

# Safer and Stronger, Together.

Following a comprehensive emergency response analysis, the Fairmount Fire Protection District intends to merge with Arvada Fire in order to bring improved services to both communities while strengthening organizational sustainability.

The decision to merge will reside with Fairmount voters in the form of a ballot measure in November 2024. If it passes, the two districts will merge and Fairmount Fire will become part of the Arvada Fire Protection District effective Jan.1, 2025.



## Why merge fire districts?

As a small fire department without an adequate tax base, we can no longer meet the public safety needs of a more populated community, nor can we provide the wages needed to retain employees. Our position is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

## What will this cost ?

A modest increase in property taxes is needed to merge with Arvada Fire. The mill levy would be increased by 3.9 mills. For the average home value in Fairmount, this equates to an additional \$16.40 per month. Without merging, Fairmount Fire would need the mill levy increased by at least 5.0 mills to be sustainable. This is a more expensive option to taxpayers while it does not include the service benefits provided by merging.

## Benefits provided by the merger include...

- A more effective response force with adequate staffing of firefighters and paramedics on duty at all times to respond to emergencies like cardiac arrest, structure fires, or a wildfire like the Marshall Fire
- Enhanced firefighter safety provided by improved staffing, the retention of skilled firefighters, a reduction in mandatory overtime, and enhanced training opportunities and equipment
- Improved Emergency Medical Services with 24/7 Advanced Life Support (ALS) coverage provided by firefighter paramedics on ambulances and engines
- New services not currently offered to our citizens, including: a water and ice rescue team and hazardous materials response team; robust fire and injury prevention programs; a crisis intervention program for mental health and substance abuse issues; and much more
- Organizational sustainability and improved services at a lesser cost than an alternative mill levy increase that would be needed without merging