



## **Fact Sheet**

### **The District**

*Founded in 1953, the Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District is currently staffed by a combination of 22 full time employees and 85 volunteer members. The district maintains 6 fire stations, 4 advanced life support ambulances and 14 fire trucks. Our primary response area encompasses 325 square miles including the towns of Carbondale, Redstone and Marble. The permanent population of the district is approximately 15,000. Additionally, many visitors & tourists come and go each year.*

### **Mission Statement**

*“To serve the communities within the Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District and help create a safer environment by providing quality emergency services, public education and prevention programs with a volunteer force supported by a paid staff.”*

### **911**

*The firefighters and emergency medical technicians of the district responded to over 1,200 emergency calls over the last 12 months. The district is an “all risk” fire department that responds to medical emergencies, wildfires, structure fires and rescue calls 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The average turn-out time for the Carbondale Ambulance is 4 minutes.*

### **Training & Certifications**

*The members (volunteer and career) logged over 8,000 hours of continuing education training in 2012. Our fire fighters are Colorado state certified fire fighters and our emergency medical technicians are Colorado state certified paramedics, intermediates and basics.*

### **Volunteers**

*Volunteer fire fighters and EMTs donate about 1000 hours each month by staying overnight at the Carbondale fire station and covering a 12 hour on-call shift. The district currently has 85 volunteer fire fighters and EMTs on the roster.*

## **ISO**

*Insurance Services Offices (ISO) is a rating agency that assigns a relative rating to a community's fire protection capabilities. The Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District has an ISO rating of 5 (on a scale of 10) district wide. This relatively low ISO rating saves property owners hundreds of dollars each year in property insurance premiums. If ISO ratings stay low, property insurance premiums may likewise stay low. All property owners in the Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District should check with their property insurance agent to be sure they are receiving the full benefit of the district's ISO rating.*

## **District Funding**

*The fire district is funded primarily by property tax. Property values in the district have declined 40% over the past four years. As a result, the district anticipates a corresponding 40% decline in property tax revenue for at least the next two years (2014 and 2015).*

## **Budget Cuts**

*The fire district is facing a reduction in revenue totaling \$1,187,279 per year over the next two years due to a continuing decline in property tax revenue. In addition to cuts to the wildfire response program and ambulance service, 40% of paid firefighter/paramedic positions will need to be cut over the next 2 years. Response times may be longer and the overall level of service currently provided by the district may be degraded.*

## **Ballot Question**

*The board of directors of the fire district has placed a tax increase question on the upcoming November 5, 2013 general election ballot. The board of directors is requesting a tax increase of \$1,081,158. The request is due to the continuing decline in property valuations and increased service demands. The ballot question includes an extension of the expiring temporary tax approved by voters in 2011.*

## **The Cost**

*The additional cost, over 2013, to the home owner in the fire district will be approximately \$31.00 per \$100,000 of market value.*