



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 72 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.



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 an emergency and

coordinates City disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts, ensuring community resilience through planning, training, and interagency collaboration

- 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

FY 2025 Accomplishments

FY 2025 Accomplishments	<i>Fiscal Sustainability & Transparency</i>	<i>Strong Businesses & Vibrant Downtown</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Homelessness Response</i>	<i>Public Safety & Community Well-Being</i>	<i>Natural & Built Infrastructure</i>	<i>Thriving Organization</i>
Conducted a Community Risk Assessment Standards of Cover and Deployment Analysis 🏛️❤️	X	X		X	X		X
Enhanced the health and wellness program with a focus on cancer screening services, carcinogenic-free turnouts, and preventative measures ❤️					X		X
Entered into a 3-year lease agreement to purchase a Type 1 Fire Engine with the support of the City Council, City Manager, and Finance Department ❤️	X	X		X	X		X

FY 2025 Accomplishments	<i>Fiscal Sustainability & Transparency</i>	<i>Strong Businesses & Vibrant Downtown</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Homelessness Response</i>	<i>Public Safety & Community Well-Being</i>	<i>Natural & Built Infrastructure</i>	<i>Thriving Organization</i>
Completed City Wildfire Resiliency Plan 🌲 💖					X	X	
Completed Public Safety Impact Fee Nexus Study 💖	X	X	X	X	X		X
Collaborated with the Finance Department to establish an apparatus replacement fund 💖	X				X		X
Received Type 6 Wildland Engine 🌲 💖				X	X	X	X
Trained and added three new engine-based rescue swimmers 💖					X		X
Established a working Extreme Weather Protocol 🌲 ⚖️ 💖	X			X	X	X	
Managed and completed grants 🌲 ⚖️ 💖	X			X	X	X	
Purchased one new Personal Watercraft (PWC) and retired two vessels, per life cycle and operational needs 🌲 💖					X		X



FY 2026 Goals

2026 Goals	<i>Fiscal Sustainability & Transparency</i>	<i>Strong Businesses & Vibrant Downtown</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Homelessness Response</i>	<i>Public Safety & Community Well-Being</i>	<i>Natural & Built Infrastructure</i>	<i>Thriving Organization</i>
Identify contractor and implement new annual medical/physical program 🏛️💖	X				X		X
Enhance interagency coordination through expanded participation in monthly working-group meetings focused on evacuation, emergency transportation, care and shelter, and coastal infrastructure protection 🌲🏛️💖	X	X		X	X	X	X
Increase community emergency preparedness through ad-hoc committee that will conduct at least two community-wide preparedness workshops, increase emergency alert system registrations by 20%, and distribute updated evacuation route maps to all residents through City webpage 🌲🏛️💖	X	X		X	X	X	X
Sustain and expand commitment to dynamic training program with a focus on high rise building fire suppression, rescue, and other new hazards to meet the evolving threat landscape 💖		X			X	X	X
Improve Emergency Operations Center (EOC) readiness by ensuring all designated EOC staff complete annual training, update the City's Emergency Operations Plan, and establish a backup Emergency Operation Center with appropriate technology, supplies, and services 🌲🏛️💖	X	X			X	X	X

2026 Goals	<i>Fiscal Sustainability & Transparency</i>	<i>Strong Businesses & Vibrant Downtown</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Homelessness Response</i>	<i>Public Safety & Community Well-Being</i>	<i>Natural & Built Infrastructure</i>	<i>Thriving Organization</i>
Initiate annual skin cancer screenings for all operational staff 🏛️💖					X		X
Reestablish fire boat program and prioritize and enhance regional coastal safety 🌲🏛️💖	X				X	X	X
Promote, train, and recruit new Marine Safety personnel, including an additional 2.0 FTE Marine Safety Officers 💖					X		X
Develop enhanced Marine Safety programs and training, including a Rescue Diver and Swift Water Response Teams 💖					X		X
Negotiate and implement new service contract and Fire Station #4 facility lease with UCSC 🏛️💖	X				X		X
Complete Consolidation Feasibility Study 🌲🏛️💖	X				X	X	X
Continue to develop a plan for lines of succession for anticipated staffing attrition, including leadership development training for battalion chiefs, captains, and other line staff 🏛️💖						X	X
Complete First Responder Fee study and explore implementation options 💖	X					X	X
Develop and establish a clear vision and mission statement 💖					X		X



