

Information only sent to the RVFD Board Of Directors on 1/8/25 regarding an email that was received by Chief Dan Mahoney

Dear Ross Valley Fire Department Board of Directors,

The Ross Town Council has requested a delay in the scheduled July 2025 closure of the Ross Fire station. Please consider doing this. In the meetings leading up to the 2021 decision to close the station, Ross residents were assured that closure of the fire station wouldn't change emergency response times for 85% of calls because of the ongoing presence of the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority ambulance.

But it has become apparent that the Paramedic Authority might not be able to base an ambulance in Ross long-term: the Paramedic Authority could dissolve if membership changes. And even if it continues to base an ambulance in Ross, the ambulance might only be available in Ross as little as 40% of the time, resulting in significant increases in response times.

Had residents known that closing the fire station would result in increased response times for the majority of calls, it's unlikely that they would have agreed to close the Ross Fire station.

Please delay closing the Ross fire station so that a plan can be developed to ensure that Ross, like the other jurisdictions, continues to have 1st responders.

Best regards,

Jeff Koblick,
President of the Ross Property Owners Association (RPOA)
415-407-0022

Fire Staff Comments at Ross Town Meetings 2020-2021 and Website Information

Town workshop, 10/29/2020: Minute 25:00-26:10 and 28:00-28:30

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kQIRi47tuE&t=2s>

“But keeping an ambulance in Ross for those 90% of the calls I spoke about, which is pretty much the majority, wouldn't really change our response times. So that means that about 85% of the time we'd have that ambulance in the community and to respond to those calls. So there'd really be in that case no net change to having a 1st responder at your door within that average of 7 minutes and 55 seconds. ... for the 15% of the time that they were committed you would have another 2 minutes.”

Town Council meeting 3/11/2021: Minute 37:43

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILlyz4_bn-s

“Keeping the ambulance in Ross, which is one of the recommendations that's in front of you, would handle would be available about 85% of the time for those medical calls which I believe is just about 90% of the call volume. So 85% of the time we wouldn't have a net change in time to of arrival for definitive care.”

Frequently Asked Questions (Ross Town website), posted fall, 2020

Question and answer #8:

Q: “Would there be a difference in fire or paramedic response time if we do not rebuild the fire station?”

A: “For 90% of all emergency incidents in Ross, the fire engine response time is currently 7 minutes, 55 seconds; this is considered good for a suburban community... If paramedic services were to remain in Ross, 85% of the emergency medical calls would still be answered in 7 minutes, 55 seconds. The higher two minute response time would occur when the Ross-stationed ambulance is out on another call.”

Question and answer #9:

Q: “What does a two minute more response time to a fire or medical emergency mean?”

A: “We would expect minimal outcome changes associated with medical emergencies as the ambulance would still provide an average response time of 7 minutes 55 seconds 85% of the time.”

Fire and Paramedic Operational Considerations

- Low number of incidents in Ross with very few working fires.
- In two-year period: **627** calls for service with **292** of the dispatches requiring lights and siren.
- Of 292 code 3 dispatches:
89% medical; 2% dispatches to **fires** (3 actual fires); and **9% other** service calls and assistance.
- Ross has **good response times** at 7 minutes, 55 seconds (7:55). Fire response **would increase 2 minutes on average** with no station which would be similar to outer suburban averages.
- Keeping an ambulance in the Ross station would maintain **same response time for 85% of medical calls** with other 15% of calls when ambulance committed to other calls increasing by 2 minutes.

Town Council Meeting, March 11, 2021

Town Council Meeting March 11, 2021

Fire and Paramedic Operational Considerations

- Low number of incidents in Ross with very few working fires. In two-year period, 627 calls for service with 292 of the dispatches requiring lights and siren.
- Of 292 code 3 dispatches: 89% (259) medical; 2% (7) dispatches to fires with 3 actual fires; and 9% other service calls and assistance.
- Ross has good response times at 7 minutes and 55 seconds (7:55). Fire response would increase 2 minutes on average with no station which would be similar to outer suburban averages.
- Keeping an ambulance in the Ross station would maintain same response time for 85% of medical calls with other 15% of calls when ambulance committed to other calls increasing by the 2 minutes.



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