



STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FIRE PROTECTION 2012-2014 DRAFT V1.5

*Vision * Mission * Values * Key Goals*

November, 2011

The Gold Mountain Community Services District (GMCS D) has done an excellent job with improving community fire protection since 2005.

GMCS D is to be commended for outstanding efforts in fire prevention and vegetation management, working with the Plumas Fire Safe Council. These efforts, along with current planning to become recognized as part of the "FireWise Communities USA" program are very impressive and valuable.

In addition, GMCS D underwent a complex and extended study to update the fire protection contract, considering three possible fire departments. The contract with the City of Portola FD was renewed. Valuable improvements have also been made to the fire protection water system, with more coming over time.

An important current and future focus is to help improve the response and performance capabilities from local responders to emergencies at GMCS D. In addition to providing training for Portola FD, it is critical that the GMCS D engage with the Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District (EPRFPD.) They are the closest fire district, and have the closest fire station to GMCS D (half the distance of the Portola station.) However, that station is currently ineffective. It is basically a garage containing old fire equipment, and there is only one volunteer firefighter living in the area.

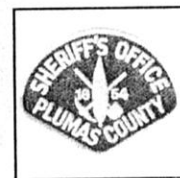
GMCS D needs to help improve the capabilities of EPRFPD Station #3, and to also help with recruiting new volunteer firefighters, including from the Gold Mountain community. ***This is the single most important task facing GMCS D over the next three years.*** Successful firefighting and emergency medical aid response is heavily dependent upon having a rapid, well trained response. EPRFPD will not be able to make these improvements without support from GMCS D.



Portola Volunteer Fire Department, August 2011 (not all firefighters pictured.)



Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District, August 2011 (not all firefighters pictured.)



The Eastern Plumas Health Care District plays a key role in EMS response in partnership with local fire departments. The Plumas County Sheriff's Office plays a key role in emergency dispatch, evacuation, law enforcement, and traffic control. The California Highway Patrol may also play a key role in law enforcement, traffic control and evacuation during fires and accidents.

The History of Strategic Planning

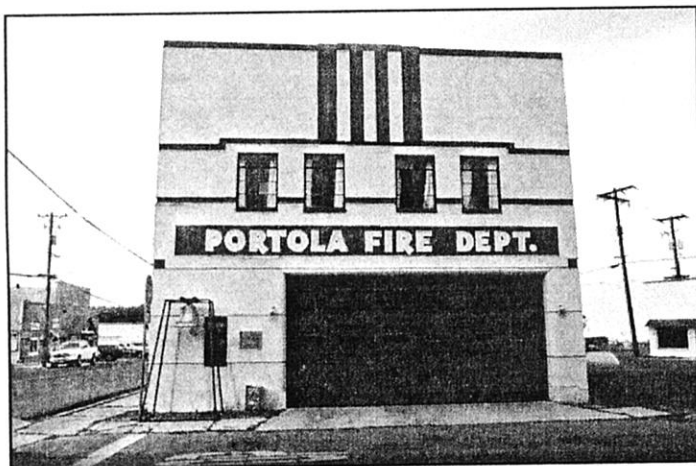
From a long history with military roots, strategic planning is focused on the "big picture." The purpose is to identify results or outcomes, rather than products or outputs. Strategic planning is less concerned with how to achieve outcomes than with what those outcomes should be.

Until the mid-1980s strategic planning remained mostly a private sector undertaking. The public sector, including the fire service, has more recently adopted strategic planning to improve results.

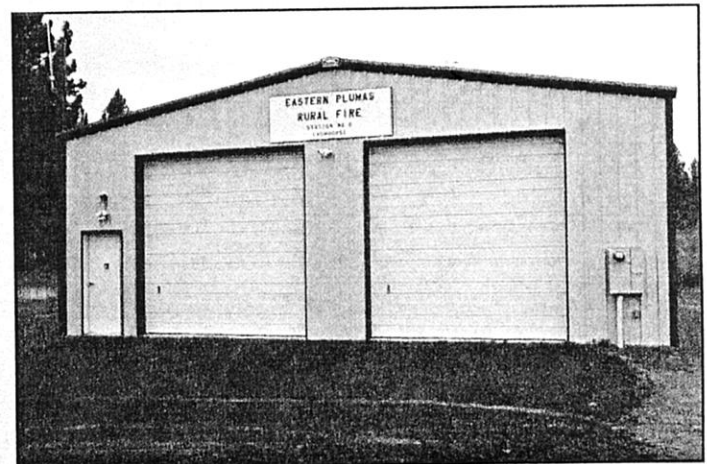
The basic components of a strategic plan are a vision statement, a mission statement, a list of values, and key goals and objectives spread over a timeframe chosen by the group. Three to five year periods are common. Once completed, the plan is updated at least annually through a group process, and is used as the main guiding document for the organization.

