



PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FIRE • RESCUE • EMS



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Pioneer Fire Protection District exploring a potential name change information and frequently asked questions!

The Pioneer Fire Protection District started discussing a potential district name change beginning in November or 2019. They continued to discuss at the following Regular Board Meetings, and in April 2020 the Board created a committee (AdHoc) to research a potential name change and to come up with a few examples. The committee has been reporting back to the Board of Directors.

Hopefully this information sheet will clarify some frequently asked questions and help with rumors and improve accurate information pertaining to this issue.

Why a potential name change?

- Pioneer Fire Protection District is thought to be or confused with serving the community of Pioneer in Amador County since they border out fire district. There is no community or area named Pioneer in our District.
- Limited identity in our own communities and county. Few outside our district know where we are and who we serve. (Largest Geographical District in El Dorado County, serving 1/5 of the County): this includes several of our own residents
- Internal and external confusion with our name since we don't serve any community (such as Pioneer)
- We have 6 established stations and working on a seventh; we identify those stations and apparatus by the community they are located in.
- We service over 40 miles of South El Dorado County Line communities
- The district covers 296 square miles in South El Dorado county and includes the following communities: Mt. Aukum, Coyoteville, Fairplay, Grizzly Flats, Happy Valley, Leoni Meadows, Omo Ranch, Outingdale, Sandridge, Somerset, Sopiago Springs, and Iron Mountain.
- Assist in easier transition, if in the future we chose to collaborate with any other county fire agency
- Provides a new foot print, moving us forward and allowing us to expand if the future requires us too.
- Identifies us as a fire service provider in El Dorado County for other local, county and state agency's too recognized.
- Markets our organization when recruiting paid personnel, shift volunteers and volunteers. South County expresses a large geographical area that serves several communities vs a single name that suggest one community. Potential recruits have identified us as being in Pioneer California and do not want to commute and live in small community.
- PFPD has challenge history in previous years with the County Offices. A name change may assist with a new attitude, that of a department that is moving forward.
- A new foot print, moving forward and allowing us to expand if the future requires us.
- The district will be facing all kinds of fiscal issues and challenges in the future and will need to work with other agency's and consider Joint Operations, Joint Administration, Joint Personnel and Training to help solidify our financial stability and security.

How fast would it take (time frame)?

Recommendation; is a two-year transition period/plan to a new district name, after the name is chosen then the district Board of Directors would evaluate to keep the new name or consider removing “Pioneer” after a period of time (2-years).

Do we drop the name “Pioneer”?

It is recommended to keep the name “Pioneer” during the transition while adding the new name. In two years, the district can decide to keep or remove “Pioneer”. Keeping the name “Pioneer” during the two-year transition will help associate the district as the same, while we transition and if the district chooses to slowly fading the “Pioneer” or keeping it in the new name.

What’s the Financial impact?

The financial impact by doing a two-year transition and keeping the name “Pioneer” will allow us to keep cost limited to normal replacement cost and any additional cost would be minimal. Example: As uniforms need to be replaced, we would just change/add the new patches, printed T-Shirts or hats.

1. We would continue to wear badges, uniforms and PPE that say Pioneer on them as we transition out. In addition, apparatus would slowly get the new Identifiers as they need to be upgraded and replaced. We currently do not contract out for apparatus ID and do it in house (this would be a normal cost as items wear out). By doing this inhouse we limit our cost anyway significantly.
2. We anticipate the badges would not need to be replaced for years and we can just replace the metal district name banner and not the badge. In reality, the badges would only need to be replaced when they are damaged or needing repaired. Patches, uniforms and Personal Protective gear would be a normal operational cost, but those are normally yearly cost due to PPE wearing out and new uniforms being purchased or replaced yearly.
3. Office and Administrative cost would be minimal and similar to normal yearly cost. All our stationary supplies can be changed by us electronically at no cost. We do not have checking, pre-completed envelopes, letter head, stationary supplies or warrants there is no printing or set-up cost.
4. Equipment tags, assets tags and other district property with current ID numbers and the Pioneer name on them would stay the same and the new would be the normal cost we currently occur. Signs and other identifiers could be a small additional cost, but several already need to be replaced. The cost would normally incur, especially since a majority will need to be replaced/restored soon. (replacement materials as they wear out)
5. In the past two years we have a proven tract record of being fiscally responsible and that would continue to occur during this transition and the cost of doing normal business is mainly the fiscal impact.
6. Because we do most of our work in house unlike larger organizations, we have proven we keep cost down.
7. The possible state and county registration fees would be around \$250.00, however there may be other fees that we are verifying.

Will this increase taxes?

No!

In addition, during the 2020-21 budget approval process the District and Board of Directors recognize the financial issues of Covid 19 our communities are facing and chose not to increase our Measure F funds by the pre-approved 2%.

What are some of the other reason to change the name?

- The new name change can help in recruiting personnel from outside the area (such as Shift Volunteers and new Recruits) Instead of sounding like a single community, as a county fire district the name entitles a larger area serving multiple communities
- The name Pioneer can still be associated with the name the district chooses, however we have already transition to having community names on our apparatus and stations, because these communities would

like ownership in their own community. Example: Station 35 Grizzly Flats carries the community name on its station and apparatus, Station 37 Omo Ranch carries the community name on its station and apparatus and as when we open Station 36 Leoni Meadows that station will carry the community name on its apparatus. Station 31 Willow Station does not carry a community name on it at this time; Station 38 is the only station that does not carry a community identifier on it.

What are some of the potential name changes?

South County Fire-Pioneer

South County Fire & Rescue-Pioneer (on both; consider in smaller print, placing under Pioneer, El Dorado Co)

Why are you fast-tracking this change?

The district does not believe they are fast-tracking. The Board/District has been discussing this issue since November 2019 and it is currently still in the AdHoc committee process and not an agenda item! The Board of Directors had purposely moved slow on this item.

Will this affect the districts history?

No! Absolutely not, the district has its history dating back to 1960 as a district, and the history of the districts prior to the merge still exist. Changing the district name does not change history or traditions of an organization. Time adds and changes both.

Has the district consider changing the name in the past?

This is unknown!

Has the Pioneer Volunteer Fire Association ever changed their name?

Yes, per their Chair they have changed the associations name more than once.

How does this effect the Pioneer Volunteer Fire Associations?

This should not affect them or create any need to change their name, since Pioneer will remain in the new name

Why is the District named “Pioneer”?

We have done our research and records have not been discovered or located and those who formed the district 60 years ago have not been located to give us the history. Others have claimed to make assumptions but are unsubstantiated.

Do you need to keep Protection and District in the Name?

No! This is not a state requirement for “Special” Districts.

You can contact Pioneer Fire Protection District with any of your questions by emailing us at Admin@pioneerfire.org