

**Rea Valley Volunteer Fire District  
Assessment Appeal Form**

Date of Appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason for Appeal**

Property Classification: Residential  Undeveloped

Number of Acres:  Correct number of acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: (Please Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for completing the assessment appeal form. You may submit the form to the county clerk's office in the main courthouse.

The Board of Commissioners will review each appeal and contact you within ten business days for any additional information or a final decision on your appeal.

Thank you.

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## **Rea Valley Volunteer Fire District General Information**

### **What is the Rea Valley Volunteer Fire District (RVVFD)?**

Rea Valley Volunteer Fire District was established by Marion County for the building, equipping, and operating of a fire station or stations equipped with fire trucks, fire hoses, tankers and other equipment along with trained personnel for extinguishing fires. The district also provides search and rescue, and emergency medical services to the people of the fire district.

The fire district is twelve dedicated men and women who volunteer to provide wildland (brush) and structure fire suppression along with emergency first aid and search and rescue services. The district has five certified emergency medical technicians (EMT), four emergency medical responders (EMR) and one registered nurse for medical response.

Each fireman must maintain a minimum of 16 hours of Arkansas Fire Academy approved training. Your fire district far exceeds these minimum standards. Ongoing training and certification involves two training sessions per month and one maintenance session per month. In 2013, over 420 hours of Arkansas Fire Academy approved training were provided by two certified Arkansas Fire Academy instructors.

The district operates and maintains the following facilities and equipment:

Fire Station #1 - 2,000 sq. ft. building  
Spartan Engine #1 - 1,500 gallons/minute fire engine  
Ford Tanker #1 - 2,000 gallons  
Service Truck #1 - Brush fire/emergency medical vehicle  
Pump #1 - 1,800 gallons/minute portable hydrant

Fire Station #2 - 1,800 sq. ft. building  
GMC Engine #4 - 750 gallons/minute fire engine  
Ford Tanker #2 - 2,000 gallons  
Ford F550 Rescue #2 - Rescue/Medical Emergency vehicle  
AMG Tanker #3 - 1,850 gallons

### **What kinds of services are provided by the RVVFD?**

Year 2012

78 Total Incidents – 470.3 man hours of service

Average incident every 4.7 days – average of 6.03 hours per incident

31 Medical, 19 Wildland Fires, 8 Structure Fires, 8 Auto Fires, 2 Motor Vehicle Accidents

The majority of responses are medical in nature. The responses range from minor trauma, burns, broken bones, stroke, cardiac arrest, seizures, drug overdose, motor vehicle accidents and a host of other farming/ranching accidents.

The following is a short list of significant services that were provided to the residents of Rea Valley.

Chain saw accident involving lower extremity. Patient was stabilized and transferred to Baxter Regional Medical Center. Patient was treated and made a full recovery.

Gun shot wound to the head. Patient was stabilized by RVVFD personnel and air evacuated to Springfield, MO. Patient was treated and recovered.

Cardiac arrest. Patient was stabilized by RVVFD personnel and transported to Baxter Regional Medical Center.

Several 50 - 100 acre wildland fires involving multiple fire departments, US Forestry Department and National Parks Service. Prevention of possible loss of life and property.

In conjunction with the American Red Cross, the RVVFD Fire Station #1 has been established as the only Red Cross Disaster Shelter in Marion County. This facility will provide food, shelter and medical support in case of a natural disaster.

The RVVFD sponsored, developed and was awarded a FEMA grant in excess of one million dollars to provide state of the art radio equipment for twelve of the fire departments in Marion County.

Provide mutual aid response to surrounding fire departments in Marion County.

### **How was the assessment of benefits determined?**

The assessment of benefits for the Rea Valley Volunteer Fire District were developed based on two primary factors: the 2012 operating budget of the Rea Valley Volunteer Fire Department and the statistics of responses made by the fire department in 2012. Based on the 2012 operating budget and cost increases over the next five years, a proposed annual budget of \$52,000 per year was established for the district. The majority of responses made by the department in 2012 were for medical assistance, followed by wildland (brush) fires and lastly structure fires. Based on this data, primary funding of the district will be landowners with residences or dwelling located on their property who are most likely to need medical assistance or fire suppression of a structure fire. Additional funding will be based on a flat fee scale for undeveloped land.

**No future increase in assessment can be made without a majority vote of the landowners in the fire district.**

## **Rationale for 2014 Rea Valley Volunteer Fire District Assessment**

The assessment of benefits for the Rea Valley Volunteer Fire District were developed based on two primary factors: the 2012 operating budget of the Rea Valley Volunteer Fire Department and the statistics of responses made by the fire department in 2012.

Based on the 2012 operating budget and anticipated cost increases over the next five years, a proposed annual budget of \$52,000 per year was established for the district. This does not include State Fire Protection Act 833 funds or local sales tax revenues. It was deemed that these funds were not protected and could be abolished or reduced at any time. The board of commissioners compared operating budgets of all fire protection services in the Marion County in their development of the proposed budget.

The majority of responses made by the department in 2012 were for medical assistance, followed by wildland brush fires and lastly structure fires. This statistic is consistent with most rural and municipal fire departments in Arkansas. Based on this data, primary funding of the district will be landowners with residences or dwelling located on their property who are most likely to need medical assistance or fire suppression of a structure fire. Additional funding will be based on a flat fee scale for undeveloped land.

Any parcel that has a residence or dwelling located on their property will be considered as residential land and will be assessed a flat fee of \$75.00. Any parcel which does not have a residences or dwellings located on their property will be classified as undeveloped land and will be assessed a flat fee based on the total number of undeveloped acres owned.

The following flat fee scale will applied to undeveloped land.

0.01 - 5.00 acres	\$20.00
5.01 - 25.00 acres	\$30.00
25.01 - 50.00 acres	\$40.00
50.01 - 100.00 acres	\$55.00
100.01 - 250 acres	\$70.00
250.01 - 500 acres	\$85.00
500.01 or greater	\$100.00

All assessments will be based on county tax assessor's records. It is anticipated that errors may occur as to the presence or absence of residences or dwelling located on assessed developed property as well as correct acreage of undeveloped land. Every landowner has the right to appeal the fire district assessment to the board of commissioners. An Assessment Appeal form should be completed and submitted to the county clerk's office in the main courthouse. The Board of Commissioners will respond to all appeals.

For \$75.00 per year, \$6.25 per month or just 25 cents a day, your volunteer fire department is serving you. Thank you for your support.