Gold Mountain Community Services District (GMCS D) Fire Protection Strategic Planning - A Work in Progress

This strategic plan is designed to be a working document that is updated annually, rolling the timeframes forward by one year and recognizing accomplishments. It was developed with limited input to serve as a foundational document. Key stakeholders need to be involved in the next update of the plan. This should include not only GMCS D stakeholders, but also those from many related agencies and groups as well.



Portola Fire Department, South Side Station, serving GMCS D, 316 1st Ave.

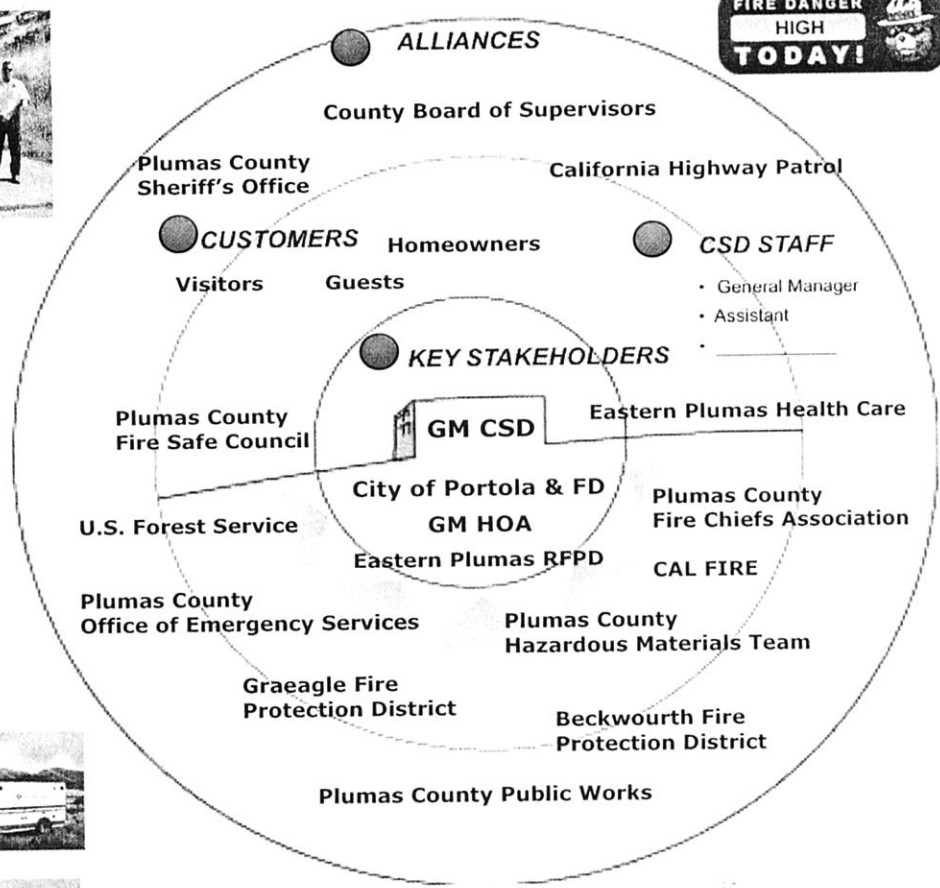
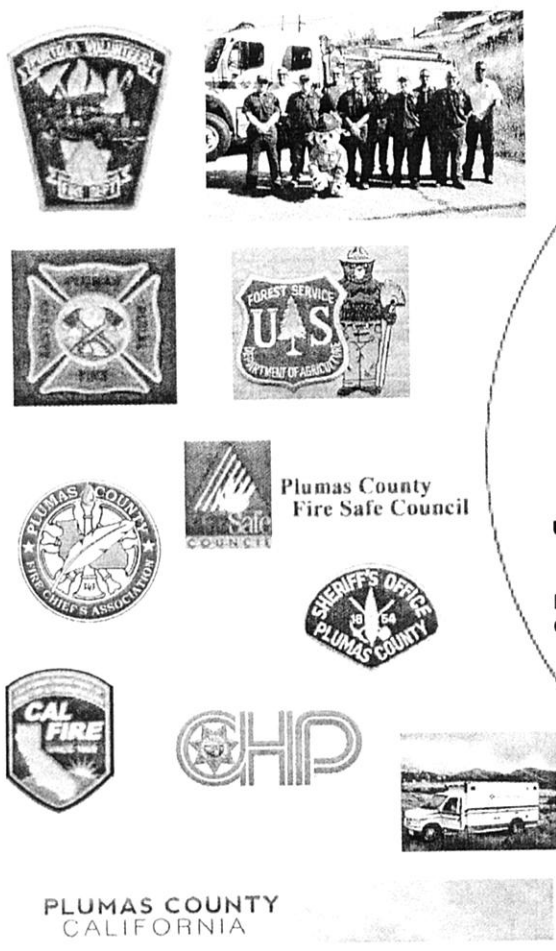


Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District Station #3, 5585 Semaphore Road, Iron Horse

Mike Callaghan of the Gold Mountain CSD shown providing response orientation training for Portola FD firefighters in September of 2011.



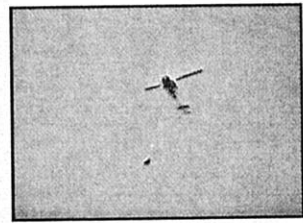
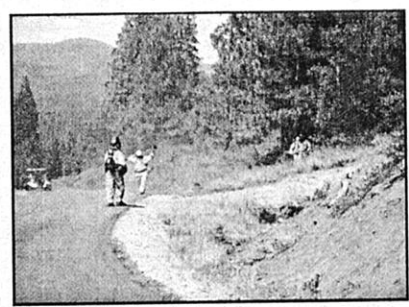
Gold Mountain Stakeholder Map Fire Protection, EMS November 2011 v1



© 1996-2009 THE GROVE

This is a “snapshot” of key stakeholders and alliances necessary for effective fire protection at Gold Mountain (GM).

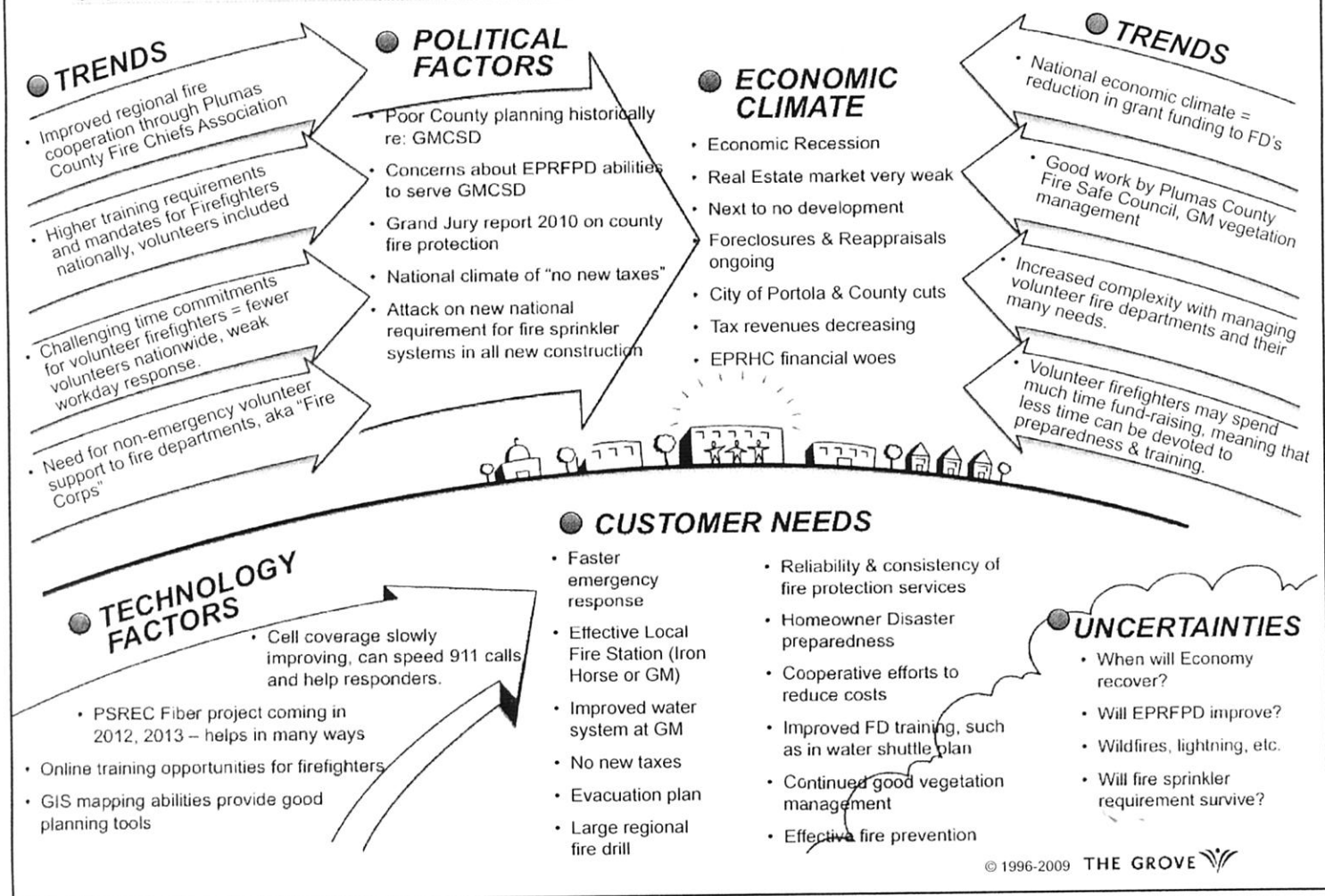
While some groups play a larger and more important role than others, all may be involved with decisions and action in fire prevention, or disaster preparedness, and/or during emergencies. In an ideal scenario, better planning decisions would have been made about fire protection at GM prior to development. That, however, did not happen, and the GMCSD is working to improve the situation over time as funds allow.



Multiple agencies responded to a human-caused wildfire at Gold Mountain in July of 2011, using the mutual aid system. All went well, and damage was limited to a vehicle and vegetation.

CONTEXT MAP – Gold Mountain Fire Protection

November 2011 v1.0



Current Environmental "Context" used as 'food for thought' for this plan. This is a "snapshot" of conditions related to local fire protection.

Note: This context is based on numerous sources, including the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Protection Association, the California State Firefighters Association, and the Plumas News.