Workload Indicators

Workload Indicators	Strategic Plan Focus Area	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Goal
# of fire investigations conducted 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	49	29	27	30	30
# of construction project plan check reviews conducted 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	904	1,039	816	900	900
# of construction project inspections 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	256	324	387	400	400
# of life safety consultations provided 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	335	489	555	555	555
# of lifeguard contacts with the public 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	200,000	158,092	221,347	232,400	244,000
# of 911 calls for service 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	9,611	9,784	9,438	9,500	9,500

Performance Measures

Performance Measures	Strategic Plan Focus Area	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Goal
% of state-mandated fire inspections conducted within the required timeframe 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	65%	74%	80%	100%	100%
% of fire investigations conducted within the required timeframe 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
911 calls for service responded to within 8 minutes 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	89%	89%	89%	100%	100%
CruzAware Registrations 🧡	Public Safety and Community Well-Being	-	-	-	3,870	4,600

Staffing

Positions	FY 2023 Amended*	FY 2024 Amended*	FY 2025 Amended*	FY 2026 Adopted	FY 2026 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	3.00	2.00
Principal Management Analyst	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	-
Total	69.00	70.00	70.00	72.00	2.00

* "Amended" refers to the FTE count as of the adopted budget of the indicated fiscal year, plus any adjustments authorized by City Council within the course of the year

** 3.0 FTE firefighters are unfunded



Budget Summary - Fire

		Fiscal Year 2025				Fiscal Year 2026
		Fiscal Year 2024 Actuals*	Adopted Budget*	Amended Budget*	Year-End Estimate*	2026 Adopted*
EXPENDITURES BY CHARACTER:						
Personnel Services		21,960,152	23,360,541	23,360,541	24,800,165	25,073,000
Services, Supplies, and Other Charges		3,977,813	4,546,377	4,560,747	4,571,436	5,075,278
Capital Outlay		314,143	-	133,532	140,505	-
Total Expenditures		26,252,108	27,906,918	28,054,820	29,512,105	30,148,278
EXPENDITURES BY ACTIVITY:						
Fire Administration	2201	2,928,808	3,560,057	3,605,644	3,799,393	4,129,695
Fire/EMS Operations	2202	20,449,301	20,901,611	20,837,325	22,281,771	22,113,446
Fire Prevention	2203	1,528,738	1,546,939	1,711,642	1,676,974	1,645,698
Office of Emergency Services (OES)	2205	91,892	132,382	134,280	40,934	132,382
Fire Strike Team	2206	60,925	750,000	750,000	391,767	750,000
<i>Subtotal General Fund</i>		25,059,665	26,890,989	27,038,891	28,190,840	28,771,221
Marine Rescue Program	2204	1,192,442	1,015,929	1,015,929	1,321,265	1,377,057
<i>Subtotal Other General Funds</i>		1,192,442	1,015,929	1,015,929	1,321,265	1,377,057
Total Expenditures		26,252,108	27,906,918	28,054,820	29,512,105	30,148,278
RESOURCES BY FUND:						
General Fund	101	5,434,604	5,880,694	5,882,375	5,587,113	5,961,937
Municipal Wharf	104	16,677	12,500	12,500	10,000	12,500
Public Safety Impact Fee - Fire Fund	217	17,701	15,000	15,000	124,000	125,000
Technology Surcharge	295	2,996	2,000	4,287	5,000	5,200
Total Resources		5,471,979	5,910,194	5,914,162	5,726,113	6,104,637
NET GENERAL FUND COST:		(20,780,129)	(21,996,724)	(22,140,658)	(23,785,992)	(24,043,641)
TOTAL AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL:		FY 2024 70.00			FY 2025 70.00	FY 2026 72.00

*Sums may have discrepancies due to rounding

Organization Chart



* 3.0 FTE firefighters are unfunded