



FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Santa Cruz Fire Department includes four fire stations, one lifeguard headquarters, one administrative building, and an emergency operations center. Frontline apparatus includes four Type 1 engines, one Type 3 engine, and one ladder truck. Staffing includes 70 full-time equivalent personnel, including firefighter / paramedics, fire engineers, fire captains, battalion chiefs, division chiefs, fire prevention, training, and administrative staff. Additionally, the department employs about 70 seasonal lifeguards as well as six temporary workers.



SANTA CRUZ FIRE
TRUCK 3170

Emergency Services Provided:

- ✓ Structure Fire Suppression
- ✓ Wildland Fire Suppression
- ✓ Emergency Medical Services
- ✓ Hazardous Materials Response
- ✓ Marine Rescue Services
- ✓ Technical Rescue

Contact Us:

- 📞 831-420-5280
- 🌐 www.cityofsantacruz.com/fire
- 📍 230 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz

Stations:

- 1 711 Center St.
- 2 1103 Soquel Ave.
- 3 335 Younglove Ave.
- 4 701 Chinquapin Rd.

Lifeguard

Headquarters:










- 📍 #21 Municipal Wharf

Core Services

- The Operations Division provides 24/7 response to all 911 requests within the City, UCSC Campus and Paradise Park. In addition, it responds to mutual aid requests on the North Coast and other areas within the county and state.
- The Prevention Division provides plan review, permits, safety inspections, construction inspections, vegetation management, fire investigations, and public education.
- The Office of Emergency Services provides 24/7 support to the City Emergency Operations Center in the event of disasters and emergencies, assists in the management of the budget, acts as the department's Climate Action Coordinator and its Public Information Officer, and manages Fire Department grants.
- The Marine Division provides year-round service with on-call lifeguards during the off-season and daily lifeguard services from Memorial Day weekend to the weekend of Labor Day.
- The Administration staff provides support for the services provided by the Fire Department.



Accomplishments and Goals







FY 2024 Accomplishments	Fiscal Sustainability & Transparency	Strong Businesses & Vibrant Downtown	Housing	Homelessness Response	Public Safety & Community Well-Being	Natural & Built Infrastructure	Thriving Organization
Implemented corrective action review items identified from the 2023 Storm Event 	X						
Coordinated Emergency Operation Center training for all EOC staff per position matrix 					X		X
Managed Fire Prevention and Operations Cal Fire, California Coastal Conservancy, California Fire Foundation, and AFG grants 	X				X	X	
Completed Request For Proposal (RFP) process, selected Standards of Cover and Community Risk Assessment consultant, and started project					X		
Enhanced employee wellness, awareness, and services by providing an increase of available mental health service counseling for all Fire Department Personnel for post-traumatic stress related incidents							X
Completed command staff leadership development training as an integral piece in of department succession planning							X
Provided transition training upon completion of the Capitola lifeguard contract 					X		
Conducted state-mandated fire inspections 					X		
Completed 26 Acres of Wildland Urban Interface Vegetation Management grant-funded projects 					X	X	
Completed RFP process, selected a vendor, and started 5-year City Wildfire Resiliency Plan 					X	X	
Created Countywide Code X Policy 					X		
Created and launched Countywide “Know B4 You Go” Ocean Safety Campaign 					X		

FY 2025 Goals	Fiscal Sustainability & Transparency	Strong Business es & Vibrant Downtown	Housing	Homelessness Response	Public Safety & Community Well-Being	Natural & Built Infrastructure	Thriving Organization
Conduct a standards of cover and community risk assessment survey to identify and implement recommendations pertaining to the distribution and concentration of fixed (stations) and mobile (engines/personnel) resources with 911 Fire call types and volumes	X				X		X
Develop a health and wellness program with a focus on cancer-screening services							X
Establish a backup Emergency Operation Center with appropriate technology, supplies, and services ❤️					X		
Continue to develop a plan for lines of succession for anticipated staffing attrition, including leadership development training for captains and other line staff							X
Implement 5-year City Wildfire Resiliency Plan 🌲					X	X	
Purchase one new Personal Watercraft (PWC) and retire two old vessels per life cycle and operational protocols					X		
Complete large-scale exercise of vehicle off wharf ❤️					X		
Add 1.0 FTE Marine Safety Officer to provide fulltime supervision ❤️					X		
Develop enhanced Marine Safety programs with a Rescue Diver and Swift Water Response ❤️					X		
Promote, train, and recruit new Marine Safety personnel ❤️					X		
Train eight new PWC operators to meet and maintain operational policy requirements ❤️					X		
Complete fee study to evaluate the Public Safety Impact Fee	X						
Complete First Responder Fee study and explore implementation options	X						
Manage and complete grants through Cal Fire, CFF, USFS, and AFG 🌲	X						