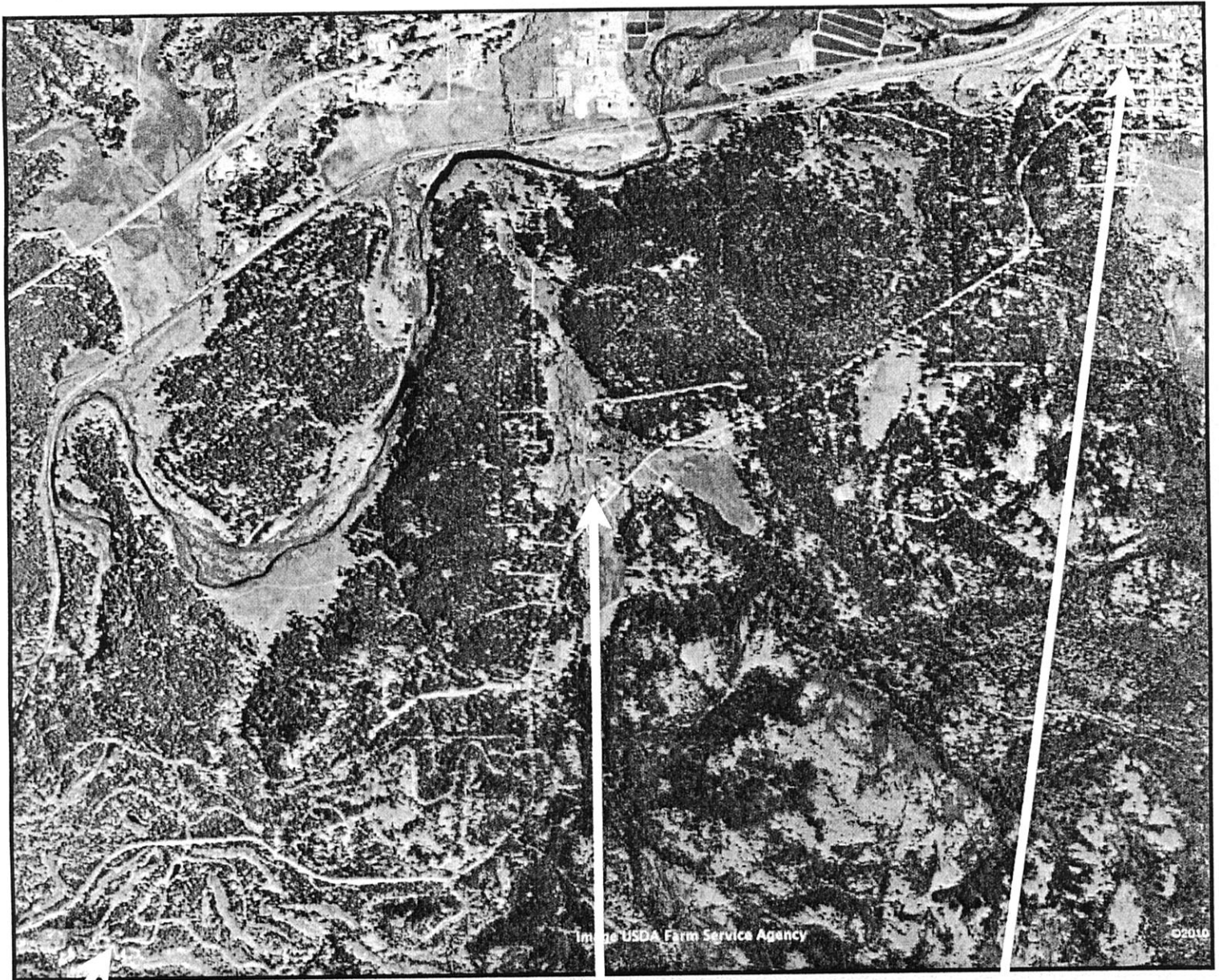
Eastern Plumas Engine 9824 drafting water at pumping drill, Graeagle, September 2011.



U.S. Forest Service crew, Beckworth Station, 9-11 Memorial, August 2011.



Driving & Pumping Drill, hosted by Plumas County Fire Chiefs and Graeagle FPD, September 2011.



