

Fire Protection Plan

Silverado Ranch is within the Ellicott Fire Protection District and has a letter of commitment for service from that district. In the event of major occurrences, such as wild fires, the Ellicott area is also supported by surrounding area Fire Districts including Schriever AFB, Falcon, Tri-County, Edison, and other local fire districts.

Ellicott Fire Protection District

The Ellicott District is a Title 32 2 with 6 full-time and 3 part-time staff. Ellicott Fire Protection District is a Title 32 Special District as established under the Colorado Revised Statutes for a specific public purpose, in this case fire protection. The District covers an area of 245 square miles. The main offices are at Station #1 at 23650 Highway 94. The District was formed in 1985 with an ISO rating of 9 built into its service plan. As a general rule, the District Service Plan calls for no more than one housing unit per acre for the general fire protection provisions of the plan to remain valid. A rating of 9 is a general rural standard and effectively means that if a fire occurs on a structure, that fire can be contained to that particular structure and not affect adjacent properties. At densities of greater than one housing unit per acre, other fire protection controls must be implemented, such as hydrants or enhanced on-site water storage. Despite an increase in the number of residences in the Ellicott area, insurance premiums have remained relatively stable.

State insurance premiums will at some point become cost prohibitive for urban density subdivisions unless fire protection services, facilities, and staff are added. Based on information from the ISO and insurance carriers, the Fire District believes that insurance premiums will remain stable in low density subdivisions and undeveloped areas.

Given the extensive district area, response times can be 30 minutes or greater. A 30-minute response would ordinarily involve 15 minutes to assemble and 15 minutes to respond. Typically, two-thirds of the volunteer staff are unavailable during the day. Mutual aid agreements with other agencies help with shortfalls. Overall, a staff member is present at the main station during the day and someone is usually present at night. Most of the district responses occur in the evening and early morning hours. Although lengthy response times are possible, response times typically average close to eight minutes. Variables include the presence of staff in the station and the distance to the emergency. According to staff, many new residents do not consider the importance of emergency services until needed. They may also have expectations of urban service levels even for relatively minor injuries.