pleased to share the 2022 Estes Valley Fire Protection District Annual Report with our community. Inside, you will find information about the department's structure and divisions, statistics from the previous year, information about the budget and finances, and much more.

The Estes Valley Fire Protection District is a combined career and volunteer organization dedicated to serving our community and visitors through a highly trained and equipped team of firefighters and District staff. The department strives to provide an exemplary level of public safety and service to the residents and businesses here in Estes Park and Larimer County, as well as the many visitors who come to enjoy the Rocky Mountains and amenities of our region.

Since this annual report is a new format from the past, we felt that it was important to provide background information on the District's history, service area, and population base. The annual report begins with an overview of the District, organizational structure, revenue and expenses. As a public entity that is funded by local taxpayers, we want the community to have easy, transparent access to how the District prioritizes and spends your tax dollars to protect our homes and businesses and respond to emergency calls. As you make your way through the report, you will find information on the department's core responsibilities, including operations, training, prevention, and support services.

While this report primarily serves as a review of the 2022 calendar year, it also highlights the District's Strategic Planning work. Over the past two years, we have identified strategic goals that will strengthen the District's core service areas and support the volunteer and career members of the District. We then shared the Strategic Plan with the District's employees and the public, receiving feedback through surveys. We are looking forward to using the feedback to present a funding initiative that we will work on with the community during the coming year.

Finally, if you have questions about the information in this annual report or want to know something about the District that is not addressed here, please feel free to contact me at any time at [chief@estesvalleyfire.org](mailto:chief@estesvalleyfire.org). We look forward to continuing to serve our community and helping to ensure the highest level of public safety and service.

Sincerely,

  
David Wolf, Ph.D.  
Fire Chief