Gold Mountain, Nakoma
*Chosen response location
 for comparisons*

EPRFPD Station 3
*2.3 miles to Nakoma
 4 minutes travel*

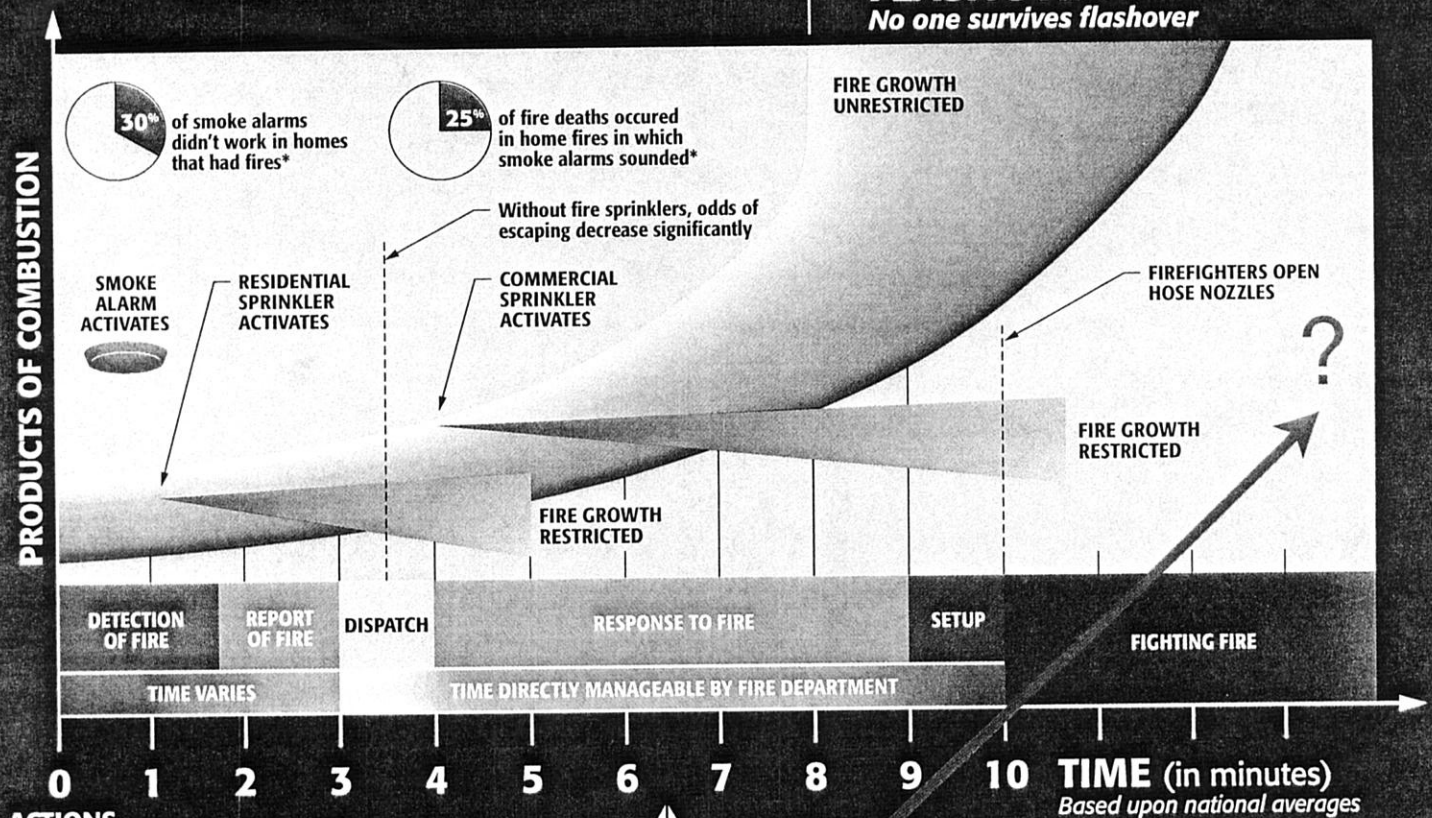
Portola FD South Side Station
*4.5 miles to Nakoma
 8 minutes travel minimum*

Improving fire and EMS response times is one of the most important goals for GMCSO to accomplish over the long range.

Today the response time from Portola FD is excessive, simply due to the nature of volunteer fire departments and the long travel distance. There is nothing that Portola FD can do about this. Improvement can only come from locating a facility with equipment and local trained firefighters closer to GMCSO. The most frugal and effective way to accomplish this is to use the existing Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District station at Iron Horse and to help recruit more volunteers in the immediate area.

TIME vs. PRODUCTS of COMBUSTION

FLASHOVER
No one survives flashover



ACTIONS BEFORE FIRE

- 1) TEST SMOKE ALARMS
- 2) CONDUCT FIRE ESCAPE DRILLS



Northern Illinois
Fire Sprinkler
Advisory Board
www.firesprinklerassoc.org



NORTHERN ILLINOIS
FIRE INSPECTORS
ASSOCIATION

*U.S. Experience With Smoke Alarms and
Other Fire Alarms. NFPA. September 2001.

