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## **WE ARE LISTENING - NEW RESPONSE PROTOCOL FOR ARCATA FIRE DISTRICT**

(McKinleyville, CA) – April, 7 2017 – Arcata Fire District recently initiated a new protocol for incident response. Each of the three fire stations aims to respond a utility vehicle, staffed with the two on-duty firefighters to non-fire or rescue incidents. These utility vehicles are outfitted with all standard medical equipment and will have basic firefighting equipment such as self-contained breathing apparatus (air packs), forcible entry tools, and fire extinguishers. In the event they need to be dispatched to a fire while at another incident, this basic equipment will allow staff to attack small fires or affect rescues prior to the larger fire engine or trucks arriving on scene.

This response protocol is in direct response to our community member's questions regarding sending large engines to non-fire events; we are consistently asked, "Why do you have to take a fire truck to every call?" Arcata Fire District is listening and we are committed to providing a high level of service to the communities we serve, which includes being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

The new protocol is being implemented as a trial study with the goal of evaluating the following: the effect of response times, measurable reduction in maintenance cost on the engines, a savings in fuel cost, and documented improvement on access at non-fire incidents by responding a smaller vehicle.

Arcata Fire Protection District has seen a steady increase in calls over the last decade. Arcata Fire responds to nearly 3,000 calls a year, with 90-95% of those being medical and non-fire related incidents.

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