FY 2025 Goals	Fiscal Sustainability & Transparency	Strong Business es & Vibrant Downtown	Housing	Homelessness Response	Public Safety & Community Well-Being	Natural & Built Infrastructure	Thriving Organization
Collaborate with the Finance Department to determine an apparatus replacement purchasing schedule and identify funding models and sources	X						X



Workload Indicators and Performance Measures

Workload Indicators	Strategic Plan Focus Area	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Goal
Number of fire investigations conducted 	Public Safety & Community Well Being	100	49	29	35	40
Number of construction project plan check reviews conducted 	Public Safety & Community Well Being Housing	855	904	1,039	1,000	1,100
Number of construction project inspections 	Public Safety & Community Well Being Housing	313	256	811	850	900
Number of life safety consultations provided 	Public Safety & Community Well Being	662	335	489	450	500
Number of lifeguard contacts with the public 	Public Safety & Community Well Being	200,000	200,000	158,092	200,000	200,000
Funds from providing lifeguard services to the City of Capitola	Public Safety & Community Well Being	\$91,119	\$110,119	\$120,000	\$14,500	N/A*
Number of 911 calls for service 	Public Safety & Community Well Being	8,000	9,611	9,784	9,900	10,000

*No longer providing this service

Performance Measures	Strategic Plan Focus Area	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Goal
Percent of state-mandated fire inspections conducted within the required timeframe 	Public Safety & Community Well Being	N/A**	65%	74%	80%	100%
Percent of fire investigations conducted within the required timeframe 	Public Safety & Community Well Being	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Respond to all 911 calls for service within 8 minutes 	Public Safety & Community Well Being	N/A**	89%	89%	89%	100%

** New measure, data not available

Budget Summary - Fire

			Fiscal Year 2024			Fiscal Year
Fiscal Year* 2023 Actuals			Adopted Budget	Amended* Budget	Year-End Estimate	2025 Adopted
EXPENDITURES BY CHARACTER:						
Personnel Services		20,663,832	21,966,203	22,001,203	21,326,386	23,360,541
Services, Supplies, and Other Charges		2,087,493	3,829,240	4,053,983	4,408,219	4,546,377
Capital Outlay		98,147	-	196,641	54,337	-
Total Expenditures		22,849,473	25,795,443	26,251,827	25,788,942	27,906,918
EXPENDITURES BY ACTIVITY:						
Fire Administration	2201	1,130,010	2,834,136	2,834,136	2,971,754	3,560,057
Fire/EMS Operations	2202	19,550,774	20,016,677	20,266,116	20,012,365	20,901,611
Fire Prevention	2203	951,823	1,017,693	1,365,473	1,579,050	1,546,939
Office of Emergency Services (OES)	2205	150,287	217,382	76,546	160,585	132,382
Fire Strike Team	2206	72,849	750,000	750,000	-	750,000
Subtotal General Fund		21,855,743	24,835,888	25,292,272	24,723,755	26,890,989
Marine Rescue Program	2204	993,729	959,555	959,555	1,065,187	1,015,929
Subtotal Other General Funds		993,729	959,555	959,555	1,065,187	1,015,929
Total Expenditures		22,849,473	25,795,443	26,251,827	25,788,942	27,906,918
RESOURCES BY FUND:						
General Fund	101	4,116,353	4,569,061	4,900,208	5,414,533	5,880,694
Municipal Wharf	104	114,119	-	-	12,500	12,500
Public Safety Impact Fee - Fire Fund	217	87,780	80,000	80,000	18,500	15,000
Technology Surcharge	295	-	-	3,300	1,650	2,000
Total Resources		4,318,253	4,649,061	4,983,508	5,447,183	5,910,194
Net General Fund Cost		(17,747,966)	(20,266,827)	(20,392,064)	(19,309,222)	(21,010,295)
		FY 2023			FY 2024	FY 2025
L AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL:		69.00			70.00	70.00

*Sums may have discrepancies due to rounding

Staffing

Positions	FY 2022 Amended*	FY 2023 Amended*	FY 2024 Amended*	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2025 Change
Administrative Assistant I/II	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
Administrative Assistant III	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
Chief of Fire Department	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
Deputy Fire Marshal	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
Fire Battalion Chief	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	-
Fire Captain	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	-
Fire Division Chief	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	-
Fire Engineer	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	-
Fire Prevention Inspector II	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
Fire Prevention Technician	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
Firefighter**	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	-
Marine Safety Officer	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
Principal Management Analyst	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	-
Total	69.00	69.00	70.00	70.00	-

*Amended salary authorizations are adopted staffing plus any mid-year adjustments

**3.00 FTE Firefighters unfunded

Organization Chart