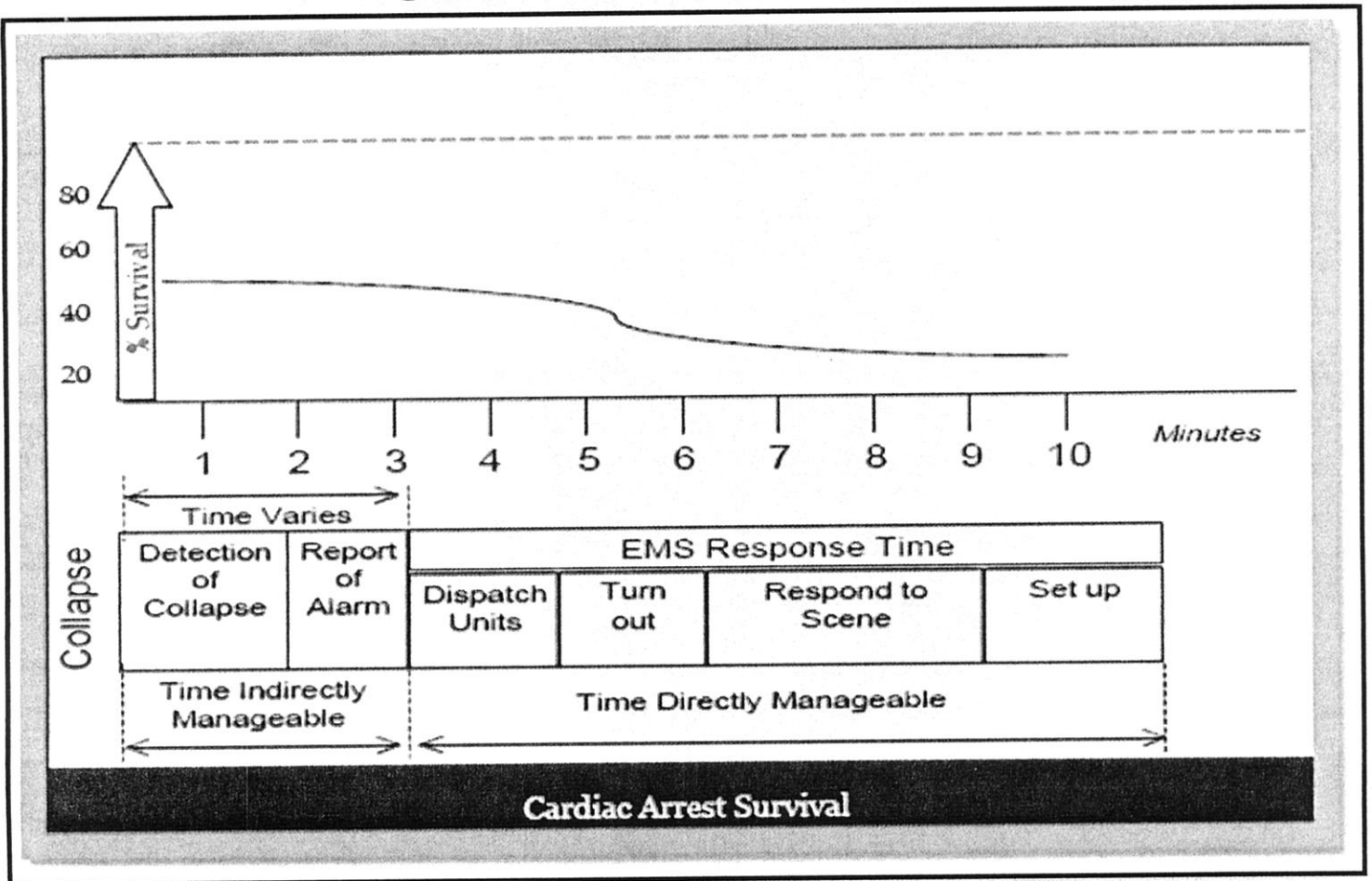
NOTE: See NFPA Fire Protection Handbook
for time and temperature information.

Graphic showing the impacts of a delayed response and fire attack. Likely fire attack by Portola FD forces is beyond 12 minutes, due in great part to the time required to travel to Gold Mountain.

Pre Flashover	Post Flashover
Limited to one room	May spread beyond one room
Requires smaller attack lines	Requires larger, more attack lines
Search and Rescue is easier	Compounds Search and Rescue
Initial assignment can handle	Requires additional companies



Emergency Medical Services



A similar need for timely emergency response exists for emergency medical aid incidents. Neither Portola FD nor the Eastern Plumas Health Care ambulance can arrive and provide care at Gold Mountain within the roughly six minute window needed to improve chances of survival and recovery. This applies not only to heart attacks, but also to other serious trauma. Starting CPR or other trained care early is critical.

This is why local Fire Departments nationwide are usually the first responders to start emergency medical care - they are the closest, and it would be too expensive to add staffed ambulances all over to achieve a quick response time. All firefighters in Plumas County are required to be trained to at least "First Responder/CPR/AED" level, and many are EMT-I certified. A few are EMT-III, "Paramedics". The EPHC Ambulance is staffed by one Paramedic and one EMT-I, but ambulances are not trained or equipped for firefighting or rescue - such as extrication from a motor vehicle accident.



Gold Mountain Community Services District

The Gold Mountain Community Services District is a governmental organization that provides water, sewer, and fire protection services to the community. Its Enabling Documents are the California Government Code. The five member volunteer Board of Directors is elected by registered voters within the Gold Mountain district. Gold Mountain is an environmentally sensitive, gated, golf and recreational community of approximately 401 custom home sites spread over more than 1280 forested acres in Plumas County, California.

Our Fire Protection Mission: What We Do

“The mission of the Gold Mountain Fire Safe Committee is to support and encourage activities which reduce hazardous fire fuel loads in our community. In all cases we want to preserve the natural beauty of Gold Mountain while taking prudent steps to reduce the risk of devastating wildfire damage. The committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Gold Mountain Community Services District on needed infrastructure improvements and services related to structural fire safety, and reports to the Gold Mountain Homeowners Association making recommendations concerning the fire safe maintenance of the community’s common areas.”

Our Vision For Future Fire Protection: What We Aspire To

“We provide good quality and timely fire protection and EMS services.”

To achieve this vision, we will:

- Strive to be leaders who promote regional efforts through effective planning, communication, and implementation;***
- Operate in a well organized manner and serve as a role model for other rural communities.***

Our Values: What We Believe In and How We Behave

Positive Leadership: We strive to be effective leaders through helping making things better. We lead through example and engage to help solve problems.

Fire Prevention: We make fire prevention and personal preparedness two of our top priorities.

Cooperation: We value and encourage regional teamwork and cooperation in fire and EMS.

Planning: We engage in regular planning to help assure safe and effective response and to shape the future of our services.

Knowledgeable & Resourceful: We maintain awareness of the current best practices in rural fire protection and take advantage of the many resources available to us to help succeed.

Our Three-Year Plan - The Headlines

2012 Goals

Theme: Improving planning & training for our existing resources, system and fire contract.

- Educate property owners about this plan, update annually
- Start conversations with Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District
- Continue with vegetation management and prevention programs
- Participate in CSFA/PCFCA Vol FF Recruiting Workshop in May, 2012
- Help recruit some local volunteer firefighters
- Support PCFCA efforts to improve emergency water shuttle system
- Provide response and access training to system partners
- Continue with fire water system improvements

Note: second and third year goals are more general in nature and will become more specific as they roll forward in each planning cycle.

2013 Goals

Theme: Increasing our engagement and working relationship with the Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District

- Host regional mutual aid fire drill, with scenario of interface fire
- Conduct formal planning with EPRFPD to improve Station 3
- Assist with regional volunteer firefighter recruiting and retention
- Assist with improving fire equipment, including seeking grants
- Continue regular fire training for responding agencies
- Continue prevention and water system improvements

2014 Goals

Theme: Helping to improve fire facilities, equipment, recruiting, retention, and training for our fire partners.

- [TBD]

Gold Mountain Accomplishments

Fire Protection

[Need more GM input here, photos]

CSD Board evolution, HOA involvement

Fire Safe Committee

Homeowner inspections

Common area fuel reduction program

Public education

Chipper program

Hydrants and water system improvements

Pump & rank on District vehicle & training

Budget established

Fire contract RFP's and renewal, update

Add "How you can help" page?